

COUNTY COUNCIL CONSERVATIVE GROUP

BRIEFING SHEET FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

NOVEMBER 2018

The Somerset Wood: In commemoration of the end of World War 1 a memorial wood is being established, with soil from the Belgian battlefields, in memory of those from Somerset who lost their lives. The Somerset Wood will eventually see 14,000 broad-leaved trees planted to create a community wood in honour of the 11,281 Somerset fallen. Covering 23 acres within a planned Country Park on the outskirts of Taunton the wood will be a place for wildlife, people and peace.

It's hoped that all Somerset residents, especially youngsters, will get involved in the planting of the trees provided by The Woodland Trust. As many trees as possible will be planted between November 2018 and March 2019.

Colley Lane: The Somerset Bridge, which will carry the new Colley Lane Southern Access Road in Bridgwater, has been lifted into place over the River Parrett. The bridge will be the longest single-span bridge in Somerset – and one of the longest in the southwest. Each pair of supporting beams measured 52m long, 2.2m deep and 3.8m wide with the heaviest weighing in at 156 tonnes. The £18.4m Colley Lane Southern Access Road (CLSAR) plans include two new bridges, 840 metres of carriageway and new cycle and footways.

Library Service re-design: Proposals for the re-design of Somerset's Library Service have been published following a lengthy consultation exercise which received more than 7000 responses from individuals and community groups across Somerset. The Councils Scrutiny Committee closely studied the recommendations and Cabinet will be asked to make a decision on the 5th November. If the proposals are adopted, 19 libraries across the County will remain under County Council control whilst a further 15 will be invited to submit expressions of interest with a view to setting up community partnerships to run their local library.

NHS Winter Pressures: The NHS always struggles with demand during the winter months. Last year Adult Social care working closely with the acute hospitals to reduce the amount of time which patients spend unnecessarily in hospital. To date SCC Adult Services have saved over 7500 bed days. This winter the government have allocated SCC additional funds to continue this great work.

Anne Frank Exhibition: The Anne Frank + You exhibition returned to Somerset in October and will at the Brewhouse, Taunton until 27th November. The Exhibition features two main sections. The first is a focus on the Second World War, the Holocaust and Anne Frank's story. The second focuses on the hatred that led to these horrific events, and how similar forms of hatred are still present

in modern-day society. More information on the exhibition can be found at <http://www.somersetannefrankawards.co.uk/exhibition>

Winter Gritting: The Somerset Highways Gritters were out for the first time this year in October, one of the earliest dates in memory and certainly the first time that they've been used before November since 2012.

Somerton School: Capital funding for a new 14 class school in Somerton has been approved and work will start early in the new year with a projected opening in September 2019. The school will replace the current two sites (Infant and Juniors), which have been become landlocked and have no potential to be developed further.

Somerset Independence Plus: A one-stop shop for equipment, home improvements and advice that will help people live independently at home for longer opens in November (8th). The Somerset Independence Plus service is the first step to bring together the Housing Options service, Home Improvement agency and Independence Assessment Centre to help people get the equipment and home improvements they need to support them to stay independent. The new centre near Wellington is open for visitors every Monday from 9.30am - 4pm or by calling Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

Fit for my future: A number of countywide events are taking place to hear local people's views on health and care in Somerset, and explore how it could change in future. Somerset CCG, the NHS acute hospital trusts, Somerset Partnership (mental and community health services), and Somerset County Council have jointly launched a programme called 'Fit for my future' to hear people's experiences of health and care and gain feedback on emerging proposals of how it may change in future.

There are five health and care areas under review: planned care (usually non-emergency treatment) and cancer, long term health conditions (such as diabetes) and frailty, urgent and emergency care, mental health and learning disabilities, and maternity and children's services. November dates and venues are.....

- Victoria Park Community Centre, Bridgwater, Tuesday 6th Nov, 10am- 2pm
- Hen Hayes, Crewkerne, Wednesday 7th Nov, 4pm – 7pm
- The Guildhall, Chard, Monday 12th Nov, 12.00pm – 4pm
- Albermarle Centre, Taunton, Wednesday 14th Nov, 10am- 2pm
- Shape Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Thursday 15th Nov, 10am- 2pm
- Brushford Parish Hall, Dulverton, Tuesday 20th Nov, 3.30pm – 7pm
- Glastonbury Town Hall, Glastonbury, Wednesday 21st Nov, 10am- 2pm
- The Hub, Minehead, Monday 26th Nov, 1.30pm – 5.30pm
- Abbey Manor Centre, Yeovil, Tuesday 27th Nov, 1.30pm – 5.30pm

Dillington's Winter Wonderland: The highly popular and successful Winter Wonderland returns to Dillington House, Ilminster on the 1st and 2nd December featuring an ice rink and a large number of festive stalls. Visit www.dillington.com or call 01460 258648 for further details.