



GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QR

FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

25 January 2021

The minutes of the Full Council meeting convened on Monday 25th January 2021 at 7.30pm. The meeting was held remotely using appropriate technology in accordance with The Local Authorities Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") which came in to force on 4th April 2020.

Present:

Cllr Barry von Clemens, Mayor
Cllr Paul Harris, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Alison von Clemens
Cllr Fiona Cullen
Cllr Sharon Cullingford
Cllr Rupert Evill
Cllr Alan Frith
Cllr Mike Gould*

Cllr Dennis Griffin
Cllr Mick Hill
Cllr John Kilcourse
Cllr Graham Poulter
Cllr Val Potheary
Cllr John Robinson
Cllr Keith Wareham
Cllr Roger Weeks

*Cllr Gould left the meeting at 8.30pm.

In attendance:

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins
Deputy Town Clerk, Clare Ratcliffe
Responsible Financial Officer, Debra Edwards

Press and Public:

Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News
Gemma Gibson, Newsquest Media Group Limited

There were no members of the public present

409. Public Participation. Please note: a period up to a maximum of fifteen minutes will be allowed for public comments and questions restricted to items listed on the following agenda.

There was no public participation.

410. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Donna Toye for personal reasons.

It was **RESOLVED** and agreed that the apology received from Cllr Toye was accepted.

411. To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 14th December 2020.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on Monday 14th December 2020. The chairman will duly sign the minutes when possible to do so.

412. To receive any questions pertaining to the previous minutes.

There were no questions.

413. To correct the Full Council minutes dated 28th September 2020, minute no. 335(e) to read “approval of the Allotments Policy”, as per Internal Auditor’s Report.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to correct the Full Council minutes dated 28th September 2020, minute no. 335(e) to read “approval of the Allotments Policy”, as per the Internal Auditor’s Report.

414. To receive declarations of interest. Please note; members are required to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, section 27 disclosable pecuniary interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

415. To receive, consider and adopt the following standing committee reports:

a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 11th January 2021

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Monday 11th January 2021 are approved and adopted.

b) Planning Interim Committee held meeting on Monday 14th December 2020 and the Planning Committee held on Monday 11th January 2021

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Interim Committee held on 14th December 2020 and the Planning Committee held on Monday 11th January 2020 are approved and adopted.

c) Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 18th January 2021

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee held on Monday 18th January 2020 are approved and adopted.

416. To approve payments over £10,000 in accordance with Financial Regulations.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the clawback money for the Football Stadia Improvement Fund Limited for £11,565.50 is approved.

417. To receive notification from Dorset Council of the tax base for FY 2021/22.

Notification from Dorset Council of the tax base for FY 2021/22 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

418. To consider and agree the Budget for the Financial Year 2021/22.

A report on the proposed budget for the Financial Year 2021/22 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix A below**.

Cllr B von Clemens had received a request that the voting for this item was recorded.

Cllr Toye was absent from the meeting and was unable to vote; however, she had requested that her comments on this item were considered. Cllr Toye was not in favour of the recommendation contained within the report.

Cllr Potheary, having read the report made an amended proposal seconded by Cllr Cullingford, as follows:

That the total figure of £963,227 for income/expenditure in the draft budget for FY 2020/21 is approved.

A vote on the **amended proposal** was taken and recorded, as follows:

For the amended proposal: Cllr Potheary, Cllr Cullingford, Cllr Evill, Cllr A von Clemens, Cllr Griffin, Cllr Wareham (Total: 6 votes)

Against the amended proposal: Cllr Harris, Cllr Cullen, Cllr Frith, Cllr Gould, Cllr Hill, Cllr Kilcourse, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Weeks (Total: 9 votes)

The amended proposal failed.

Before voting on the original proposal, there was a discussion on whether any items in the revised budget could be removed, particularly with the cost of reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Poulter explained that it is important that the Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed, and this is supported by residents. The estimated costs associated with this work were the best that could be ascertained at the current time. Whilst grant funding is available to cover some of this work, a successful application is not guaranteed.

Cllr Harris proposed, and Cllr Kilcourse seconded, that a vote was taken on the original proposal contained within the report (Appendix A attached to these minutes), as follows:

That the Budget should be set at £980,876 and the Precept should therefore be set at £943,000 for FY 2021/22.

The vote on the **original proposal** was taken and recorded, as follows:

For the proposal: Cllr Harris, Cllr Cullen, Cllr Evill, Cllr Frith, Cllr Gould, Cllr Griffin, Cllr Hill, Cllr Kilcourse, Cllr Poulter, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Weeks (Total: 11 votes)

Against the proposal: Cllr Cullingford, Cllr A von Clemens, Cllr Potheary, Cllr Wareham (Total: 4 votes)

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Budget should be set at £980,876 and the Precept should therefore be set at £943,000 for FY 2021/22.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the funding to individual budget lines should be amended as recommended in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Appendix A attached to these minutes.

419. To consider and agree the Precept for the Financial Year 2021/22.

A report on the proposed Budget for the Financial Year 2021/22 and implications on the Precept for Financial Year 2021/22 had been circulated prior to the meeting (please refer to Appendix A, as per minute no. 418 above, and attached to these minutes).

Cllr B von Clemens had received a request that the voting for this item was recorded.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the band D contribution to the GTC Precept for FY21/22 should be increased by £1 per month (£12 per year) above the FY20/21 rate with the other bands increased proportionally.

For clarity, the vote was recorded, as follows:

For the proposal: Cllr Harris, Cllr Cullen, Cllr Evill, Cllr Frith, Cllr Gould, Cllr Griffin, Cllr Hill, Cllr Kilcourse, Cllr Poulter, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Weeks (Total: 11 votes)

Against the proposal: Cllr Cullingford, Cllr A von Clemens, Cllr Potheary, Cllr Wareham (Total: 4 votes)

420. To receive and consider tenders for Play Area Fencing for play areas located at Jubilee Fields Public Open Space.

A report summarising the tenders received for Play Area Fencing had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix B below**. The report contained three recommendations.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that contractor no. 2 is awarded the contract for play area fencing at Marlott Road, pending evidence of paperwork specified in the tender documentation, and financed from budget no. 5316.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that a virement of surplus funds from the Marlott Road Play Area Project is requested to the General Maintenance Play Area budget no. 5301, where it will be ring-fenced for works required at Weatherby Road play area.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that contractor no. 2 is awarded the contract for play area fencing at Weatherby Road, pending evidence of paperwork specified in the tender documentation, and financed from budget no. 5301.

Note: Cllr Gould left the meeting immediately after this agenda item at 8.30pm.

421. To receive a MOTION from General Purposes Committee held on 11th January 2020, minute no. 169(a) as follows:

That in accordance with Standing Order No. 7(a) a motion is put to Full Council that Gillingham Town Council reconsider the resolution made at the General Purposes Meeting on 7th September 2020, minute number 135(a), (cemetery regulations amendment) and ratified at Full Council on 28th September 2020, minute number 331(a).

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Standing Order No. 7(a) a motion is put to Full Council that Gillingham Town Council reconsider the resolution made at the General Purposes Meeting on 7th September 2020, minute number 135(a), (cemetery regulations amendment) and ratified at Full Council on 28th September 2020, minute number 331(a).

422. To consider and agreed the following policy documents:

a) Cemetery Regulations

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Cemetery Regulations, as presented, are adopted and approved.

b) Grants Policy

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Cemetery Regulations, as presented, are adopted and approved.

423. To receive and consider correspondence from Equilibrium regarding a technology college for Gillingham.

An open letter addressed to all North Dorset councils from Equilibrium CIC had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix C below**.

The new college would cater from the new technologies required now and in the future.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the item was referred to the Town Team.

424. To receive and consider written reports from outside bodies, if available, for consideration and approval:

a) Town Meadow Group

Cllr Cullingford had circulated a report on the activities of the Town Meadow Group prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix D below**.

b) Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Cllr B von Clemens had circulated a report on the activities of the Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix E below**.

**c) Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC)
Larger Town meetings and Northern Area meetings**

Larger Town Meetings: Cllr B von Clemens reported that at DAPTC AGM 2020 in November it was agreed to go ahead with the first phase of the constitution review, which was last done in 2011. DAPTC representatives from each council were asked on 11th January 2021 to complete an on-line survey so that the Executive Committee had a better understanding of members' views.

Cllr B von Clemens had completed the survey on behalf of Gillingham Town Council. There will be further consultation before any recommendations are put before the DAPTC AGM in November 2021.

Northern Area Meetings: Cllr Weeks reported that there was no Northern Area news this month.

d) Gillingham Town Team

Cllr Gould had left the meeting prior to this item. There was no report this month.

e) Gillingham Youth Centre Management Committee

Cllr B von Clemens had circulated a report on the activities of the Gillingham Youth Centre prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix F below**.

425. To receive and consider reports from the following task and finish groups:

a) Town Council Workshop

Cllr Harris had circulated a report on the progress with the refurbishment of the new Town Council Workshops. Please refer to **Appendix G below**.

Cllr Cullingford suggested that the Town Council Workshop Sub-committee should report to either the General Purposes Committee or the Finance Committee so that more time was available to scrutinise the reports from this sub-committee.

The sub-committee reports to Full Council where all members are present, reports are usually sent in good time before the Full Council meeting and there is an opportunity to raise any queries or concerns. The sub-committee needs to have decisions made quickly as time is of the essence to achieve vacating the old workshops by 31st March 2021.

Cllr Cullingford proposed, and Cllr Potheary seconded, the following:

That the Town Council Workshop Sub-committee reports initially to the Finance Committee.

The proposal was defeated: 11 votes against, 3 votes in favour.

b) Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Review

Cllr Poulter had circulated a report on the review of the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan. Please refer to **Appendix H below**. The report contained two recommendations.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Full Council approves the appointment of Cllr Weeks to the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Full Council approves and supports the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee making such applications, as it deems appropriate, for grants to facilitate its work in conducting the review of the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan during the existence of the Sub-committee.

426. To receive a report on the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's civic activities.

The Mayor, Cllr B von Clemens, and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Harris, had nothing to report this month.

427. To receive matters pertinent to this meeting. Please note: Members are advised that inclusion of any item is at the Chairman's discretion and that a council cannot lawfully decide upon any matter which is not specified in the summons (agenda).

a) Dementia Friendly Gillingham – Gillingham Dementia Friends have once again, achieved Dementia Friendly Town status for 2021/22, thanks to the hard work of all the Committee. The Committee has also been praised for its work on their new initiative - Companion Pets Scheme.

- b) Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show** – The show organisers would like to hold the show on two separate days: 18th and 19th August 2021, to permit social distancing and any Government guidelines relating to the pandemic at the time.
- c) NALC – Open Letter – Making a Change to Local Communities** – The letter was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- d) Dorset Councillor Reports** – Currently these are dealt with informally after the Full Council meeting is closed. From next month these will appear as an agenda item, so that they can be discussed.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Signed: (Cllr Barry von Clemens, Mayor of Gillingham)

Date: 22nd February 2021

Dorset Councillor Ward Reports, received from Cllr Belinda Ridout, appear at the end of this document. Please see **Appendix I below**.

Gillingham Town Council**FY 2021/22 Budget and Precept**

1. This report has been written by the Deputy Mayor in consultation with the Mayor, Town Clerk, RFO and Deputy Town Clerk.
2. Since the Gillingham Town Council (GTC) FY21/22 Budget evaluation at the 30th November 2020 Full Council Budget meeting, further precept information has been distributed by Dorset Council (DC); the precept letter and the tax base confirmation. The difference between the budget and the precept is that the budget shows proposed expenditure plus anticipated income direct to the Council leaving a balancing amount to be raised; this balancing amount is the precept.
3. Setting the budget, and its associated precept, is rather more complex than just adding a single percentage to the current budget. The various percentage increases to budget, precept, council tax band D equivalents, precept modelling and band D equivalent charge can become confusing. A key factor is the direct financial impact on individuals.
4. During the recent budget work for the next financial year, GTC has taken into account the significant impact of the pandemic on peoples' lives, recognising that any budget growth needs the closest of scrutiny and justification. This is balanced against delivering the service expected by residents; all of which comes at a cost. During the build-up to setting the budget for FY21/22, and by implication therefore setting the amount needed to be raised to meet that budget – the precept, GTC has so far focused on the percentage growth in its budget, rather than reviewing the actual financial impact of the precept on individuals.
5. Annually, DC provides confirmation of the tax base for each parish and town. This always comes late in the budget process. The tax base for Gillingham became known after the 30th November 2020 Full Council Budget meeting. The tax base is the total number of band D equivalent properties in the town. GTC has no input to this figure. DC has reduced this figure from 4188.4 to 4159.6 for FY21/22 – a reduction of 0.69%. The tax base is important as it directly impacts the effect the precept has on an individual band D property (the average property). The impact is proportionally less on properties in band A-C and proportionally more on properties in band E-H (generally the more expensive part of the housing market).
6. The draft budget as at 30th November 2020 of £963,227 requires a precept of £925,351. The impact of that total precept figure on a band D property is an annual increase of £7.76 or 65p per month, with proportional adjustments to bands A-C and E-H. Any reduction to this figure will damage the delivery of GTC services to the

community. GTC should also consider how this budget will impact future budgets to avoid years where significantly larger increases may result.

7. The budget changes on 30th November 2020 removed a number of expenditure items that are important to GTC in carrying out its duties on behalf of its residents. Councillors accepted those reductions without knowing the impact on a band D property. Now the tax base has been confirmed, a further amendment could be made to the budget to reinstate a proportion of those items. Additionally, the General Purposes meeting held on 7th December 2020 highlighted concerns that the draft budget had insufficient funds allocated to tree surgery, planting, tree risk assessment, health and safety responsibilities (including maintenance of over 650 significant trees) and associated materials. Tree failure has not been rectified by significant tree planting. This was reinforced at the GP meeting 11 January 2021 with a recommendation for additional tree funding and should not be ignored. It was not considered at the Full Council Budget meeting on 30th November 2020.
8. Acknowledging the challenging times facing the country at this time, it is reasonable to determine a growth value of £1 per month (£12 per year) per band D property instead of the 65p currently proposed. This is an additional 8p per week above the current proposal and will allow GTC to deliver the service that the town expects of its Council. The impact will be applied proportionally to all other property bands. Such an adjustment would see the Budget revised to £980,876 and the Precept amended to £943,000. It results in a final 4.86% budget growth, but it is the impact on the band D property rate that is key; not the budget growth.
9. The following item would be inserted into the budget:
 - Cost centre 3: Line 5200, provide an additional £5,000 for tree related work.
10. The following would be reinstated to the final budget after being removed on 30th November 2020:
 - Cost centre 3: Line 5203 £3,000 Rainwater harvesting - reduces the amount of water GTC takes from the mains water supply to maintain the town's floral displays, trees and open spaces. Supports the Council's green credentials.
 - Cost centre 5: Line 5416 £3,000 Town Mural Station Road - impacts on the health and mental well-being of GTC residents.
 - Cost centre 17: Line 7617 £2,500 Neighbourhood Plan Review – now required to ensure that it is up to date in order to challenge unsuitable planning applications.
 - Cost centre 17: Line 7705 £949 IT – provides additional IT solutions to current underfunding.
 - Cost centre 18: Line 8003/7360 Accrual £3,200 Horticultural vehicles – impacts on replacing vehicles at their due time.

11. Recommendations

- That the band D contribution to the GTC Precept for FY21/22 should be increased by £1 per month (£12 per year) above the FY20/21 rate.
- That the Budget should be set at £980,876 and the Precept should therefore be set at £943,000 for FY 2021/22.
- The funding to individual budget lines should be amended as recommended in paragraphs 9 and 10 of this report.

Full Council – 25th January 2021

Minute no. 420

Gillingham Town Council**Estate Management and Properties Sub-committee****Report of Play Area Fencing****Author: Deputy Town Clerk****1. Introduction**

The sub-committee met on Thursday, 21st January 2021.

Tenders for play area fencing at Marlott Road and Weatherby Road were sent out on 4th January 2021. Six prospective contractors were sent comprehensive tender documentation including a specification for the works and fencing required.

Only three tenders were returned by the closing date of Wednesday, 20th January 2021, as follows:

Contractor no.	Marlott Road Play Area -100m of perimeter fencing	Weatherby Road Play Area - 52m of perimeter fencing	Total ex VAT
1	14,480.00	8,760.00	£23,240.00
2	10,270.00	6,100.00	£16,370.00
3	10,613.00	7,701.00	£18,314.00

Due to the tight timetable for this work, the tender specified that health and safety documents could either be supplied with the tender submission or available on request pending award of the contract.

2. Financial Implications

After allowing for two extra drains to be installed when ground conditions permit at a cost of £1,350 balance of £25,903 will remain to complete the play area refurbishment at Marlott Road, budget no. 5316.

Seating and a litter bin will be required after the drainage and fencing works have been completed at a cost of c.£1,500 to £2,000.

A balance of at least £23,903 will be available for fencing works (see table above for total fencing costs).

3. Conclusion

There are enough funds available for fencing to be installed at both play areas.

A virement of surplus funds from the Marlott Road Play Area Project (estimated £13,633 assuming Contractor no. 2 is awarded contract) will be requested to the General Maintenance Play Areas budget no. 5301, where it will be ring-fenced for works required at Weatherby Road play area.

4. Recommendations

- **That contractor no. 2 is awarded the contract for play area fencing at Marlott Road, pending evidence of paperwork specified in the tender documentation, and financed from budget no. 5316.**
- **That a virement of surplus funds from the Marlott Road Play Area Project is requested to the General Maintenance Play Area budget no. 5301, where it will be ring-fenced for works required at Weatherby Road play area.**
- **That contractor no. 2 is awarded the contract for play area fencing at Weatherby Road, pending evidence of paperwork specified in the tender documentation, and financed from budget no. 5301.**

Full Council – 25th January 2021

Minute no. 423

Gillingham Town Council

Matters Pertinent

Equilibrium Youth Work CIC



Equilibrium youth work cic

C/o The Blandford Youth Centre Mill down Road Blandford Dorset DT11 7SQ
 tel 01258 471759 email office@eqcic.co.uk web www.eqcic.co.uk

Open letter to North Dorset Councils:

equilibrium: a state of physical balance; a state of mental or emotional equanimity; a state in which the energy in a system is evenly distributed and forces, influences etc. balance each other;
A not for profit community interest company working with young people: also known as eq

Re: Possibility of building a North Dorset College.

Dear Councillors,

My name is Paul Williams and I am the Director of Equilibrium Youth Work, a mentoring service for children and young people across the whole of Dorset.

I have lived and worked in North Dorset since 1991 and have long held the belief that the young people living in North Dorset would benefit greatly from a Local Technology College, to provide them with the knowledge, skills and qualifications they need going forward in our ever-increasing technological world.

By a Technology College, I do not mean a Technical College, indeed this college should concentrate on future technologies not those of the past like car mechanics and hairdressing! A college that focuses on Bio Metrics, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Augmented Reality, Quantum Computing, Renewable Energies, to name just a few.

I believe that a Technology College like this would not only be a great starting point for our young people in this modern world, but would likely attract prospective employers to the area, with a ready-made work force to recruit from.

The reason I am writing to you all at this point in time, is because I am aware of the Chancellors 'Levelling Up Fund' which could potentially pay for the construction of such a major resource.

I have raised the idea of a North Dorset College some years ago, but could not secure the funding needed to pay for the infrastructure, but there was never a doubt about the need for such a resource.

I do hope that Councillors share my belief in the benefits a college of this type could bring to the area and would be more than happy to help explore the viability of an application under the 'levelling up fund' should anyone wish to pursue it.

Thanking you for your time this evening.

Yours faithfully

Full Council – 25th January 2021

Minute no. 424 (a)

Gillingham Town Council

Gillingham Town Meadow (TMG)

Author: Cllr Sharon Cullingford

Despite the Pandemic, the volunteers of the Town Meadow Group have managed to complete the following projects to raise funds:

Projects Completed in 2020

- Harrow reseed and fertilizer.
- Replace a tree damaged at an event.
- New safety bollards and wooden benches installed between the Red Lion carpark and the Meadow in late winter 2020.

Town Meadow Income for 2020

- Friends of the Meadow has subscription increased to 54 members.
- A secondhand book and puzzle stand.
- Site rental to Hidden Pizza, Gillingham Craft Group and Artic Co.

Bookings

- Unfortunately, all the Bookings for 2020 were cancelled.
- Fortunately, we rented pitches to Hidden Pizza and Artic Cow on a regular basis. Gillingham Craft Fair held a small market.
- Some Bookings for 2021 are in place, although the first cancellation has been received from Gillingham In Gear, their next event is now 2022.
- The Town Meadow needs “friends” to help support the local volunteer group, it takes a lot of work and funds to look after the Meadow and local support is desperately needed.

Update

- The committee have welcomed three new committee members.
- Sadly, in the past week a Yellow Buckeye tree planted last year to commemorate 40 years of the Town being twinned with Le Neubourg was snapped and destroyed along with the bench that commemorated in memory of Jackie Kemp. Grateful thanks must go to the Council workmen for repairing and placing bench back in situ.

Electricity Usage

During 2020, 2 no. food stands regularly plugged into the Meadow’s electricity, they paid a rent for the site and, therefore, this has increased the amount of electricity used at the Town Meadow. This matter will be dealt with by the Contracts and Agreements Sub-committee in accordance with the Service Level Agreement.

Full Council – 25th January 2021

Minute no. 424 (b)

Gillingham Town Council

Report on a meeting held on 13th January 2021

Author: Cllr Barry von Clemens

Present: Karen Auckland, Sharon Cullingford, Bev Kemp,
Chris Ryu, Tom Shean, Barry von Clemens

- The committee was glad to propose two new members who, it is hoped, will accept at the next meeting.
- Chris Ryu has agreed to take over the GCCl website and social media. These will be reviewed over the coming months.
- The Committee approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Chamber and Dorset LEP for the sponsored Shop Appy online sales site for five towns in Dorset. The Chamber has agreed to be the point of contact for the project in Gillingham and will work with the LEP and the Shop Appy team to bring on board as many qualifying local businesses as possible.

Full Council – 25th January 2021

Minute no. 424 (g)

Gillingham Town Council

Gillingham Youth Club

Meeting held on 19th January 2021

Author: Cllr Barry von Clemens

Present: Mark Hebditch, Maddie Styler, Karen Johnson,
Barry von Clemens, Su Hunt

In attendance: Tony Nye

Delivery: During the current lockdown, the youth club is delivering two online sessions each week. Attendance at the Wednesday evening session is less than the number of young people who attended the building-based sessions. The sessions are clearly benefitting the young people who do attend, and the club plans to continue with the online sessions.

Once the club is able to restart building-based delivery, they will promote the sessions through the school and any other appropriate channels, making it clear that the sessions will be open to all young people (both existing and new members); however, they will still need to sign up in advance for sessions whilst the club is operating under the Covid restrictions.

Partnership working: There has been an email exchange between the club and a local organisation about the possibility of a summer project. This is looking unlikely for the coming summer given the lack of clarity regarding future Covid restrictions and the impact that they would have on any possible delivery. There is still a desire to develop some partnership working with other groups in the tow, but this may well have to wait until later, maybe either Easter or Summer 2022.

Use of the internet: Thanks were given to the hard work of Alisha and Karen, who are continuing to have a presence on both Instagram and Facebook. On both sites the club has a public group which is open to everyone and is also used to promote the youth club. Other Work.

The youth workers continue to work on updating of policies, forward planning, training and future delivery.

Full Council – 25th January 2021

Minute no. 425 (a)

Gillingham Town Council

Workshop Task and Finish Group

Lead: Councillor Paul Harris, Deputy Mayor

A Workshop finance meeting was held Thursday 14th January 2021.

Present: Cllr Paul Harris (PH), Town Clerk (TC), Works Manager (WM) and the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

1. Current Progress

- PH outlined the current budget spend to 31 December 2020 as shown in the Sage Accounts.
- PH identified that budget lines, less the refurbishment and refitting line and the earmarked funds for current contracts, were currently at their spend limit. Refurbishment also required top up. Some items were currently unfunded and needed to be addressed.
- The RFO reviewed the most recent management accounts, highlighting areas of underspend within the workshop managers' realm. WM confirmed that the balances could be repurposed, provided a financial buffer remained in each line for unforeseen issues. A request for virement of funds was approved. PH submitted the request to the next Finance Committee meeting, 18th January 2021. Afternote: the Finance Committee approved the virement, subject to Full Council agreement on 25th January 2021.
- PH referred to the unfunded items previously highlighted. These needed to be placed in an order of priority and a funding plan then applied. Following discussion, it was determined that the priority order was:
 - Priority 1. Security Alarms. WM to investigate transfer of security system from current location to new location, at an appropriate time, as a temporary measure prior to installing a full system.
 - Priority 2. CCTV. WM to investigate transfer of CCTV from current location to new location, at an appropriate time, as a temporary measure prior to installing the full system.

- Priority 3. Fire Alarm. TC has the fire assessment in hand. This can only take place following the refurbishment of the buildings and will take place at the earliest in April 2021. Fire alarm and inspection funds are earmarked for the old workshop.

These will be rolled forward at year end and be earmarked for the new workshop. Once full costs are determined in the new financial year, full funding will be considered. This is a Building Control requirement.

- Priority 4. Heating. WM highlighted the work being done by Cllr John Kilcourse (JK) regarding gas supply. TC noted that electrical heating was also possible. A rough order of magnitude provision of heating figure of £20K was determined, based on electrical heating used in the current workshop. Heating has to be fully resolved by no later than October 2021.
- Priority 5. Boundary Fencing and Gates. WM confirmed that the current, temporary, fencing on loan to the town council is available indefinitely. The need for these items will be determined later in the new financial year, once everything else is complete.

The task and finish group held an MS Teams meeting Friday 15 January 2021 and noted that:

- JK awaits a response from the gas suppliers for costs on the revised work schedule He will continue to chase.
- WM reported that the paperwork to cease the electric supply from Mere had been submitted and the invoice paid in advanced as required by the electric company. SD awaits a start date notification from the company. This contract is not time critical and does not affect any other work.
- WM reported that the doors to units 1A, B & C have been delivered and are partially installed. Installation will continue later this month with the roller doors to various South side units. Blockwork to refurbish external areas continues.
- WM reported that unit 1C was just about complete; work continues on the south side Units. The mezzanine floor in the old workshop is no longer required. WM was tasked to find a local buyer.
- TC reported that the SAP contract was complete; the building control submission had been made and paid for. Afternote: Building Control (BC) acknowledged receipt 18th January 2021 and set a number of questions regarding compliance. JK is dealing with these, however BC have additional compliance requirements, particularly with respect to fire, which may incur additional costs. These are currently being reviewed.
- Security alarm and CCTV drawings and schedules are complete and will be released for tender by the end of January. Responses will determine overall costs, which may be subject to future virement requests.
- Site name change paperwork and fee have been submitted.

- Research continues into renewable energy incentives in support of future heating requirements.
- The action log was updated – V6 as at 21/01/15.
- A submission for virement of funds totalling £5K, as determined in the workshop finance meeting, was endorsed.

2. Recommendation

There are no recommendations this month.

Full Council – 25th January 2021

Minute no. 425 (b)

Gillingham Town Council

Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee

Notes of the meeting held via MS Teams on Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 2pm

Author: Julie Hawkins, Town Clerk

Present: Cllr Mike Gould, Cllr Val Pothecary, Cllr Graham Poulter, Cllr Keith Wareham, Julie Hawkins, Town Clerk and Jill Ezzard, Office Manager.

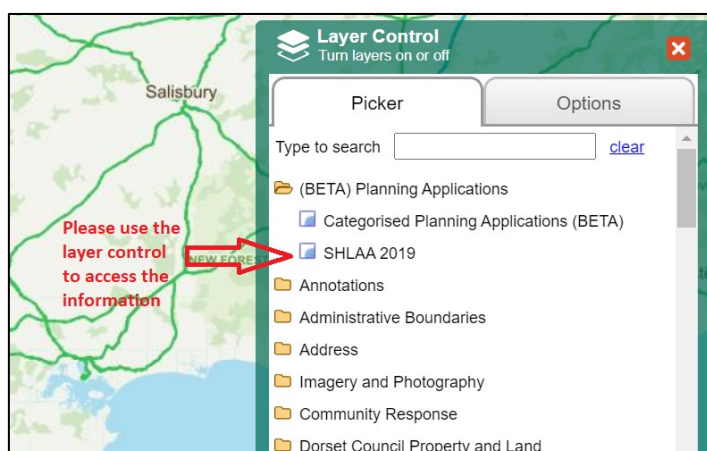
Apologies: Clare Ratcliffe

1. Lead member

It was agreed that Cllr Graham Poulter should be the lead member.

2. Reference was made to the following documents and information:

- 'Neighbourhood Plans Roadmap' - A Step-by-Step Guide' 2018 edition produced by Locality. Available to view [HERE](#)
- How to implement, monitor, and review your made neighbourhood plan – guide produce by Locality. Available to view [HERE](#)
- The North Dorset Local Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation undertaken in November 2017. Further information is available to view [HERE](#)



- The Strategic Land Availability Assessment 2019 (SHLAA) (results of the call for sites) which is available to view via Dorset Explorer [HERE](#). Please use the layer control to access the information.

3. Update on the assessment of the neighbourhood plan

a) Are planning applications being determined in accordance with the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan?

Planning applications are currently being assessed to establish how the GNP has contributed towards the planning decisions. To date, the research has evidenced that GNP Policies are not always being taken into account when planning applications are being determined, however further monitoring is needed.

b) Are any of the policies ineffective in practice and do these policies need to be revised?

Further monitoring is required in order to establish whether any policies need to be revised.

c) Are the overall aims of the neighbourhood plan being achieved?

Further monitoring is required in order to establish whether the overall aims of the neighbourhood plan are being achieved.

4. Further information required

It was agreed that further information is required on the following subjects:

- Housing need
- The delivery of affordable housing
- The delivery of social housing
- The need for self-build plots
- Sports and recreational facilities
- Amenity land

5. Changes to reflect current circumstances

In order to consider any necessary changes to the plan to ensure it reflects current circumstances, the subcommittee noted the following information

a) Employment opportunities

Since the Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' in 2018 the following planning applications have been submitted:

- **Aldi Supermarket** - Erection of a Class A1 food store (1,785m² gross) with associated access, car parking and landscaping approved under appeal APP/N1215/W/18/3195092.

No of jobs created: 14 full time plus 26 part time positions.

- **Petrol Filling Station with ancillary retail facilities**, car wash, jet wash, car parking - Land at E 382080 N 125599, Fern Brook Lane, Gillingham. Planning application No. 2/2019/1222/FUL
- **No of jobs created:** 15 full time positions
- Up to 2,642m² in a **new local centre providing retail, community, health, and leisure uses** – Gillingham Southern Extension. Planning application No. 2/2018/0036/OUT.
- **No. of jobs created:** This is an outline planning application and further information will follow regarding employment opportunities.
- **MOT Station** - Fairview Vehicle Services, Sherborne Causeway. Planning application No. 2/2020/1051/FUL
- **No. of jobs created:** No additional jobs will be created
- Change of use of agricultural building to a **cabinet maker's workshop** - Huntingford Farm, Huntingford Road, Huntingford. Planning application No. 2/2018/1257/FUL
- **No. of jobs created:** No additional jobs will be created
- Two storey building to provide new **shop and cafe** areas - Thorngrove Garden Centre, Common Mead Lane, Gillingham. Planning application No. 2/2020/1110/FUL
- **No. of jobs:** No additional jobs will be created
- **Kindergarten** - Change of use from office accommodation to kindergarten - Stone House, High Street, Gillingham. Planning application No. 2/2018/1327/COU.
No of jobs: No additional jobs will be created
- **Office Building and Store** - The Old Barn, Bleet Lane to New Road, Madjeston. Planning application No. 2/2018/1579/FUL.
No of jobs: No additional jobs will be created
- **Hire depot building** – Shaftesbury Road, Gillingham. Application No. 2/2018/1010/FUL
- **No of jobs:** No additional jobs will be created

b) Population

The population of Gillingham in 2018 was 12,052 and has risen to the current figure of 12,101 (Source: Mid-Year Estimates, Office for National Statistics)

c) Housing

Since the Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' the following planning applications have been approved:

- **90 dwellings** with associated infrastructure, including play areas and public open space – Land at Lodden Lakes (proposed southern extension). Planning application No. 2/2018/0483/REM
- **961 dwellings**, to include all ancillary works and associated infrastructure. (Outline application to determine access only) – Land to the South of Gillingham between New Road and Shaftesbury Road. Planning application No. 2/2018/0036/OUT
- **50 dwellings** – Land East of Barnaby Mead. Planning Application No. 2/2019/1649/REM
- **5 no. dwellings** at Windyridge Farm, Bay Road, Gillingham. Planning application No. 2/2019/1409/FUL
- An additional **28 dwellings** were granted approval on windfall sites and through change of use applications.

The following applications have been submitted and await a decision:

- **60 No. residential units** - Erect extra care residential building - St Martins, Queen Street, Gillingham. Planning Application No. 2/2018/1437/FUL
- **200 No. dwellings** - Land South of Bay Road, Gillingham, Dorset. Planning Application No. 2/2019/0739/FUL
- **8 No. dwellings** at Park Villa, Shaftesbury Road. Planning Application No. 2/2019/1211/FUL

d) Transport

It was noted that the X2 bus service between Gillingham Station and Peacemarsh, via Wyke, has been discontinued.

e) Natural environment and special landscape designations

It was noted that since the neighbourhood plan was made in 2018, the site of East Haines House was added to the Schedule of Ancient Monuments. The site is now recorded in the National Heritage List for England as ‘Remains of East Haines House and the adjacent section of the deer park pale’ (NHLE ref. 1465898).

f) Historic environment

It was noted that since the neighbourhood plan was made in 2018, St. Martins House in Queen Street, a non-designated heritage asset, has been demolished.

It was noted that since the neighbourhood plan was made in 2018, the former National Westminster Bank building, on the corner of Station Road and Newbury, has been designated as a Grade II Listed Building (List Entry No. 1467253).

g) Key urban and green spaces, connections (e.g. paths, roads, links)

It was noted that since the neighbourhood plan was made in 2018, permission has been granted for the construction of a principal street, associated access, landscaping and infrastructure works at land to the East of New Road (B3092), Gillingham. Planning Application No. 2/2020/0379/FUL.

It was noted that since the neighbourhood plan was made in 2018, various road improvements have been made by the Highway Authority including a new one-way system in Station Road (Upper) and new and improved cycleways along Le Neubourg Way.

6. Funding opportunities

Cllr Gould has contacted Locality and is awaiting further information regarding funding opportunities.

7. Employment of a consultant

Contact has been made with the consultant who previously dealt with the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan.

It was agreed that contact should be made with Dorset Council to establish what assistance they are able to offer.

8. Timetable of work

It was agreed that the sub-committee should continue to monitor the plan and suggest edits to the existing neighbourhood plan for discussion at the next meeting.

9. Date of next meeting

The next sub-committee meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 26th January at 2pm.

10. Addendum

The sub-committee has met informally and has agreed, subject to the consent of Full Council and acceptance by Cllr Roger Weeks, that Cllr Weeks be invited to join the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee.

The Town Clerk has been in contact with Jo Witherden of Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd who was the consultant employed to advise during the preparation of the current Neighbourhood Plan. Jo has identified two areas which might be appropriate for consideration in the review and has said that she would be happy to help with a review as previously (which is working with the sub-committee in an advisory capacity and helping research/draft certain elements where needed).

Jo has advised that she will be able to assist with an application for a grant, the size of which will depend on the scope of the review. There is a small window for an application this month for support in February/March, but otherwise, the sub-committee will be looking for a grant in the next funding window for the financial year (starting in April 2021). As this sub-committee has barely began, what will be a very long process, we will not be in a position to apply for a full grant for some time but it considers that it would be beneficial to apply for the minimum funding this year to allow Jo to work with the sub-committee on the scope of the review and get an idea of the project plan going forward.

Full Councils approval is therefore sought to enable the sub-committee to apply for such grants as it deems appropriate to facilitate its work throughout its existence.

11. Recommendations to Full Council

- **That Full Council approves the appointment of Cllr Roger Weeks to the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee.**
- **That Full Council approves and supports the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee making such applications, as it deems appropriate, for grants to facilitate its work in conducting the review of the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan during the existence of the Sub-committee.**

Full Council – 25th January 2020

Dorset Council Ward Report – Cllr Belinda Ridout

Update Report no. 1 of 3

Wishing everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year! I hope you managed to have a nice Christmas, despite the challenge of not being able to see many family or friends. 2021 looks set to be another full-on year with COVID, EU Exit and pressures upon services as a result of winter weather conditions.

REMINDERS: **Draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Consultation** ends on Wednesday, 20th January 2021. **Dorset Local Plan Consultation** coming out soon.

COVID update – Dorset Council has worked with Dorset Health partners to bring COVID vaccinations through Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester. 300 frontline care workers were vaccinated in the first week of receiving the vaccines and this will continue week on week, some becoming Vaccine Champions to help with the vaccine roll out. The Oxford vaccine will start to be rolled out from Monday 4th January 21, alongside the Pfizer vaccine. This will hopefully bring us a step closer to some kind of normality as we go forward into the new year.

As we all know, the Government announced that as of Thursday, 31st December, Dorset is now in tier 3 and BCP Council in tier 4. There has been a significant increase in both the number of cases and rate of infection in Dorset (DC: 154 cases per 100,000 population and BCP: 271 cases per 100,000 population). Key advice from Public Health Dorset is:

- Don't travel unless you absolutely have to and walk or cycle where possible.
- Avoid sharing a vehicle with anyone not in your household.
- Local means staying within your town or village where you live.
- Stay at home as much as possible.
- People must not travel to or from a tier 4 area (e.g. Somerset) unless it's for a permitted reason, such as work if they cannot work from home.

More details can be found on the government website.

Business Support Grants are available during both Tier 2 and 3, offering continued financial support. Please see the DC website.

Update guidance on schools and child care returning to school in January can be found on the DC website. The web pages are updated in line with Government announcements, often on a daily basis. Although there will be a staggered return for most secondary school pupils, (apart from vulnerable or critical worker children for whom schools remain open), school transport will continue as usual from 4th January.

Care Homes. In tier 3 outdoor visiting and 'screened' visits are permitted. The advice is, unless visiting a family member or close friend, you are recommended not to be visiting care homes or hospital at this time.

Full Council, 10th December – agenda items:

- **Statement on Harbours Revision Order, Bridport and Lyme Regis**, to consider a recommendation by the Harbours Committee to support an application to the Marine Management Organisation for a Joint Harbour Revision Order (last order made in 1584!) in respect of Bridport and Lyme Regis harbours to consolidate and modernise the current applicable legislation, saving approximately £17,500.
- **Terms of Reference for Dorset Council Harbours Consultative Groups.**

Both recommendations above by the Harbours Committee were approved.

- **Statement of Gambling Licence Policy, 2021-2024**
- **Statement of Licensing Policy, 2021-2026**
- **Statement of Dorset Council Housing Allocations Policy 2021-2026 (Social housing)**

All three statements above were approved, bringing all former district and borough policies into one Dorset Council area policy. Policy details can be found on the Dorset Council website.

A note of interest: holding Full Council virtually created a saving of £3,048 on members' mileage allowance and avoided the release of 866kg of carbon into the environment.

Climate Emergency and Ecological Emergency Consultation

In light of the Prime Minister's recent vow to cut Co2 emissions by 68% by 2030, an update on Dorset Council's programme post consultation: Consultation results to be analysed, debated and amended if necessary through the Executive Advisory Panel in February, which is open to all councillors to make comment. A paper of findings and suggested revised strategy will go to the People & Health Scrutiny Committee on 25th March and to Cabinet on 6th April. **Final Strategy and Action Plan to be signed off 15th April 2021.** The Sustainability Team continue to ensure that 'actions' will be delivered as per the Action Plan and have applied for £30m grant money to take this forward. **Low Carbon Dorset** continues to receive many requests for help with Low Carbon Projects across the Dorset Council area.

Notice of Motion put forward by Cllr Loui O'Leary and Seconded by Cllr Bill Pipe

On Remembrance Day when as a nation we pause to recognise the sacrifice made by those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life activists from Extinction Rebellion hung a climate change banner in front of the Cenotaph. That Dorset Council condemns the behaviour and actions of Extinction Rebellion for their actions at the Cenotaph and their total disregard of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice; and for their continued disregard of the law. After much debate about the right and wrongs of bringing forward the Motion under the Dorset Council Constitution, Procedure Rule, para. 14.3 (a) and concerns about making the matter political, the Motion was supported, particularly in view of the high number of veterans and forces personnel living and working in the Dorset Council area. A recorded vote was taken.

Member's Briefing, Tuesday, 15th December – Strategic Green Belt Review

This is a background study to be published January 2021, along with the Dorset Local Plan Consultation.

A single Strategic Review for the whole of Dorset, working jointly with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole as both council areas share Greenbelt land to some extent. The aim of the Review is an independent assessment of the Greenbelt, looking at how all land in the Greenbelt performs against the purpose of the Greenbelt and potential harm to the Greenbelt should land in certain locations be released for development (only in exceptional circumstances through the Local Plan process after all other possible options considered, i.e.. existing brownfield sites, other more suitable sites). The Review does not identify suitable sites to develop or consider exceptional circumstances for removal of land from the greenbelt but focusses on the 5 main purposes of the greenbelt as laid out in the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework):

1. check unrestricted spread of large built-up areas;
2. Prevent neighbouring towns merging;
3. Safeguard countryside from encroachment;
4. Preserve the setting/special character of historic towns;
5. Assist in regeneration by encouraging recycling of derelict/urban land.

The first part of the assessment shows the variation of contribution of greenbelt land, broken down into 'Purposes' 1 – 4 above and part two gives an assessment of the harm of releasing land within the greenbelt, with contribution ratings to indicate the impact of contribution to greenbelt purposes.

To consider new greenbelt land, the local authority would have to go through a strict strategic testing process. If greenbelt land is given up for development, the NPPF requires local authorities to enhance existing greenbelt land, e.g. through habitat improvements. Most of Dorset's greenbelt is around the conurbation in the south-east of the county.

Dog related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) – new rules for dogs in open spaces come into force from 1ST January

In the first few weeks the council will focus on advice and guidance to dog-owners, explaining the new rules. The order replaces a number of existing dog related PSPO's across the council area. The intention is that the new Order will provide clarity and consistency across the area for dog owners and non-owners alike about dog controls on public open spaces such as beaches, sports fields and other public areas.

Highways briefing

Two briefings took place before Christmas. The majority of Dorset Council highways works is delivered through Dorset Council's own in-house team in partnership with Hansons, who provide a top-up resource as and when required, providing a cost-effective and efficient service. This is a reciprocal arrangement. Local examples being Gillingham Highway Improvements Works and Principal Street (to start Feb/March 21) and Blandford Waste site (summer 21). Environment and Ecology are very important considerations. An energy reduced asphalt is now used on Dorset's roads (Hanson Reduced Emission Asphalt (REA) along with Hanson warm mix asphalt and materials with longer life and less maintenance.

Old tar based arisings (road surface waste) are low level carcinogens and costly to dispose of, but these waste arisings are now recycled by being crushed and bounded in cement to neutralise and put back into the network as construction materials, i.e. used as a base layer in new roads. To date, DC has recycled 11,000 tonnes of old tar-based arisings in this way, saving Dorset Council £1.8m. Highways also assist charities across Dorset, free of charge by, e.g. relaying access roads, filling in pot holes, laying the base for playgrounds.

Highways is now completely digital which allows informed decisions and real time improvements to be made; collection and sharing of data (materials to site, where mixed, weather conditions, etc); health and safety improvements for the team/risk assessments; improved asset management.

Update no. 2 of 3

REMINDER: Draft Climate & Ecological Emergency Consultation ends on Wednesday, 20th January 2021.

Dorset Local Plan

A consultation on the Dorset Council Local Plan begins on 18th January and will last until 15th March. Once adopted, the Local Plan will guide decisions on planning applications in Dorset until 2038.

This is the opportunity for local residents to have their say on the future of Dorset, not just your local area but the whole of the Dorset Council area.

For people who don't have access to the plan online, there are paper copies available for loan at libraries through their click and collect service.

A dedicated phone line will be open Monday to Friday, 10am to 2pm: 01305 252500.

A series of webinars will allow people to phone in and listen to or view presentations about various sections of the plan. Once published, the webinars will be available to view at any time on the Dorset Council YouTube Channel. Questions can be submitted in advance for the team to answer. There are also bespoke surgeries for particular groups and town and parish councils available upon request. A series of animations and podcasts have been developed to help explain the Dorset Council Local Plan. These can be found through Dorset Council's social media channels or on the podcast platform 'Anchor'. The plan will go through several phases and will include a further chance for feedback on the 'soundness' of the plan. It will also be scrutinised by the planning inspectorate before its adoption.

Schedule for webinars:

- 1. Distribution of development:** including functional areas, settlement hierarchy and spatial distribution of development.
26 Jan 12pm – 1pm. <https://youtu.be/EeMCbPCjSOk>
- 2. All things environmental:** including climate change, renewable energy, flooding and biodiversity.
28 Jan 12pm – 1pm. <https://youtu.be/wwO7b3j24QI>
- 3. Central Dorset towns,** housing and employment sites and heritage.
2 Feb 12pm – 1pm. <https://youtu.be/OWt02uhJNTw>

- 4 **Western Dorset towns**, housing and employment sites and landscape.
4 Feb 12pm – 1pm <https://youtu.be/fjID4InPMh4>
- 5 **Housing**: including housing need, neighbourhood planning and affordable housing.
9 Feb 12pm – 1pm. <https://youtu.be/t5dEY4ldamw>
- 6 **South Eastern Dorset** housing, employment and town centres and the Green Belt.
11 Feb 12pm – 1pm. <https://youtu.be/2QHNO8abakk>
- 7 **Northern Dorset** housing, employment and town centres and Design.
16 Feb 12pm – 1pm. <https://youtu.be/ZjGMN1ywcP4>
- 8 **The Economy**, community and collecting money from development.
18 Feb 12pm – 1pm <https://youtu.be/ENFn5QtDHSw>

COVID update

To reinforce the Government's message: **Stay Home, Protect the NHS AND Save Lives**, Dorset Councils is sending a postcard to all residents later this week, containing important information about how to stay safe, along with help and support information.

As at 8th January positive case rates per 100,000 in the Dorset Council area is now 309.4, a massive increase from 196.6 the previous week and the rise is even steeper in the Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council area, from 389.5 to 607.1 this week. With the current situation, it looks as though Dorset Council employees and councillors will be working remotely with virtually meetings until the end of June.

Children's Services - Children's Centre core sites will remain open for the following services: health service appointments where required; family time; parenting assessments and where childcare is provided. Parenting groups have moved to online only.

IT equipment for families who are home-schooling - work continues to ensure that children can access learning wherever possible through mobile devices. The DfE have significantly increased the number of devices available for secondary schools for vulnerable children. Awaiting information on a similar approach for primary schools. Any problems with children not being able to access IT equipment are being dealt with on a case by case basis. Let me know of any problems you are aware of in your local area.

St Mary's School, Shaftesbury

As part of an ambitious strategy to ensure all Dorset children thrive and have good quality places and spaces in which to live and learn, DC is working to buy St Mary's School near Shaftesbury so it can remain an asset to the community. This will help keep all Dorset children in Dorset rather than in care facilities outside of the county which can be distressing for those involved and very expensive for the council. More details to be published soon and is supported by councillors.

Help and Support for Dorset Residents

Help to deal with financial struggles Dorset Citizens Adviceline on Freephone 0800 144 8848.

Support also available online: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/reaching-out.

Coping with Isolation and Loneliness: Dorset Together Team, support including food shopping and delivery, collection of prescriptions, dog walking and befriending. Help can be accessed via an online form on the Dorset Council website or by calling the Dorset Together helpline on 01305 221000, 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Digital Hotline people with queries about getting online or improving online skills can call the Dorset Digital Hotline on 01305 221048, Monday to Friday from 10am to noon.

Outside of those times you can leave a message and a Digital Champion will get back to you.

If you are on a low income and do not have a broadband connection or device at home to connect to the internet, it may be possible to help you to get set up.

Parents and carers helpline Dorset Council's Educational Psychology Service has set up a helpline to support those who are worried about their child or teenager during the lockdown. The helpline number is 01305 474036, open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.45pm. Callers need to ring and make an appointment for a 30-minute phone consultation.

The Dorset Council website is an invaluable tool for finding out the latest information and about essential services affecting the public. For those residents not on line, who have important questions or concerns, call Dorset Council on 01305 221000, 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week or email: communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

Update no. 3 of 3

REMINDER: Dorset Local Plan Consultation runs from 18th January to 15th March 2021.

This is the opportunity for local residents to have their say on the future of Dorset, not just your local area but the whole of the Dorset Council area. More information about the draft Local Plan can be found on the Dorset Council website: Local Plan. There will also be a series of webinars on-line, the first one entitled ‘Distribution of Development’, available from Tuesday, 26th January 2021.

January Northern Area Planning Committee and Strategic Planning Committee both cancelled.

Youth Executive Advisory Panel meeting – 15th January 2019

Discussion took place around the status of youth centre asset transfers and works, following a recent survey of *all* youth provision in the Dorset Council area. Clearly there is much to learn from the asset transfer to community groups back in 2016, something I know first-hand as a trustee of the Gillingham Youth and Community Centre. The EAP will be looking at ‘filling the gaps’ in youth provision.

Targeted Youth Work Offer (TYW) – each locality has a Targeted Youth Worker to provide leadership around early help of young people. The TYW acts as a point of contact for partners and colleagues to provide guidance and expertise around youth work in their locality. Here in the north locality we also have a Targeted Youth Support Worker, which reflects additional needs of the locality. The Targeted Youth Work Offer includes: TYW leading on regular multi-agency Youth at Risk meetings; Detached Youth Work focused on working with young people wherever and whenever they choose to congregate; Outreach Work with the objective to encourage and engage a young person into an existing setting; Targeted Youth Work in groups and Youth Work Support on a one -to-one basis. Also, there is an ambition to deliver some youth work services digitally so young people can access them when and where they want.

The intention is very much for the youth workers to work alongside existing youth projects and youth clubs in order to make the most of the total resource. For this area, this means working with youth support group, ‘Rendezvous’ and Gillingham Youth Club operating out of the Gillingham Youth and Community Centre. Currently the TYW and TYSW facilitate weekly detached sessions between Shaftesbury and Gillingham, alternating the two towns each week, but on different days to existing youth outreach work.

COVID update

As at 20th January, the case rate for the Dorset council area is 308 per 100,000 population. The case rate is slowly falling but not as swiftly as it did during the November lockdown. In

BCP Council area the case rate is 834 per 100,000. It is absolutely essential that we all continue to follow the current COVID rules and do everything we can to prevent spread of the virus.

For any questions on the NHS vaccination roll-out programme for COVID, please go to the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, frequently asked questions:

<https://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/vaccinations/>

To reinforce the Government's message: Stay Home, Protect the NHS AND Save Lives'.

People and Children

To create more homes for Dorset children. Councillors approved the 'Placement Sufficiency Strategy' for 2020-22 on 19th January. The Strategy sets out plans to improve accommodation for children in care in Dorset, e.g. refurbishing and registering several small properties as children's homes. The aim of these proposals is to create more accommodation in Dorset so fewer local children have to leave their schools, their friends, their families and everything they know and be placed in care far away. Councillors have already approved plans to create a new home for Dorset children in Weymouth. Closer to home:

St Mary's School, Shaftesbury - Dorset Council has completed the purchase of this former school site. This site offers fantastic facilities and presents a significant 'invest to save' Currently pupils with special educational needs often have to travel far outside Dorset, as there is just not enough educational provision closer to home. This is not good for Dorset children and young people and it also costs significantly more, as buying this external provision outside of our county is more expensive and travel costs are much higher too. Opportunities to secure sites like this for Dorset are very rare. It is a fantastic facility set in substantial grounds of about 55 acres. This offers exciting potential for many other community and service uses too, which will be explored in partnership with local people and community groups. The ambition is to transform the site to provide better educational opportunities for Dorset children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Local people, community and stakeholder groups are being asked to examine the proposed plans and share their views when a public consultation starts on 4th February 2021. All views will be carefully considered before final decisions are made.

Foster Carers - the campaign to recruit more foster carers for Dorset children and young people continues. Anyone interested in making a difference to the lives of Dorset Children please call 01305 225568 or visit fosterindorset.co.uk for more information.

Home Schooling help, online resources, digital help and desks – DC has put together some advice for families about getting online, data help, how to improve an internet connection and lots of online resources. Desks may also be available for home schooling families. This is available on line or phone Dorset Council on 01305 221000.

Dorset schools are being asked to sign-up to a national scheme, which sees businesses donate laptops and other office equipment to schools. Called "Business to Schools", the initiative sees businesses donate computers, laptops, tech equipment and furniture that they are about to replace. The BBC is actively promoting the scheme as a way of helping schools get laptops to pupils who have no devices at home. In the last year alone, the 'Business to Schools' scheme received more than £10m worth of furniture and tech that

was being replaced in offices. Schools need to register with: Business to Schools Initiative: Pages (business2schools.com).

Census 2021, 21st March 2021

Households across Dorset will soon be asked to take part in the 2021 Census. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It will be run predominantly online, with all Dorset households receiving a letter in late February with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computer, phone or tablet from early March. Support available from Dorset Digital Champions. Paper questionnaires will be available.