

District Councillor Report to East Chinnock PC, Sept 2021

District Council News

- **Recycle More** - roll out of this scheme has been severely blighted by missed collections (for reasons detailed in my previous report). Somerset is not alone - and many local authorities have reported issues over the summer. Things are beginning to improve (following the suspension of Garden Waste collections), but the service is fragile and further disruption is certainly possible. Missed and failed bin collections have plagued East Chinnock over the last few weeks - not helped by the closure at the Hollow. It has at times been an uphill struggle trying to resolve these issues, but I have worked hard to ensure SWP and SUEZ are delivering for residents. Fortunately things appear to be looking up, but please continue to report any missed bins here: <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/>
- **Unitary news** - Just prior to Parliament's summer recess, Robert Jenrick MP (Secretary of State for Local Government) announced that One Somerset had prevailed as the preferred model of local government in Somerset.
 - The transformation timetable is alarmingly rapid. Work has begun immediately on the process of replacing Somerset's 5 existing councils with one council by 2023.
 - Elections to the new unitary council are scheduled for May 2022.
 - **It is proposed to bring forward Parish Council elections by 1 year, so they occur alongside the unitary council ones in May 2022.**
 - The Gov is pushing for a rapid redrawing of local government boundaries, with the administration and cost being met by Somerset's existing councils
 - The Gov has said it wants to see the number of councillors reduced to around 70 (even though One Somerset had contained plans to reduce the number of councillors from approx 269 to 100).
 - Existing Somerset County Councillors are likely to get their term extended for a second consecutive year
 - Negotiations re: all of the above are live and ongoing.

Coronavirus response

- Recently, the Sedgemoor area had the highest covid rate in the UK, which is cause for concern. On the other hand, in Parrett Ward we have one of the highest vaccine uptake rates in the county.
- *There is still one Somerset-wide contact number for covid enquiries: 0300 790 6275*
- Support can also be found here: <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Planning

- **Approved 22/7 21/01281/HOU** (Field House, Broad Lane; the demolition of single garage and erection of a double garage with home office room above; erection 1 bedroom granny annexe; relocation of LPG tank; alterations to driveway; new rear garden room extension)
- **Approved 27/7 21/01329/HOU** (441 Weston St; insertion of stone mullion windows, erection of front entrance porch, erection of 2 storey rear extension and replacement dormer window)
- **Approved 30/7 21/01178/HOU** (to change all wooden windows, soffits and fascias to UPVC)

- **Awaiting decision** 21/02033/COL (Certificate of Lawfulness for side extension)

Upcoming SSDC Meetings

- Area West - Weds 15th Sept
- Next Full Council - Thurs 16th Sept

Email: oliver.patrick@southsomerset.gov.uk

☎ 07969 269416

