

**Exmoor Area Panel**

**Thursday, 7th November, 2019,  
7.00 pm**

**Moorland Hall - Wheddon Cross**

**Somerset West  
and Taunton**

---

**Members:**

**Agenda**

**1. Minutes of the Meeting 07.11.2019**

(Pages 3 - 22)



**JAMES HASSETT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Please note that this meeting will be recorded. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy. Therefore unless you are advised otherwise, by entering the Council Chamber and speaking during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the officer as detailed above.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions. There is time set aside at the beginning of most meetings to allow the public to ask questions. Speaking under "Public Question Time" is limited to 3 minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes. The Committee Administrator will keep a close watch on the time and the Chair will be responsible for ensuring the time permitted does not overrun. The speaker will be allowed to address the Committee once only and will not be allowed to participate further in any debate. Except at meetings of Full Council, where public participation will be restricted to Public Question Time only, if a member of the public wishes to address the Committee on any matter appearing on the agenda, the Chair will normally permit this to occur when that item is reached and before the Councillors begin to debate the item.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group. These arrangements do not apply to exempt (confidential) items on the agenda where any members of the press or public present will be asked to leave the Committee Room. Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: [www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

The meeting room, including the Council Chamber at The Deane House are on the first floor and are fully accessible. Lift access to The John Meikle Room, is available from the main ground floor entrance at The Deane House. The Council Chamber at West Somerset House is on the ground floor and is fully accessible via a public entrance door. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are available across both locations. An induction loop operates at both The Deane House and West Somerset House to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. For further information about the meeting, please contact the Governance and Democracy Team via email: [governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

If you would like an agenda, a report or the minutes of a meeting translated into another language or into Braille, large print, audio tape or CD, please email: [governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

**Exmoor Area Panel Meeting**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Winsford Village Hall**

**Attendees**

Clive Knight	Brushford PC	A. Vigers	Exmoor PC
Vivian White	Cutcombe PC		
Roger Foxwell	Cutcombe PC	David Powell	Luxborough PC
John Anson	Cutcombe PC	Anne Sparling	Luxborough PC
Mike Ellicott	Exford PC & ENP		
Jeremy Hickman	Exford PC	Colin Wilkins	Winsford PC
Malcolm McCoy	Porlock PC	Tony Howard	Withypool and Hawkridge PC
Philip Griffin	Wootton Courtenay PC	PCSO Bryan Stevens	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Andrew Bray	Wootton Courtenay PC	Ruth McArthur	ENP
Cllr Frances Nicholson	Somerset County Council	Jane Lillis (Village Agent)	Somerset Community Foundation
Cllr Steven Pugsley	SWT	Cllr Nick Thwaites	SWT
Cllr Andy Milne	SWT	Sam Murrell	SWT Officer

**1. Apologies for Absence**

David Peake – SCC Highways  
 Val Carveth – Exton Parish Council  
 Margaret Rawle – Dulverton Town Council  
 Kathryn Vellacott – Dulverton Town Council

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

**Min 5.6** Regarding frequency of cutting back vegetation – was an “as and when” approach cost effective? Surely more beneficial to maintain a regular regime of cutting rather than responding to individual requests. **ACTION POINT – Cllr Frances Nicholson to report to SCC for comment**

**Min 5.12** Regarding Beulah Chapel overgrown vegetation – SCC had been written to. The response was that the landowner had fulfilled his obligation to keep the highway clear. The trees were creating a tunnel effect as they were very high. Drivers would have to take care when navigating the highway and drive to the conditions of the road.

**Min 6.1** D&S Fire Service - Amendment from 3,000 signatures to 3,800. Survey has now been extended until 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

**3. Avon and Somerset Police – Report attached.**

Matters arising:-

3.1 Use of mobile phones whilst driving – current legislation only covers prosecution in the event of “use for communication” purposes. This is likely to be reviewed, in light

of the fact that most mobile tech devices are used for a multitude of applications not just for messaging and phone calls.

- 3.2 Avon & Somerset Police will respond to all reports and incidences if conveyed through the proper channels (Not social media). Particularly would like intelligence and information relating to suspect vehicles on Exmoor, possible drunk/drug related drivers and poaching.
- 3.3 Concerns about road safety issues should be addressed to the Somerset County Council Highways in the first instance – i.e. missing diversion signs, road closures and traffic snarl ups.

#### 4. SCC Highways – Reports attached

David Peake had tendered his apologies and Frances Nicholson spoke in his absence. A revised Highways report in respect of Exmoor works is attached. Frances reviewed this at the meeting.

4.1 A great deal of discussion took place around the 5 week road closure on the B3223 between Simonsbath Road and Whitecross. SCC had decided to undertake these vital works at this time, because they wanted to complete before Christmas without impacting on the tourist season. Opening the road temporarily for Cutcombe market meant that the works scheduled to take place over a four week period, stretched to five. These were the main areas of concern brought to the meeting:-

- a. SCC – Road safety signs had been removed – thrown into hedges or disappeared altogether. Can these be returned and or retrieved please as there is a cost implication for replacement.
- b. SCC- The removal of Heras Fencing in certain places is dangerous. Stressed that it was placed in situ for H&S reasons, and anyone caught tampering with the fencing could face prosecution
- c. Exford PC – Contractors were starting late and finishing early, causing the works to take even longer to complete. (Nobody on site until 9:30 and usually gone by 15:30)
- d. Exford PC – Diversions not working. Some villages were shut altogether as traffic advised to re-route too early. Not enough local knowledge employed. Some placement of signs confusing and misleading.
- e. Traffic light usage inconsistent – Sometimes not used at all
- f. Exford PC - Damage to road verges at Gypsy Lane where cars have been passing. Who will be responsible for reinstatement?
- g. Drainage and gullies likely to be blocked as a result of the works, and will require jetting. (Not scheduled to happen until the spring at the earliest).

In summation Cllr Steven Pugsley said that a five week road closure on a main arterial route across Exmoor, was not economically or socially sustainable. More consultation is needed by SCC with the Parish Councils, before works of this kind are undertaken. **ACTION POINT - Cllr Frances Nicholson to feed this back to SCC.**

4.2 Winsford Parish Council reported that salt bags had just been dropped into the Village. Unsure if these were to top up the existing salt bins, or were additional? Unsure if the bin had been filled or new just tipped onto old salt? Other parishes to check their supply of salt, and report back to SCC as necessary.

4.3 Gully emptying schedules – Cllr Steven Pugsley was aware that West Somerset jetting takes place in the summer months, whilst the traditional Taunton Deane area is done in the winter. He was going to approach SCC and ask if this could be reversed so that leaf fall and blockages could be dealt with more speedily.

#### **5. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service**

No representatives of the Fire Service were present but SWT Cllr Andy Milne provided an update at the beginning of the meeting. It was likely that the decision to close Porlock Fire Station will be taken through a Judicial Review process. A joint approach with North Devon Councillors is being considered, working together with Parish Councils. As this will involve legal costs, pledges are being asked from Parish Councils to support it. Work in progress and outcome of the consultation as yet still unknown.

#### **6. Exmoor National Park Authority – reports attached**

Matters arising:-

- 6.1 The Dark Skies event had been very successful over the half term period with 2,000 visitors in attendance. Lots of events including a mobile planetarium
- 6.2 Removal of BT Phone Boxes from Bridgetown, Luckwell Bridge and Exford. Consultation taking place at the moment, and challenges being made on heritage and lack of mobile phone signal grounds.
  - a. Jane Lillis also stated that she was aware Luckwell Bridge was an accident black spot and the phone provided an invaluable emergency service. (No mobile phone signal here either).
  - b. Ruth MacArthur asked if SWT had responded to the consultation document as the deadline was approaching.  
**ACTION POINT – Sam Murrell (SWT) to follow up this request.**  
*Subsequent to this meeting, it has been confirmed by Amy Tregellas at SWT that the consultation has been responded to, online prior to the deadline.*
  - c. It was suggested that Luccombe Parish Council were contacted as they had successfully challenged the removal of a BT telephone box in their parish.
- 6.3 Glover Review – massive restructuring of the National Park governance procedures. Concern was expressed that there was still very little knowledge of the report and its implications in the wider community. Roger Foxwell asked if seminars could be held by ENP to inform and raise awareness of the Review, thus enabling more people to participate in the consultation.
- 6.4 Halse Telephone Masts – Complicated planning issue regarding the distribution of the phone signal and coverage. Still unclear how many masts are required, and whether it will improve the signal in the area.
- 6.5 **Finger Signpost Maintenance – Update by Steven Pugsley**  
The funding that was set aside to repair and renovate the finger posts has now been used up, but volunteer groups to clean and repaint and regularly maintain the existing posts are being overseen by a Steering Group. ENP will be enabling training, co-ordinating and certificating the volunteers, who once qualified will be able to continue to operate for three years. There is little money available for capital repairs such as new arms (£700 each made from cast iron), so ideally damaged fingers should be retrieved and reconditioned. New Fingerpost wardens are required to monitor and help coordinate maintenance of the fingerposts.

**ACTION POINT - Suggested that the existing Highways wardens widen their remit and take on the responsibility for Finger Posts and monitoring their condition. Need to clarify who and where they report any concerns, so that ENP can centralise and respond to any maintenance requests.**

**7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme**

7.1 The Dulverton Clerk has received confirmation from all parishes except Wootton Courtenay this year. In the absence of a representative from Wootton Courtenay, the Ward Councillor, Andy Milne was asked to contact the PC and ask if they wanted to make a submission.

7.2 All Parishes were reminded that their payments to the Lengthsman Scheme, need to be submitted to the Dulverton Clerk by the end of the Financial Year.

**8. AOB**

Jane Lillis (Exmoor Village Agent) was introduced to the Panel. She briefly explained about her job role and how she could be contacted.

**Dates of forthcoming meetings**

The next meeting will be on:

Thursday 16th January 2020 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall Wheddon Cross

Further meetings to be determined

The meeting closed at 21:00hrs

## **Exmoor National Park Authority (NPA) Exmoor Panel Update 03/09/19**

### **Exmoor National Park Dark Skies Festival**

- Following sell-out events during the first two years, the third annual Dark Skies Festival is being held over three weeks (14<sup>th</sup> October-3<sup>rd</sup> November). It includes over 50 events to celebrate Exmoor's starry skies and its status as one of three of the UK's International Dark Skies Reserves.
- These include an Astro Party at Wimbleball Lake, planetarium experiences in Dunster, Bampton and Barnstaple and the National Park's first Dark Skies Big Adventure with the National Trust. There are also guided and National Park Ranger stargazing walks / meteor opportunities, night mountain biking and events on astrophotography. Many link an activity with food and drink or accommodation.
- An Exmoor dark skies story writing competition for children aged up to 16 years of age, provides a chance to win an astronomy and space workshop for their school;
- The full programme is at [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival) or from National Park Centres at Dulverton, Dunster or Lynmouth. Phone: Lynmouth National Park Centre 01598 752509 (7 days a week).

### **Exmoor Historic Buildings Festival**

- Exmoor's first Historic Buildings Festival took place in September with a week of events celebrating the National Park's buildings.
- A wide range of events were on offer about how and why these structures came to be and what they can teach us about how our ancestors lived and worked. The Festival forms part of Heritage Open Days, when places across the country open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history.
- The week included: Simonsbath's Ashcombe Gardens (garden restoration and Scottish croft-house); story of Lynton and Lynmouth's cliff railway; Ada Lovelace's former Porlock estate; a tour of Dunster medieval buildings as part of a project to trace and record the town's early history; a convoy of military vehicles to the former World War II radar station and tank training grounds on North Hill.

### **Porlock Fire Station**

The National Park Authority (NPA) has been consulted on the proposed operational changes in and around Exmoor National Park. A response was due to be submitted including to raise the issue of the impacts of large summer wildfires on the National Park's wildlife and landscape and recognise the importance of ensuring the correct skills, knowledge and management practices to address the increasing risk of moorland wildfires; welcome the emphasis on prevention advice and the wish to continue good partnership working; recognise concerns about some aspects of the proposals; and seek an explanation of how the risk of Summer Moorland fires has been considered in the review.

### **Glover Review Update**

- Last year, the Government commissioned a review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) (often referred to as "protected landscapes") led by Julian Glover. It was one of the commitments in the government's [25 Year Environment Plan](#).

- The Government stated that weakening or undermining existing protections or geographic scope for National Parks/AONBs would not be part of the review, which would instead focus on how designated areas can boost wildlife, support the recovery of natural habitats and connect more people with nature.
- Some headline messages were set out in a letter from Julian Glover to Michael Gove (the then Environment Secretary) published last July:
  - More outreach work to reach new audiences
  - Placing protected landscapes at the forefront of nature recovery, the future of farming, and supporting people’s health and well-being
  - Ensuring protected landscapes are priorities for Environmental Land Management payments to achieve “nature recovery” through farming and by developing landscape scale, long term strategies to assess and improve nature
  - Protected landscapes taking a lead in the national response to climate change
  - Exploring the potential for a National Landscape Service
  - Reforming the current system of National Park governance for.
  - A specific proposal for a way for protected landscapes to address the shortage of social housing to be in the final report (the report has now included a proposed National Park Housing Association)

[Since the last Panel meeting, the report has been published and a link to the report is here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/833726/landscapes-review-final-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/833726/landscapes-review-final-report.pdf)

The National Park Authority’s response to the report can be found here: <https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/about-us/press-room/press-room/news-2019/exmoor-national-authority-response-to-landscapes-review>

### **Rural Worker and Succession Farm Dwelling Guidance Consultation**

The draft document sets out detailed guidance on the practical aspects of making planning applications for new homes for those working in land-based businesses in the National Park. The public consultation ran from May to 31st July 2019.

The document is intended to be formally adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document to enable greater weight to be given to it when deciding relevant planning applications. Members were due to be updated on the consultation responses in September [an update / discussion on the consultation took place]. Taking account of responses, a revised draft guidance document will be taken to an Authority meeting for sign off.

### **Rural Enterprise Exmoor:**

An audit is being undertaken and survey work (which will in part add to the audit) is also due to happen. A business engagement workshop is intended as the main face to face gathering as part of this exercise.

[Since the last meeting on the **24<sup>th</sup> October** the Business engagement workshop was held at Wheddon Cross with over 100 businesses/individuals having confirmed they would attend].



## Exmoor National Park Authority (NPA) Exmoor Panel Update 07/11/19

### Rural Enterprise Exmoor:

The project aims to better understand the breadth and depth of business activity within the National Park, including:

- A business engagement workshop, attended by a broad range of local businesses and support agencies, held in October at Wheddon Cross as the [official launch of Rural Enterprise Exmoor](#) and to launch a business survey which aims to better understand the types of business activity across the National Park and the challenges and opportunities of doing business on Exmoor. Participants could win an Exmoor food hamper.
- The [5-minute online survey](#) is open until the end of the year to any business based or operating within Exmoor. There is an option for respondents to complete a further set of questions after completing the survey, either online or by requesting a telephone survey, to explore some of the issues in more depth.
- Panel members can assist by helping to make businesses aware of the survey which is available at <http://bit.ly/ExmoorRESurvey>, on the Exmoor National Park website at [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/living-and-working/business-and-economy/rural-enterprise-exmoor](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/living-and-working/business-and-economy/rural-enterprise-exmoor) and via @RuralEntExmoor on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). [Following a question at the Panel meeting, it is confirmed that details of the survey are being sent out to Parish and Town Councils shortly]
- The data, once collated and analysed, will be used to inform a rural enterprise strategy.
- For further information please contact Dan James, Sustainable Economy Manager at [ruralenterprise@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:ruralenterprise@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)

### Rural Worker and Succession Farm Dwelling Guidance Consultation

- A Representation Statement and the amended draft final Rural Worker and Succession Farm Worker Dwellings Guidance are out for [consultation](#) until 20<sup>th</sup> November.
- The Representations Statement explains how the consultation has been carried out at key stages in the preparation of the guidance:
  - the organisations and individuals who were invited to make representations,
  - how they were invited to make representations,
  - summarises the main issues raised as a result of the consultation, and
  - Shows how those main issues have been addressed.
- Taking account of responses, it is intended that a revised draft guidance document will be adopted by the Authority as Supplementary Planning Document to enable greater weight to be given to it when deciding relevant planning applications.

### Exmoor's Ambition Test and Trial Project

- Defra has recently confirmed they will fund the Park Authority's 'Test and Trial' proposal to demonstrate some of the principles of Exmoor's Ambition proposal in partnership with Exmoor Hill Farming Network. The aim is to give land managers more say over how to manage their land to deliver public goods, making better use of their expertise.

- The Ambition proposes two complementary approaches, ‘Good Farming Measures’ to reward environmentally sensitive farming practice at a holding level and ‘Enhanced Benefit Measures’ to support benefits from wider landscape scale working.
- Tests and Trials (T&Ts) are small scale projects which contribute to the design of the new Environmental Land Management System (ELMS) which is due to replace current EU farming subsidies, the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and Countryside Stewardship. They are the first stage, to be completed by 2021 and are intended to help Defra develop the National Pilot.
- Defra’s broad principles for ELMS are different to the current subsidies as they are not reliant on land being in production i.e. not restricted to supporting farming but instead they support the delivery of environmental benefits or ‘public goods’; focussed on environmental outcomes. The 6 categories are: plants and wildlife; clean & plentiful water; beauty, heritage & engagement; climate change; protection from/mitigation of hazards and clean air.

### **Climate Change Emergency**

- The NPA declared a climate emergency in October and agreed to work towards being a carbon neutral Authority by 2030. A detailed action plan will now be developed to be presented back to Authority Members next year.
- Members agreed to sign up to the [Devon Climate Declaration](#) and to work with Devon and Somerset County Councils to produce carbon plans covering the National Park to meet or exceed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) targets.
- Since the NPA started monitoring its carbon footprint in 2008, there has been a 30% reduction in carbon emissions from measures such as energy efficiency improvements in Authority owned buildings, renewable energy installation and through help to install 73 new renewable energy systems in local communities, farms and houses across Exmoor.
- The NPA also manages its own estate, particularly woodlands, and works with other foresters and land owners to support positive woodland planting and management.
- Nearly 2,500 hectares of Exmoor’s peatland have so far been restored through the [Exmoor Mires Partnership](#), with plans to extend this to at least 3,000 hectares.
- The Exmoor National Park [Local Plan](#) contains further climate change measures:
  - reducing the need for energy and promotion of renewable energy.
  - Encouraging water conservation through sustainable and efficient supplies.
  - Support for upland and woodland management for carbon sequestration / storage.

### **Promoting Woodland Creation in South West National Parks**

- Exmoor NPA hosted an event with the Forestry Commission to promote good practice for woodland creation in Exmoor and Dartmoor as part of the long-term priority to increase the UK’s tree cover.
- It was the first of several workshops across the country, bringing together landowners with key partners to outline design principles for expanding wooded areas in a way that is sensitive to their species, habitats and cultural heritage.
- Exmoor and Dartmoor National Park Authorities are drawing up detailed action plans for carbon neutral efforts with increased tree cover likely to play an important role.

## BT Consultation Proposals for Public Telephone Box Removals

- BT wrote to Somerset West and Taunton Council (SW&T) in August 2019 to consult on a programme of public payphone removals. The deadline was 3<sup>rd</sup> November. SW&T consulted the parish and town councils affected.
- BT previously consulted the NPA about the removal of public phone boxes in 2003/4, 2008, 2009 and 2016.
- On this occasion, BT proposed to remove four public phone boxes in the Somerset area of the National Park. Of these, the K6 box at Luccombe, is no longer proposed for removal following an objection and additional evidence from Luccombe Parish Council.
- The three phone boxes still affected are at Bridgetown, Exford and Luckwell Bridge. Two of these are traditional K6 red phone boxes.
- At the 1<sup>st</sup> October Exmoor NPA meeting, members resolved to respond to SW&T and BT to object to the removal of heritage 'K6' phone boxes and on grounds of inadequate mobile phone signal.
- The NPA wrote to SW&T and BT on 26<sup>th</sup> October to object to the removal of the phone boxes at Bridgetown and Luckwell Bridge [At the 7/11/19 Panel Meeting, Jane Lillis Somerset RCC confirmed she has examples of incidents at Luckwell Bridge where a public phone box had been essential]. The NPA made a holding objection for the box at Exford in light of the information available. Extracts from the NPA response are set out below

Bridgetown: ... *The phone box and communities are in and around the Exe Valley where there is very limited or no mobile coverage. The area is very popular with visitors and there is a camping and caravanning site in Bridgetown.*

*Exton Parish Council has commented: "The Parish Council ... wish the telephone box to be retained due to lack of a mobile signal in the Village. Please note that ENPA led the last consultation in October 2016 where the Parish Council again requested the telephone box stay and this was supported by ENPA".*

*The National Park Authority notes that the public phone box in Bridgetown is a traditional red K6 box. It is recorded on the Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record. The National Park Authority considers that it is important to retain the phone box in Bridgetown because of its heritage value as a K6 red phone box. This is consistent with the National Park's statutory purpose to conserve and enhance its cultural heritage<sup>1</sup>. The second reason is that there is very poor mobile phone coverage and the phone box is also close to the camping and caravanning site in Bridgetown. Exmoor National Park Authority **objects** to the removal of the public phone box.*

Luckwell Bridge, Wheddon Cross: *This phone box is in the small hamlet of Luckwell Bridge. The Authority previously resisted the removal of this box in 2009 and 2016.*

*Cutcombe Parish Council has objected to the proposed removal of this phone box. It said: "Cutcombe Parish Council object to the proposed removal of the telephone box at Luckwell Bridge due to the lack of mobile signal. In addition, in the phone box it states payment for calls can be made using cards and details how to lift the handset and swipe cards through the card reader, yet there is no card reader in the phone box".*

*As context, the Parish Council also objected to the removal of this payphone in 2016 because of a lack of mobile phone reception, its importance for local people, visitors and walkers and that Luckwell Bridge is a recognised accident blackspot with the nearest public payphone a mile away - a steep uphill walk.*

*The National Park Authority notes that the public phone box in Luckwell Bridge is a traditional Red K6 Box; It is also recorded on the Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record. The National Park Authority considers that it is important to retain the phone box in Luckwell Bridge because of its heritage value as a K6 red phone box. This is consistent with the National Park's statutory purpose to conserve and enhance their cultural heritage<sup>2</sup> The second reason is that there is very poor mobile coverage. Exmoor National Park Authority **objects** to the removal of the public phone box.*

Exford: *This new "black-red" box (rather than a K6 box) is in the village of Exford.*

*Exford Parish Council has submitted a request to BT for information on the cost of maintaining the call box and a breakdown of that cost. The Parish Council intend to submit a response by the closing date of the consultation and that response will be dependent on the information supplied by BT. The Parish Council have not, therefore been able to provide a response until they have received the requested information, but do not wish the lack of a response to be considered as agreeing with the proposal. If BT were not able to supply the information by 25/10/19, they requested that the consultation deadline be extended until the information can be supplied and responses produced and circulated. We are not aware of whether the requested information has been received from BT and therefore what the Parish Council's response to the consultation is likely to be.*

*Given the above position of Exford Parish Council, Exmoor National Park Authority wishes to make a **holding objection** to the removal of the public phone box until the Parish Council has received the information they have requested and are able to clarify their position and respond.*

- The NPA recently responded to a parallel consultation with North Devon Council (and directly to BT) objecting to BT's proposed removal of four public phone boxes in Challacombe, Lynbridge and Parracombe. North Devon Council subsequently objected to the removal of all four phone boxes. They are now to be retained.

#### **Exmoor National Park Dark Skies Festival Update**

- Held from 14<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November.
- 50 events, including 14 run by ENPA attended by nearly 2000 people.
- There has been positive feedback from the businesses involved.
- Next year's festival will run from 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

### **Exmoor Historic Buildings Festival**

- 18 events were held over 7 days in September celebrating the National Park's buildings.
- Estimated that 500 people came along (with an additional 300 at the North Hill event).
- Events were run or hosted by ENPA staff, local history groups, Exmoor Society and local businesses.
- The open day at Simonsbath was well attended with ex-pupils and relatives of ex-pupils visiting to share their memories of the building.
- Cob classes at Dulverton School involved around 50 pupils. The school are keen to repeat this and build a cob structure in the grounds.



**Planned Works in Somerset West and Taunton**

**Week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

	<b>Parish/Town</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Duration</b>
<b>New</b>						
<b>Continuing</b>						
SRA	Stogursey	Water Lane	Drainage improvement works and carriageway resurfacing.			Complete
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Minehead Road, Dragon Cross, Bilbrook	Carriageway resurfacing.			Complete
SCC	Nettlecombe	Woodadvent Lane	Carriageway resurfacing.			Complete
SCC	Creech St Michael	Whiteleaze Lane, Thurloxtan	Drainage improvement works.			Complete
SCC	Wellington Without	Higher Woodford Lane	Masonry repairs to culvert and repairs to scour damage.			Complete
SCC	Wiveliscombe	Whitefield Road	Drainage improvement works.			Complete
SCC	Fitzhead	Church Road	Drainage improvement works.			Complete
SCC	Exford	B3223 Simonsbath Road	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	21 Oct	15 Nov	4 weeks
SRA	Stogursey	Shurton Road at Newnham Bridge	Drainage improvement works and carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closure.	28 Oct	22 Nov	4 weeks
SCC	West Monkton	A358 Hankridge Dual Carriageway	Contraflow system in operation in relation to the M5/A358 Junction 25 scheme. Two lanes inbound towards town centre, One lane outbound towards motorway.	29 July	March	8 months
SCC	Ruishton & T	M5/A358 Junction 25	Highway improvement scheme.	2019	2020	18 months

<b>Future</b>						
SCC	Kingston St Mary	Dodhill Road	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	11 Nov	15 Nov	5 days
SCC	Corfe	B3170 Honiton Road	Carriageway patching. Temporary road closures between 08:00 and 17:00.	18 Nov	22 Nov	5 days
SCC	Wellington Without	Blackdown Hill Road	Drainage improvement works and carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closure.	18 Nov	29 Nov	2 weeks
SCC	Cannington	A39 Williton Road	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 18:00 and 07:00.	21 Nov	22 Nov	1 night
SCC	Stogumber	Rexton Lane	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 07:30 and 17:30.	27 Nov	29 Nov	3 days
SCC	Watchet	Doniford Road	Carriageway patching. Temporary road closures between 08:00 and 17:00.	4 Dec	4 Dec	1 day
SCC	Watchet	Culvercliffe Road	Carriageway patching. Temporary road closures between 08:00 and 17:00.	4 Dec	4 Dec	1 day
SCC	Watchet	Maglands Road	Carriageway patching. Temporary road closures between 08:00 and 17:00.	4 Dec	4 Dec	1 day

#### Additional Works

Gully Rounds	Somerset West annual programme – April to September Taunton annual programme – October to March
Safety Defects	Various locations across Somerset West and Taunton.
Carriageway Patching	Various locations across Somerset West and Taunton.
Carriageway Surface Dressing	The surface dressing programme for 2019 is now completed.
SRA, Enhanced Maintenance - Gully Emptying & Jetting	SRA3, Annual flood sites - countywide.
Grass Cutting	The verge maintenance programme for 2019 is now completed.



Winter Service

2019/2020 winter season has now commenced.



Planned Works in the Exmoor Panel Area

Winsford Village Hall 7 November 2019

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
<b>Completed</b>						
SCC	Selworthy	Selworthy Byroad	Removal of stone and debris from culvert.		Completed	
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Minehead Road	Carriageway resurfacing at Dragon Cross.		Completed	
<b>Ongoing</b>						
SCC	Exford	B3223 Simonsbath Road, west of White Cross	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	21 Oct	22 Nov	5 weeks
SCC	Elworthy	B3224 Raleghs Cross Road, Willet Hill	Carriageway patching. Temporary road closures.	4 Nov	8 Nov	5 days
<b>Future</b>						
SCC	Cannington	A39 Williton Road	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 18:00 and 07:00.	13 Dec	14 Dec	1 night
<b>Other</b>						

Page 19



## Exmoor Panel Meeting - 07/11/2019

- 1) Reported crime across our area continues to be low, but there is no room for complacency.
- 2) From the previous meeting, - we have had no further incidents of sheep theft reported which I am pleased to report.
- 3) Recent crime and Anti-social behaviour.  
Beauty spot cars attacked (3) at Holnicote, Tarr Steps, and Dunkery.  
Non-dwelling burglaries (4) B Ralph, West Knowle and Anstey.  
Thefts (3) of concrete mixer, windscreen wipers, and also a charity box.  
CDMV (1)  
Criminal damage (1)
- 4) Other matters.  
Drink driver caught this week, reminder to all re drink driving, and particularly being over the limit in the morning.  
Illegal Deer shooting, one confirmed offence, but we suspect that this will increase in coming weeks of darkness. **Please report all suspicious activity!**  
In September we had a serious attempted theft of Quad bikes, unsuccessful due to being disturbed! We are confident that we know the people involved. But not sufficient evidence at this time.
- 5) Good news – we did recover a stolen tractor recently. Stolen from Williton area, and recovered from Exford area.

We say this at each meeting, but please report any incidents promptly.  
Pass on any information to police, particularly around deer poaching, and rural crime.

Bryan Stevens 7317  
PCSO Exmoor.

