

Dulverton Schools



2014 was a difficult time; decision making was not always to everyone's satisfaction. Many hours were spent in writing letters and attending meetings, not least

the two public meetings held at the beginning of the year. The mantra on everyone's lips was '*we must do whatever is best for the children*'.

As the year progressed many changes occurred, not only on the Governing Body with a change of Chair twice, but also the appointment of a new Interim Executive Head who is standing in whilst the current Head is on long-term sick leave.

Two ongoing issues remain. An Ofstead report was issued for the First School – the overall judgement being that the school requires improvement. Also, the longed-for consultation on transport to Kingsmead School, Wiveliscombe commenced on 21st November and will continue up to and including 16th January 2015. The results will be published by 27th February.

www.somersetconsults.org.uk/consult.ti/kingsmead_school_transport_area/answerQuestionnaire?qid=3331427

Dulverton Weir & Leat

A temporary repair to the weir (£15,000) has been made to ensure that water will flow through the town.



WSC officers have eventually reached an agreement with the Environment Agency (EA) Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) and the fishing community to achieve this temporary solution as a full repair is unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Community (Sensible) Spending



We have requested sponsorship from various organisations to continue with this programme. Some monies have already been received. However, more constraints have been imposed on how the money is spent than in previous years. Unfortunately several organisations are no longer in a financial situation to contribute, and those that have promised their contribution, we understand will be reduced.

Undergrounding of Lighting Cables in Centre of Dulverton

To improve the 'look' of Dulverton's centre, a joint project was started between DTC, SCC, Western Power and ENPA to place the overhead electricity cables underground. One or two poles will have to stay as they carry BT cables despite our best efforts to have them removed. Where are we today? We hope to see some action in March 2015.



Dulverton Youth Council

Despite finding a training provider, SCC informed us that funding was no longer available in the foreseeable future. After negotiations, SCC allowed us to transfer our existing grant, with conditions, to the Youth Club.

The Youth Club is making progress, having already discussed and planned a new working name for the group as well as a logo but due to exam time and holidays, recruitment has been postponed until the New Year.

We hope this selection of projects will give you a greater understanding of what's been occupying your councillors during 2014, all of whom are volunteers and give their services for free.

For the BIGGER Picture !!
and more details have a look at the web version at
<http://goo.gl/NdwxPk>



Dulverton Town Council
wish you all
a very happy and
prosperous
New Year.

Here's to 2015

1st January 2015

Roundup - What's been happening in Dulverton affecting you and your Council in 2014?

Good News! Dulverton Precept

West Somerset Council (WSC) has again reduced its level of financial support for Dulverton in 2015. However, due to Dulverton Town Council's (DTC) frugal management of the town's finances the Legal & Finance committee will propose a **NO increase** in the Precept and that the level of council tax remains the same as 2014. This has yet to be confirmed by the full council in January 2015.



Rumour v Fact



A lot of views are expressed throughout the town and parish by various means – by word of mouth, written, even by SPAM email approach. These may contain truths and half-truths, some are

false and others, unfortunately, attempt to undermine your Town and Council. If you want the truth about what is happening on Council related subjects, *why not ask your council and/or councillors?* That's what they are there for and you can be sure of their independent stance as councillors by checking on their Declaration of Interest(s).

Community Woodland Project Success

We were invited to participate in the Our Place! Project sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and run by Locality. A grant was awarded to

prepare an operational plan; although none of this grant money could be used to fund the project itself. The objective is to provide employment and training for young people within the community. In cooperation with ENPA, Dulverton & District Young People's Project (DDYPP), The Exmoor Society and others will enable us to carry out essential tree cultivation work in Burr ridge Wood.



Best Friend



Cleaner streets thanks to more dog poo bags and bins! It's a tricky problem to solve and we had many discussions about this messy issue. Then Dulverton townsfolk got involved and lots more ideas came forward. Keeping it simple looks to have done the trick; more bins and 3 new poo bag dispensers in strategic places have made a

real improvement. A vote of thanks goes to every responsible dog owner for helping to keep our town a very pleasant place to be.

Traffic Management



We were asked by Somerset Country Council (SCC) to commence an informal consultation with the aim of improving traffic flow and safety in the town. Understandably, any regulation needs enforcement to be effective.

Confusion ensued. Only 26 people responded. These results will now be sent to SCC to enable them to start the formal consultation process.

Dulverton Town Council Offer – Specific Interest Groups

All communities have diverse views therefore to help us communicate more efficiently we would like to offer a possible solution. We would like to invite three members of the business community - be they service providers and/or traders - to come forward and act as a collective interface into DTC. Perhaps three members of the public living in Dulverton could also join the group thereby giving it a more rounded profile.

Flood Action Group

Our last flood was in December 2012, but for those who were affected it will always seem like it was yesterday. Following the flood and in conjunction with the Environment Agency, DTC and local people, a Dulverton Flood Plan has been developed. Funding has been secured for emergency supplies and these should be in place early in the New Year.



Parish Lengthsman



As you walk around Dulverton do you ever wonder ... Who clears many of the weeds around the town and helps with the flower displays? Who checks the car parks for rubbish, leaves and weeds? trims so many of our paths so we can still use them in the growing season? Who removes many leaves from the drains and drainage pipes? It's the parish Lengthsman.

Car Parks

DTC have negotiated favourable terms for the next 5 years with West Somerset Council (WSC) - owners of our three car parks. The Lion Car Park is now Short Stay with a maximum of 3 hours @ 50p per hour, unlimited stay for Permit Holders. NSL (formerly National Car Park Services Ltd employed by SCC) have the task of monitoring the on and Off street parking.



Parking Permit for use in all three town car parks - 24hrs, 7 days a week, 365 days a year costs **£80** for 12 months (£1.54 per week - that's under 22p/day!) or **£45** for 6 months (£1.73 per week). Permits are available all year from the Council office.

All Saints Church Wall

You may have wondered why the foot path alongside the church is closed. This wall has been declared unsafe and in the interests of Health & Safety has had to be temporarily closed. DTC is responsible in Law to make this repair. The cost of which is likely to be in the region of £100K. Why Dulverton has to pay and background details can be found via DTC web site.

