

Motions

The following 4 Motions have been submitted by Councillor Andrew Turpin:

Reinstating Member Representation on the South West Home Safety Partnership

Proposal – That this Council reinstates its Membership representation on the South West Home Safety Partnership.

In its review of members representation of Outside Bodies, it was resolved that South Somerset District Council should no longer be represented by a member.

In England and Wales, the cost of preventable accidents to the Exchequer per year is approximately £3Billion. The most vulnerable are deprived young families and the elderly.

The Partnership's mission is to save lives by reducing preventable accidents and subsequent injuries. It is linked to the RoSPA Home Safety Committee and Home safety for 'Troubled Families - Health and Wellbeing'. The Partnership has links with the Health and Safety Executive. It shares information, brings together issues and lobbies when appropriate.

Membership includes NHS Accident Prevention Managers, Life Skill Centres, Public Health Officers, Trading Standards Officers, Fire Prevention Officers, Environmental Health Officers, Housing Representation and the South Somerset District Councillor, who currently Chairs, coordinates / convenes meetings and in consultation with Officer members and RoSPA assembles agendas. With the help of other Partnership members, meeting notes are assembled.

Examples of topics about which the regional partnership has campaigned –

- Safety of cigarette lighters
- Fire sprinklers
- Safety of hair straighteners
- Safety of mobile phone battery chargers
- Risks attached to use of laser torches
- Safety of stair gates
- Safety of trampolines – manufactures instructions through RoSPA

Consumer interests in recent months have been on

- Baby slings
- Chinese Lanterns
- Trampoline safety
- Bath seats
- Cot safety
- Child poisoning and cleaning products
- Button batteries

Costs to this Council of the Councillor attending meeting approximately £60 per annum.

Cost of the councillor not attending The Partnership folds!

Promoting and facilitating Sustainable Living in South Somerset

Proposal - That, in relation to South Somerset, at its bimonthly meetings, this Council reviews its proactive role in promoting / facilitating sustainable living.

Arbitrarily, protecting the welfare of our planet is vital and a principal function of South Somerset District Council and should be under frequent and regular review.

Completing the Stop Line Way through South Somerset

Proposal – That with the known economic benefits completing the Stop Line Way through South Somerset is treated as a priority and reviewed bimonthly by Full Council.

Devon County Council are proving that cycleways through the County and cycling promotion in general is has huge benefits both for tourism and the local economies, with known benefits in reducing pollution and promoting health.

The Stop Line Way is both scenically beautiful, of great historical significance as the 1940 Stop Line and in the early 19th century the proposed Great Shipping Canal.

Working with Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and Sustrans, significant progress has been made towards completing the route. (Devon County Council has invested significantly in its share of the route from north of Axminster to Seaton. It is anxious that the last off road section through South Somerset south of Chard to the Dorset border is completed.)

Reopening Chard Junction Station

Proposal – In the light of possible changing circumstances at the site, this Council reinvigorates its aim to reopen Chard Junction Station.

Currently 17,000 residents (20,000 with Chard Regeneration) live within a 3½ mile radius of the station; more than any station between Salisbury and Exeter.

Encouraging the re-opening of stations is part Government policy and has been persistently identified as a need by residents, backed by past and present MPs and the neighbouring West Dorset MP.

With the growing popularity of rail travel Chard and district residents have to travel by car to Axminster or Crewkerne Station.

The following Motion has been submitted by Councillor Martin Wale:-

Proposal for a period of free car parking to reinvigorate High Street shopping in South Somerset

Proposal - That this Council investigates a change to the Council Car Parking Policy to enable an initial free period of up to 2 hours of parking to be made available, where parking is currently charged at a timed rate.

A report, with the full cost to the Council, both in loss of income and re-equipment, to be brought back to Council at the October meeting.

Notes

We, as a Council, have been discussing what to do about the decline of our High Streets for some years. There are, of course, a number of factors such as the economic downturn, internet shopping and changing shopping habits to be considered but the cost of parking is always in the discussion.

This investigation to identify the towns whose local economy may be improved by the introduction, or retention, of a period of free parking, including the impact of a reduction in the parking subsidy that may be paid by some communities.

An initial period of free parking in all car parks would show a commitment to our communities' concerns and should be one of a number of initiatives undertaken by all concerned to try to reverse this High Street decline.

According to the 15/16 budget Book the expected income for Car Parking is £2,482,100 against an expenditure of £1,158,470, giving an excess of £1,323,630.
