

## Chairman's report – January 11<sup>th</sup> 2021

Once more back in lockdown, with no end in sight, but we will have to be patient.

### **Transport :**

There is no Community Bus Service at present. There were plans to reinstate it but these have been overtaken by events. The Community Speedwatch scheme has also been suspended for the time being in view of the covid restrictions.

Councillor Young will report the issue of a speed reduction during the meeting.

**Local Government Reorganisation** plans are ongoing. The Secretary of State invited Somerset County Council to submit their justification for change to one single, unitary authority by November 9<sup>th</sup>. Full details of the proposal are now posted on the One Somerset website.

<https://somesetnewsroom.com/2020/12/09/one-somerset-pledges-launched-as-blueprint-for-better-local-services-submitted-to-government/>

### **Planning :**

- The planning application to extend the use of land at Moorhouse Farm to house EDF workers was recently refused, however an amended application has now been received which attempts to justify extending the permission. The Parish Council has no objections provided that the site does not become a permanent residential caravan site in future.
- Falcon Housing's planning application to change the consent for the playground at Portway so that it can be made accessible to families again has not progressed any further as a number of staff have been furloughed. It is proving difficult to get any projects moving in these lock down times
- Silk Mills Planning Application appeal to the Secretary of State has been turned down. The full reasons for the refusal are on the Planning Inspectorate website which can be accessed via SWAT planning portal.

### **Other news**

There are no immediate plans to open The Plough before February at the earliest.

The National Trust has sent two separate inspectors to have a look at the hedge bank between the Church and the approach to the triangle following requests from local residents. They consider it not to be a safety issue so no action will be taken at present but they will review this decision if necessary.