

## **Report to Corston's Annual Parish Meeting by B&NES ward councillors 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Thank you to everyone who voted for Alastair Singleton and I to be your ward councillors in the recent elections to B&NES Council. We now represent everyone in the ward. Our principal policies are to maintain protective green belt, preserve the character of the villages in this ward, and to support all the local community groups, traders, and businesses.

Should Corston's residents ever wish a small scale housing development for its own needs on the edge of the village, we would support that.

We are campaigning for the re-opening of Saltford railway station which would be Corston's local station. We want to improve local public transport generally. We oppose any idea of a local orbital road around Saltford which would cause environmental damage, have no strategic value, and bring with it housing in-fill. Traffic problems suffered by Corston's residents would be exacerbated not alleviated by such a road.

Alastair and I have taken advantage of the many training and information sessions provided by Bath and North East Somerset Council to new councillors. For example, I have attended two sessions already this week relating to my position on the Planning Committee which met today for the first time since the elections. I am also on the Standards Committee which helps ensure all councillors in this area maintain high ethical standards. Alastair is a member of the Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and the Avon and Somerset Police Crime Panel.

We have become even more aware of the vast range of responsibilities that B&NES Council has which by their nature remain largely unseen such as its corporate parenting role, its work around adult and children's social care, environmental health, and so on.

I have met with a local "Access Group", led by Cllr Susan Charles of Corston Parish Council, which campaigns for improved awareness of the needs of disabled residents such as wheelchair users who have mobility issues.

Alastair and I are meeting with Stefan Chiffers, B&NES Senior Highways Engineer, tomorrow to look at highways issues across the ward including at Corston. We will report back at the next Corston Parish Council meeting.

We are pleased to say that we have already secured a replacement litter bin at the entrance to the Corston playing fields off Meadlands.

Grass verges, green corridors, and green roundabout islands are being cut back less frequently than in the past. B&NES Council policy is to create and enhance wild-life corridors to assist pollinating insects to thrive and nature in urban areas to recover. Common plants such as dandelions and cow parsley although often viewed as weeds can be an important support to pollinating insects.

We are tackling individual case-work. Yesterday I reported the car that appears to be abandoned by the Stothert and Pitt RFC field on the A4.

You now have two ward councillors not one. To help with clarity, I am taking the lead on issues in Corston. Alastair and I meet regularly to update each other. Please contact me, Duncan Hounsell, in the first instance.

We will be continuing to work closely with Corston Parish Council. We look forward to working with you all to achieve a year of progress for Corston.

Thank you for attending this evening.

Finally, Alastair and I wish to record our appreciation for the work of Cllr. Sally Davis who represented you before the election and who has now been elected to represent the newly formed Clutton and Farmborough ward.

END