



## **Corsham Area Board - Report 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

### **New Fire Authority Chairman**

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority has a new Chairman.

At its meeting on 27 June, **Cllr Spencer Flower** (Dorset County Council – Verwood) was unanimously elected into the role.

He replaces Cllr Rebecca Knox, who had been Chairman since 1 April 2016, when the new Authority came into being.

The Authority's Vice-Chairman remains Cllr Garry Perkins (Swindon Borough Council – Haydon Wick).

### **Grenfell Tower**

Since the last Area Board meeting we have all been shocked by the events of 14<sup>th</sup> June when a serious fire claimed the lives of so many at Grenfell Tower in London.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is working with building owners to inspect and check almost 250 high rise residential tower blocks across its area, following the tragedy.

Fire crews are visiting 202 blocks of five to eight storeys, most of which fall within the local authority areas of Bournemouth and Poole. In addition, fire safety officers are focusing on a further 40 blocks of nine storeys and above.

Amongst the areas being checked by the Service are fire risk assessments, means of escape from the building, fire doors, fire alarms, evacuation plans and emergency lighting.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service continues to promote the fitting of sprinkler systems in all buildings, as they are known to save lives and reduce property damage. This was proven earlier this month, when a sprinkler system prevented a flat fire in Poole from spreading out of control.

We continue to work with local authorities, developers, and tenants to help ensure that the fire safety arrangements in high rise accommodation is safe and appropriate.

The advice provided is based on effective fire safety arrangements in the building including effective compartmentation and protected means of escape.

If there is a fire inside a flat or maisonette our advice is to alert all the people in the flat and leave, closing all doors on the way out. The stairs rather than the lift should always be used and 999 called as soon as the individual is in a safe place.



If there is a fire elsewhere in the building then the structure of flats – walls, floors and doors– is designed to give appropriate protection. It is usually safer to stay in the flat unless the heat or smoke from the fire is having an effect. If someone stays put, they should still immediately call 999 for advice and to ensure that FRS crews have been notified.

The majority of purpose built blocks of flats will not be designed with a common alarm system within the building. Each flat will have their own stand-alone detection and alarm which will not normally be linked to any other area of the block.

Of course, once a 999 call is made and firefighters arrive at the fire, this advice may be reinforced or changed depending on the nature of the fire and the performance of the particular building.

### **Defibrillators**

All frontline Fire Appliances have now been issued with defibrillators as part of the programme to improve the Emergency Medical Response provided by the Fire & Rescue Service. This can only benefit the local community in ensuring vital lifesaving equipment is readily available.

### **Response**

#### **Total Incidents attended by DWFRS for Corsham Area; 19/05/17 – 08/07/17.**

DWFRS have responded to 23 incidents on Corsham’s station ground between the dates above categorised in the table below.

The number of fires includes 2 accidental dwelling fires and 3 bonfires which have got out of control.

The number of special services include 2 incidents of trespassers becoming lost in the disused mines under Box woods

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Incidents</b>
False Alarm	9
Fire	9
Special Service	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>



## **Recent Notable Incidents**

There have been 3 incidents recently of people entering the old mine system beneath Box Woods then becoming lost and needing assistance. The FRS attended 2 of these with the first one being dealt with by the Police. This is becoming a concern and the FRS will be holding meetings with Hanson's and cave rescue organisations to look at ways to prevent these incidents and to ensure an effective response is made if they do continue to occur.

## **Community Engagement**

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service provides a free service called a Safe and Well visit. We will visit a person's home by appointment and discuss any safety issues in the home. We will also have a conversation about improving an individual's health and well-being.

If you or someone you know need a smoke alarm, some advice or are worried about what to do in an emergency, contact us for a free Safe and Well visit;

<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>

## **Community Safety Plan**

DWFRS Community Safety Plan 2016 – 2020 outlines our plans for the future. It explains the diverse services we provide and how we plan to improve and deliver them over the four-year period. The plan can be found on the DWFRS website <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

## **On-Call Recruitment**

Corsham Fire Station is crewed by part time "On-Call" Fire fighters. To maintain the availability of the fire engine at the station we are recruiting for On-Call Fire fighters. We are particularly interested in people who could provide availability at weekends. If you are interested or know anyone who might be interested, please visit our website (check the link below) or contact our HR team on 01722 691444.

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/>

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