

DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL

Since my election to Dorset County Council in May 2013, I have been appointed to three of their Committees:- Roads and Rights of Way; Childrens' Services; and Environment Overview, of which I am Vice Chairman. As far as the "Commons" area is concerned there are some issues in which I am specifically involved:

Subsidised Buses

During May 2013 a public consultation was carried out regarding the use of buses, and I know that many residents returned completed forms to the County Council. In addition surveys were carried out on bus routes to ascertain how many people were using the buses and whether they are financially viable. As your County Councillor, I was asked for my views, and I have done my very best to ensure that your services are maintained across the area but some changes may be inevitable. The results of the consultation and surveys have been analysed, and the County Council Cabinet will be considering the issue in late July.

School Places in West Christchurch

This year there was a very high demand for first year infant school places in West Christchurch. The County Council was able to offer places within the Borough, but not at the local West Christchurch School, Christchurch Infants. To resolve this problem, planning permission has just been granted for a temporary classroom at Christchurch Infants School to create 30 additional places for West Christchurch children in September 2013. I am working with County Council officers and the parents group to organise longer term school provision in the area.

Road Maintenance

The highway network must be kept in a safe condition, and you can report a pothole on the Dorsetforyou Website which gives assurance that it will be dealt with – the webpage has full details. With regards to patching and resurfacing, due to cuts in funding each identified area has to be inspected and then prioritised depending on the severity of the problem. I have met with Dorset Highway officers in the "Commons" and looked at certain roads which residents have pointed out to me are in a bad state, and I am pushing to get them repaired as soon as possible.

Broadband

I am attending a County Council event in Dorchester in the near future regarding the provision of superfast broadband in Dorset, and hope to be able to update you on that in more detail in the next newsletter.

Cllr. Margaret Phipps

“Commons”

Dorset County Council

July 2013

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