

July Newsletter 2017. Langport & Curry Rivel Division Somerset County Councillor, Langport & Huish ward SSDC District councillor

Dear All,

I have had the pleasure of some very interesting meetings and trips. Hinkley, opening Westlands, opening The Somerset Rural Life Museum, Royal Bath and West consultation, Highways England consultation, Somerset County Business forum to name a few.

I have been to Hinkley site again and whilst I will not get into everyone's thoughts on how we produce our energy, what I will say is the amazing drive this project is bringing not only to our county, but to our own areas through the drip down of the huge benefits to our economy. I know of a few businesses directly gaining from the project in our area via The Somerset Larder. This is a Hinkley supply chain for the smaller businesses who can work collectively together to compete with the size of the Hinkley project.

Somerset Waste Partnership is working really hard to ensure the Recycle More model is the best it can be for us all. None of us are not on board with the notion that we need to recycle more and we are all pushing to ensure there is a great education system on line to encourage our children, to encourage us!

I have had the pleasure of learning more about our Library service and will be attending a day trip tour of many of our leading libraries to gain further insight. I am sure none of us wish to waste funds but we do need to maximise the usage of our Libraries and the service has changed a great deal in recent years and continues to look to further improve the usage and capabilities of our library spaces.

I was very pleased to attend the opening of the new Westlands Leisure complex in Yeovil with David Hall. The facility now needs to make sure it delivers on all counts after the initial period of inquisitive punters disperses. Undoubtedly the sporting facilities are a great asset to the public, and I can see the attraction of the leisure time facility. If we are to compete with the likes of the Bic in Bournemouth we need to ensure the right acts and the right publicity.

I will not be getting into any huge political bursts, I will leave that to the professionals like Derek, but what I will say, for my part, there seems to be a huge need to be totally informative for people. Half the time the message is not getting through and I think many of us are voting on the unknown. I am all about the positive clear message.

I know David Hall is attending the LGA conference so I will feed back any informative that comes my way from that. (Secretly I am looking forward to three quieter days)!

Lastly, I have been very pleased with some of the planning outcomes of late and I believe the district is working really hard with members to look for compromises or positive common sense outcomes.

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