

District Councillor Letter for August 2017

It is summertime and all is relatively quiet at SSDC. Perhaps the only note of interest is the electoral review taking place in South Somerset. South Somerset is the largest district council in the southwest and one of the biggest district councils in the country, both in terms of geographical size and total population. The electoral review will examine the following:

- total number of members elected
- the number and boundaries of electoral wards for the purposes of the election of councillors
- the number of councillors for any electoral area
- the name of the electoral area

The review is taking place because 13 of the Council's current 39 wards have an electoral variance of more than 10% from the average. Thus, in recognition of the importance of electoral equality to a fair democratic process the Council has submitted an electoral review. The last review took place in 1996-7, when the number of councillors was retained at 60 and the number of wards reduced from 40 to 39. Agreeing to the submission is the first stage of the review. Part two will take place in September/October when comments on the points above will take place. Curry Rivel ward is currently not one of the 33% of wards which are outside the variance and thus should remain the same but this is not guaranteed.

I would just like to congratulate all those responsible for the organisation in the Britain in Bloom competition. The High Street looked resplendent and so many residents embraced the event with their purple and gold flower displays, it all looked wonderful.



Tiffany Osborne

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As you will be aware, the County elections were held in early May and our local County Councillor, Derek Yeomans, retired. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Derek for his outstanding and

committed support to our community in his role as County Councillor for the past 16 years. During his time he was Chair of the Regulation Committee, which is the Planning Committee for the County, involved with the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority, Scrutiny Committee, including Audit, and for the past eight years has been Chair of the Somerset Waste Partnership, a role he hopes he can continue as the designated representative from SSDC. He has worked tirelessly for our area and will be greatly missed. However, his worthy successor is Clare Aparacio-Paul who will be known to many of you due to her involvement in the setting up of Much Thorn FloodWings and her ceaseless work in supporting the flood victims during 2014. She has also been actively engaged in all community matters including fundraising, leisure, business and education and her achievements have already been recognised by the new leader of the County Council, David Fothergill, by being offered a junior cabinet member role. Should you wish to contact Clare on any issues relating to County her email address is CAPaul@somerset.gov.uk or 07879 423117. I look forward to working with Clare in the future on all matters which affect our local community.

SSDC is working on supporting South Somerset's economy. SSDC's response to the Government's Green Paper setting out its vision for building a future UK Industrial Strategy has been to highlight the importance of South Somerset's economy and its potential for growth and future job creation provided it gets the support it needs, most specifically investment in the aerospace industry. The aerospace activities in Somerset are part of a globally significant South West aerospace cluster and contribute £300 million a year to the local economy. If Somerset is to capitalise on remaining at the forefront of the aerospace industry we will need government investment and collaboration in infrastructure and skills, both from the public and private sectors.