190708 Cranborne & Alderholt Ward Dorset Council Report for Alderholt Parish Council

Somerley Tip

Hampshire CC seem determined to charge Dorset residents for access. The centre costs HCC approx. £400k pa to run, and 56% of users are East Dorset Residents. The survey indicated that if a £5 charge were introduced only 22% of respondents would be prepared to pay it.

Discussions have been help between officers and HCC, along the lines that DC would directly contribute to the costs. HCC indicated that the charge for this would be £14.32 per household per year – The cost would depend on where a boundary was drawn, at 3 miles it be £130k at 5 miles it would be £286k

All of Alderholt, within the Village Envelope, is currently between 3.1 and 3.7 miles in a direct line from the site.

I have suggested that we offer to negotiate a 50:50 split on operating costs, based on the probability that without East Dorset usage the site would become much less viable to operate for HCC and that should DC seek either to expand the Wimborne tip (which is rapidly nearing its end of life) or create a new one (possibly at 3X where there is work planned) the cost would be very likely more than £200k.

However, the feeling from Cabinet seems to be that we would then not be in control of our own destiny, that cost increases might be difficult to fend off, and also that HCC don't seem inclined to accept a shared arrangement.

Discussions are ongoing and will be discussed further at the Place Directorate Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10th July – where I shall be present as an observer.

Verge Cutting

Areas within the 30mph limit are classed for "Urban" verge cutting, and should get 7 cuts over the season. Cut 4 should take place in July. Clearly grass and wild flowers have been growing very quickly, all across the county, and some places may look untidy until the next cut.

A and B Roads should be cut regularly (b078 is the main Cranborne - Alderholt – Fordingbridge Road, and the cuts were due 1st week in July, and next cut 2nd week in August.

If there are places where safety is affected please let me know and I will see if I can get a special visit arranged.

Digital Dorset

The Council has announced plans to improve the digital connections around the County, not simply in terms of broadband access but in connectivity across services. This will include Health Care and a radical redesign of the way Social Services operates; Education and Learning using virtual reality and spreading IT skills with local digital champions; Environmental issues being helped by introducing "Smart Waste" where scanning product codes will provide information about recycling options; and creating Hot Desks and Hubs in the Community. These ideas are all going be explored further as the Council becomes established.

Review of Leisure Services

The way Leisure services are managed across the Council Area will be reviewed, working towards a Vision Statement:

"To create high quality leisure and sport facilities to meet Community needs, increase participation, tackle age and health issues and provide accessible inclusive activities for Dorset residents as part of an active lifestyle"

The centres under review include:

- QE
- Verwood Hub
- Potterne Park
- Emmanuel
- Ferndown

Part of the Review will be a consideration of an "Invest to Save" strategy, including options to improve and expand on the facilities available.