

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter September 2023

Police report

PCSO Louise Perry provided a report which showed that 5 incidents had been reported during the last month. 1 miscellaneous crime against society, 1 public disorder and 3 violence against the person. Priorities for the police are to provide a visible Police presence in Coleford.

Planning

2023/1424/OUT - Application for Outline Planning Permission with all matters reserved for erection of 4no. dwellinghouses. Land At 368143 149916 Rope Walk Coleford Radstock Coleford Parish Council recommended refusal on the basis that:

- The site is outside the development line
- It is on agricultural land
- It would be overdevelopment of the plot
- Will put pressure on residential amenity
- Highway safety within the existing Rope Walk and on the wider highway network are a real concern
- There is a risk of mines on the site



Coleford Parish Council Small Grants 2023

We are now accepting small grant applications from Coleford Village Clubs and Groups for consideration at the November meeting. A copy of the application form is available from the Parish Council website [Grants Information \(colefordpc.org.uk\)](http://colefordpc.org.uk) The total sum available is £2,500 which will be shared for maximum benefit. The deadline for applications is the 1st November. If you have any questions about the grants, please contact the Clerk on clerk@colefordpc.org.uk



Allotments

We now have 40 plots allocated! It's been amazing watching the field gradually turn into allotments. It's a hive of activity and each time I visit there is evidence of the plot holders hard at work. Plants are growing and each allotment is being developed in a unique way which is wonderful to see! We still have plots available so if you are interested, please get in touch. We are now offering a small number of plots to residents in Kilmersdon, Holcombe and Vobster, on a first come first served basis.



Councillors are still working hard on the project and this week have submitted the planning permission for the car park, have been considering varieties of fruit trees for the community orchard and researching compost toilets, all of which will be welcome additions to the allotments.

Hardcourt Improvements

We are pleased that the supplier has confirmed that the new fencing around the hard courts at Highbury Playing Field should be installed during October. This will result in some disruption however it will be exiting to see this first phase of work completed.



Tree work at the Butterfly bank

In the near future there will be some tree work undertaken at Coleford Playing Field as part of the conservation work at the butterfly bank, as well as the annual brush cut of the bank. Full access to the bank will be affected during this work to maintain the safety of all users/



Date of Next Meetings:

Parish Council meeting 11th October 2023 @ The Hub, Church Street starting at 7pm

If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the Parish Council's attention, please contact the Clerk on 07971 516916 or email clerk@colefordpc.org.uk

Check out the Parish Councils website www.colefordpc.org.uk

Philip Ham
Chairman of Coleford Parish Council

Somerset Council

Somerset Cllr Philip Ham gave the following report:



Communications: It has been acknowledged that the single 0300 contact number is not working and requests have been made for direct dial numbers for the different branches so that the process of getting a response is improved.

Planning: There have been some issues related to the planning process with many incidents where Ward Councillors have not been consulted on cases where there has been a difference of opinion between the Parish Council and the Planning Officer. A review of the planning process is scheduled for October.

Local Community Networks: The next meeting is scheduled for 18th October. Location and time still to be determined.

Council Finances: Somerset Council has warned that it will have to draw on reserves for the second successive year to meet its budget for 2023/24. A recent Executive report describes the council's financial position as "stark and challenging". The latest budget gap for the current year is £28.6m. The papers reveal that the Council has already drawn £18 million from reserves to fund spending beyond the 2022/23 budgets. These figures are despite an £18.5m annual bonus created by moving to a Unitary Council and which were planned to be fully realised by next year.

Bus Services: Four bus services in the county are to be subsidised to safeguard their future until spring. The routes are the 54 Yeovil to Taunton, 58/58a Yeovil to Wincanton, 25 Taunton to Dulverton and 28 Taunton to Minehead. First South has signalled it will review the routes later in the year, taking into account new data on passenger uptake.

Covid autumn booster programme: As the result of a newly identified variant the Covid-19 vaccine is being brought forward by one month and offered to those at high risk of serious disease and who are therefore most likely to benefit from the vaccination. Specifically, JCVI advises the following groups to be offered a Covid-19 booster vaccine this autumn:

- residents in a care home for older adults
- all adults aged 65 years and over.
- persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group.
- frontline health and social care workers
- persons aged 12 to 64 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression.
- persons aged 16 to 64 years who are carers and staff working in care homes for older adults.

Booster vaccinations are now planned to start on September 11th, 2023.

Flu vaccinations: NHS England has confirmed it will start by prioritising flu vaccinations for children from September, to prevent children from getting seriously ill and to break the chain of transmission to the wider population. School aged children will be able to get the flu vaccine at school or at community clinics, Children aged two and three years will be able to get an appointment with their GP practice. This year, based on the latest scientific evidence, the JCVI has recommended adults over the age of 65 and those with underlying health conditions will be eligible for a flu with the offer starting from early October, to maximise protection for patients right across the winter months. The flu season typically peaks in January when more people gather indoors.

Roundabout sponsorship: Local businesses are being invited to take advantage of roundabout sponsorship to advertise socially responsible goods and services. The space is available for advertising a wide range of goods and services. The new ethical advertising policy means that the Council will not sanction certain adverts such as those promoting junk food, fossil fuels, gambling or consumption of alcoholic drinks. The money generated by the initiative will go back into the Council's highways maintenance budget although not specifically earmarked for roundabout maintenance.

Single use plastics ban: Trading Standards are reminding businesses, such as takeaways, sandwich bars, care homes and retailers who supply certain single use plastic items, that a ban comes into force October 1st. The ban includes all single use plastic cutlery, trays, plates, bowls, and balloon sticks, as well as banning the use of certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers used to supply food which is ready to consume.

Soft plastics recycling: More than four tonnes of plastic bags and wrapping such as bread bags and confectionary packets, have been collected for recycling as part of the Council's role in a national project to expand recycling collections. The small-scale pilot involving 3,600 homes across two locations in Frome started at the end of May.