Mark Healey CC

Huntspill Division

BRIEFING SHEET FOR PARISH COUNCILS SEPTEMBER 2019

School transport: For the first time in over 25 years Somerset County   
Council will be operating their own school bus fleet from the beginning of   
the new school year. The low emission buses represent a major   
investment into school transport service delivery whilst saving the County   
Council money. The design, which shows silhouettes and scenes from   
around the County, is one that SCC intend to use extensively in the future   
on minibuses, highways vans and numerous other vehicles.   
Castles and Coast Way: A new walking trail in a less travelled but   
beautiful part of Somerset is now open to the public. The Castles and Coast   
Way is a 13-mile circular footpath which runs from Nether Stowey to   
Stogursey and on to the Somerset coast at Shurton Bars. The route links   
the Coleridge Way to the England Coast Path National Trail, which will   
eventually run around the coast of England.  
Apprenticeships: Over the past three years Somerset County Council has   
invested in more than 300 apprenticeships, helping people get started on   
their career and up skilling existing staff to further their career. 50 new   
apprentices will be starting this autumn to start apprenticeships during   
the Autumn. SCC is the first local authority in the South West to make use   
of the Social Work Degree Apprenticeship, which will also see 12 of our   
existing staff across Adults and Children’s Service up skill to become Social   
Workers.  
Stand Up For Care: Three major local government bodies have given their  
backing to Somerset County Council’s Stand Up For Care petition. The   
petition calls for cross-party discussions before Christmas on how to   
address the national social care funding shortfall. Leaders of all political   
groups at the County Council have given it their backing and they have   
been joined by the Local Government Association, County Council   
Network, and the Association for Directors of Adult Social Services. The   
petition is hosted on the www.petition.parliament.uk website and can be   
found by viviting the site and searching ‘Somerset’.  
Shared Lives Service: Somerset County Counci; has agreed to transfer its   
Shared Lives service to Shared Lives South West (SLSW), in a move that   
will see more people with different needs benefit from the life-changing   
support. The Shared Lives scheme currently focuses on people with   
learning disabilities but the new arrangements will make this support   
available to younger people with physical disabilities, the elderly, those   
being discharged from hospital and people with mental health conditions.   
Shared Lives support see’s adults with additional needs matched with a   
trained and paid carer who opens their own family home to the person   
needing support. The aim is for the person being supported to live the   
fullest life they can, be part of the community and maintain and promote   
new skills.  
iAero: An £8m cutting-edge aerospace technology centre in Yeovil is   
taking off with construction work starting on site. Somerset County   
Council is working with the aerospace industry, including Leonardo   
Helicopters in Yeovil, on the flagship iAero Centre which will encourage   
innovation, collaboration and growth in the aerospace sector and supply   
chain, ensuring it remains competitive in a fast- changing world. iAero is   
due to be completed in July next year with the first tenants expected to   
move in later in 2020  
Squibbers Way: Somerset County Council recently asked the residents to   
help find a new permanent name for the £18.4 million Colley Lane   
Southern Access Road (CLSAR). This attracted more than 250 unique   
nominations that were whittled down to a shortlist of six and put to the   
public vote o choose the winner. In total 2,728 people cast their vote with   
Squibbers Way receiving 59% of all votes. (Squibbing, featuring twohanded firework torches held overhead, is an intrinsic part of Bridgwater   
Carnival).  
Emotional and Mental Health Support: The dates for the next Mental   
Health First Aid Course are the 9th and 16th October 2019.   
Full details are available from lfinnis@somerset.gov.uk Health Promotion   
Manager and applications must be in by the 16th September 2019.  
Recent press releases:Ultramarathon boosts Mendip Hills Fund  
Make your voices heard, young people in Somerset are urged  
Volunteer Elaine wins Pride award