

## Monthly bulletin from Dorset Council August 2019

Dear Clerks, Chairmen & Members,

As well as attending the regular Parish & Town meetings in the ward I thought I would trial monthly briefings on the work of Dorset Council. The content may not necessarily apply to the ward of Stalbridge & Marnhull directly, however as the new unitary authority takes shape, I will keep the ward briefed with bullet points & information:

### **Durweston flood arch update:**

Dorset Council have been on site at Durweston for just over four months and the work is continuing to progress according to schedule. Thanks to the fantastic efforts of the team on site, the A357 reopened a day ahead of schedule on Saturday 21 July.

There are around four to six weeks left of construction work before we start demobilising from site. Thank you for your patience during the road closure and the continued temporary lights.

Work so far: Culvert replacement – demolition, installation and waterproofing.

Embankment widening and road re-construction, utilising over 200t of recycled material.

Gabion retaining walls, 300 individual units formed and filled.

Road drainage, new improved system installed for larger flows and is easier to maintain. Bridge parapets are around 40 per cent complete, with the steel reinforcement now finished on the downstream side of the structure.

Upgrades to the permanent traffic lights on the A350/A357 junction are 75 per cent complete with the new loops cut (vehicle detection equipment).

All the new kerbs have been laid and the kerb lines are 70 per cent complete.

### **Coming up...**

On Friday (2 August) the team will be pouring 30m<sup>3</sup> (66 tonnes) of concrete to complete the downstream parapet bases and vehicle restraint system (VRS) supports, we'll then start work on the upstream parapet foundations and VRS supports.

The kerb line will be 'backed up' and strengthened over the coming days with a concrete haunch, the verges will be reinstated and the site has started to, and will continue to be, cleared.

The metal parapet system will be installed by a specialist contractor towards the end of August

### **Dorset Council Cabinet support funding agreement:**

A paper was presented to Dorset Council cabinet on 30 July which asked members to support the council entering into a funding agreement with Homes England which will secure up to £6,310,000 of Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) for the Gillingham extension to provide road infrastructure prior to development commencing.

Following a successful bid by North Dorset District Council to Homes England for HIF Funding, Dorset Council has the opportunity to access money which will enable it to design and construct the main road within the Welbeck area.

In January 2018, Welbeck Strategic Land LLP made an application for outline planning permission to construct an urban extension to the south of Gillingham between Shaftesbury Road and New Road. This will include up to 961 dwellings and up to 2,642sq.m of retail, community, health, and leisure uses.

The development will also include new and enhanced pedestrian/cycle routes, open spaces, roads, car parking and vehicular access. Cabinet support for the recommendation means the development in Gillingham is likely to be completed seven years earlier, which in turn will help provide much needed affordable housing and benefits for the local community."

The land forms part of a wider development site allocated for development by North Dorset District Council. The wider development site has the potential to deliver a further 749 homes and incorporates land controlled by CG Fry and Son Limited and Taylor Wimpey.

The council must recover the HIF funding from the developers with the agreement that any sums recovered may be reinvested in housing projects across Dorset.

### **North Dorset surface dressing continues.**

Highway fixers are still in north Dorset reviving tired, rural roads by improving skid resistance and protecting them from water damage

As we head into more rural areas, and work on lesser-known roads, please remember you can check where we are working by using the [online roadworks map](#).

#### **About the work**

Our [surface dressing](#) gang is working 9am to 4pm in urban areas and 8am to 4pm in rural areas.

Surface dressing doesn't take long and the road can be driven on as soon as it's finished. Depending on the length of the road you live on, the road will be closed for around 1-2 hours while the treatment takes place.

There will be an advisory 20mph speed limit after the work while the loose stones 'bed down' into the bitumen. Travelling at this reduced speed will prevent skidding on the loose chippings, help 'bed down' the material and will save your paint work!

We sweep the road one to two days after the work to get rid of excess stones.

White lining reinstatement will follow on from this and is generally a week or so later.

Sorry for the inconvenience

We cannot work overnight as surface dressing relies on the evaporation of water from the bitumen binder (glue) for it to set, and it needs traffic to travel on the new surface for it to 'bed down' and lock onto the old surface.

We also cannot work in wet weather – any amount of rain or surface water dilutes the bitumen and so doesn't hold the chippings in place – which is why our surface dressing programme runs from April through to September.

As this treatment is so weather dependent, dates are subject to change.

### **What is a neighbourhood plan?**

For Stalbridge & Marnhull fledgling NHP's info: Neighbourhood plans were introduced in the Localism Act which passed through Government in 2011.

A neighbourhood plan aims to give residents more control over their local area, when plans for new homes, shops and offices in their town or village are considered.

Once the plan is written, it will be consulted on locally and submitted to the council for independent examination. It will also be subject to a local referendum to make sure it has the support of local people.

More information on neighbourhood plans can be found at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Any parish council or parish meeting that might be interested in forming a neighbourhood plan should contact [planningpolicyteamb@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicyteamb@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) for more information.

Cllr. Graham Carr-Jones:

Ward Member Stalbridge & Marnhull

Cabinet Member Housing & Community Safety.