

DILTON MARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Report for Westbury Area Board meeting on 08/10/2020

As with everyone, keeping things going hasn't been easy. During lockdown, we had a lot of active volunteers, but not really in a planned and organised way. We liaised as much as possible with other groups, especially Westbury TC. The issue now is to try and address the fear, loneliness and isolation that many still feel, via an emergency plan.

The PC has a lot going on:

Planning applications

PC objections sent to Wiltshire Council re NREL and land west of Dartmoor Rd.

Neighbourhood Plan

Steering group working on draft plan

Highways and traffic issues

Following the WC report on 20mph restriction assessment (October 2019) and other suggestions from residents, the PC is preparing a report with recommendations for consultation with the wider community.

Responses to Government consultations

- Planning for Change – very complex and in-depth planning knowledge required to make an informed response.
- Planning for the Future – agenda item for PC meeting on 15/10/2020. Ditto above I feel.
- Pavement parking – response to be submitted. An issue of concern around the parish.

Current PC projects

- Noticeboards being replaced or refurbished
- Dilton News – PC newsletter to be revived
- Telephone box – purchased by PC; usage being considered.
- New/replacement waste bins – working with WC
- Provision of additional grit bins
- Replacement of bench by Dilton Halt following vandalism
- Installation of additional barrier at Alan Powell Lane for prevention of misuse, especially fly tipping and drug dealing
- Consideration of installation of CCTV on playing field to reduce antisocial behaviour
- Improvements on playing field – signs, football pitch
- Use of SID

Issues over past few months

- COVID -19 support for residents – planning for future needs
- Fly tipping
- Antisocial behaviour – believed by young people from Westbury
- Suspected drug dealing – working with police (not mentioned on CPT report)
- Closure of the Prince of Wales, which was then advertised for sale by auction. The PC did not support a community bid on the sale. It attracted bids at auction but was not sold.

The PC applied for a grant to support families with IT equipment, but weren't successful. Dilton Marsh School was able to secure funding from another source.

We were unable to hold the annual Family Fun Day, but with support from Westbury Churches Together and Spurgeons, distributed activity packs for children to around 80 families.

A recent joint meeting with other PCs and MP, relating to NREL in this case, was useful and opened up more collaborative working.

Kathy Hutt
Chair, DMPC
08/10/2020