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