Report from Rosemary Woods to Parish Councils July 2023

This is my generic report to Parish Councils for July 2023.

The Councils budget was agreed in February 2023 and the three year forecast was for a gap of £100 million. In the latest Executive report the expected gap for 2024 is 40 million, not good news and the Council is saying that it is imperative to make significant savings.

Our Waste services are due to be affected by Industrial action starting 12th July and continuing for 4 weeks.

The Coastal area is still being impacted by the closure of the B3191, this affects us on the entire coastal strip with the EDF bus being diverted.this having consequences on the timetable. Also the Exmoor Coaster is now only picking up from Blue Anchor. The B3190 is being impacted by the increase in traffic from Five Bells to Washford Cross and I will explain to Watchet and Williton parishes what these pressures could mean.

There are a number of planning applications pending. The Washford Cross Solar Farm has been deferred from June, when it was due to be heard, owing to the number of submissions that were submitted on the day. I expected this to come to the West Planning July meeting, but as I write I have not had this confirmed. Personally I will not be able to vote at the planning meeting on this matter because I declared feelings about this application prior to my being elected as a County Councillor.

There is also the Mill Site in Watchet which is now under new ownership and I am waiting to be briefed on this one. I will not make any comment on this because of my membership of Planning West. but I am listening to the residents and what the applicants have to say about this. I am also expecting other applications from the area to Planning West and will take all into consideration before I vote on these. I will of course have to declare a personal interest on the application for the site on Normandy Avenue because I am personally affected by this.

On a much more cheerful note, we are into the usual round of Summer Fetes and Fairs, so enjoy. Please keep me in touch about everything that is going on in your patch. Also if you have any problems please do not hesitate to either message me on 07989358839 or email me on rosemary.woods@somerset.gov.uk

Cllr Rosemary Woods
Watchet and Stogursey Division
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3rd July 2023