

June Newsletter 2018. Langport & Curry Rivel Division Somerset County Councillor,  
Langport & Huish ward SSDC District councillor

Dear All,

The new Chief Executive for the Local Enterprise Partnership started today, David Ralph, who is replacing Chris Garcia. A one-month handover will ensure the smooth continuation of the LEP and David is a worthy replacement to Chris who has secured much funding for our area during his post.

The future of the libraries consultation ends on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, so far 4000 people have engaged with the consultation but there is still a little time for people to have their say. It may be a sign of the times but in Somerset the rough population is 550000 so to have only 4000 responses to the consultation probably tells us something.

This first week in June is National Volunteers week. Thousands of people volunteer for all manner of things, including myself and this week is to celebrate our unsung heroes. Events have been planned across Somerset to recognise all the good work and the benefits of volunteering.

Somerset has been awarded 3.662 million on the pot hole action fund which should go some way to help with this ever increasing issue, following the difficult winter weather conditions. Government have awarded this from the national fund.

BBC Panorama will be making a programme on the challenges of providing elderly care and Somerset will be featured for its work in the care sector. It is due to air in the Autumn so I will keep you posted.

Somerset County Council are joining with Somerset and Devon Fire Rescue Service for Child Safety week which is this week. It focuses on making homes in Somerset safe for children and helps promote home safety and fire safety.

The unitary debate is well under way and open discussions are being had with all the districts and of course with the county. The future of local government in Somerset could change from the current three tier system to a single authority. These discussions are in the early stages and I will keep reporting as it gains momentum. Of course this conversation involves the district so I will be in a position to comment on the thoughts of all.

In terms of the district, the Area North committee continues to meet within the Area North patch, however for how much longer is anyone's guess as the district council continues with its transformation programme.

Due to unforeseen issues with the new pool at Huish Episcopi the opening has unfortunately been put back until 30<sup>th</sup> June but I am assured lessons have filled up fast and staff are in position ready to go for when it does open.