

## **Cllr Michael Roake**

### **June Report Sturminster Newton Town Council**

North Dorset District Council’s Building Control Team have been recognised by ‘Dorset Building Excellence Awards’ for their work with Stour Homes for the Best Small Housing Development in Dorset.

The Award was given for the Six Trees Development Bath Road, Sturminster Newton, with the organisations collectively receiving their award at a ceremony in Sturminster Newton in March.

Stour Homes and North Dorset District Council also went on to win the South West Regional award for ‘Best Partnership with a Local Authority Building Control Team’.

This award recognises the team approach and cross border working between a developer and a Local Authority, with the ceremony being held in Plymouth in April.

### **Local Government reorganisation update**

Legislation has now passed in both Houses of Parliament means that Dorset residents will be served by two brand new unitary councils from April 2019 – Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council, and Dorset Council. The county’s nine current councils will cease to exist on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

Now that Parliament has approved the legislation the final Order will be made, and the two Joint Committees, set up to make the local decisions needed to ensure the Parliamentary process could complete, will disband. Two Shadow Authorities will replace them – one for each new council area. The first meeting of these Shadow Authorities must take place within 14 days of the Order being made.

At its first meeting, each Shadow Authority is required appoint statutory officers on an interim basis, those roles being the head of paid service, monitoring officer and chief finance officer, as well as appoint Members to relevant Committees and confirm the preceding councils’ nominations to a Shadow Executive Committee.

Each Shadow Executive Committee oversees the implementation plans for the new councils, having taken this responsibility on following the cessation of the Joint Committees.

At a meeting early next year, the Shadow Authorities will be responsible for setting the first budget of each new unitary council. The Shadow Authorities are not involved in ongoing service delivery, as these functions remain with the nine councils that currently exist, and will then transfer to the appropriate new councils in April 2019.

The focus of the preceding nine councils is to continue to deliver all services between now and April 2019, making plans for smooth service continuity on day one of the new unitary authorities.

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority is made up of 125 seats, filled by all existing 120 Councillors from the preceding authorities including five councillors who are both Borough and County Councillors for Christchurch. The first meeting takes place on 6<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm at Bournemouth University.

For the Dorset Council, the Shadow Authority comprises 206 seats, occupied by 176 existing councillors. The inaugural meeting will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm at South Walks House, Dorchester.

Cllr Michael Roake

Ward Member Sturminster Newton Ward

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**District Councillor's report for May 2018.**

**O May 1<sup>st</sup> I attended the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee at South Walks House where we discussed the vexed issue of broadband speeds in rural Dorset and heard about efforts to make further improvements, received an update on the Dorset Digital Strategy and a report from the Finance Performance Manager.**

**Later that week we were given an update on the changes required for LGR next year, this involves the abolition of the County, District and Borough Councils following the Parliamentary approval of an Order in Council and then the formation of a temporary Shadow Authority composed of all elected members of these councils, a total of 206, under the Dorset Joint Area Committee for the final year.**

**I attended a Members Briefing on helping rough sleepers under the new Homelessness Reduction Act, a difficult subject in the coastal areas.**

**The final Annual Council meeting of North Dorset District Council was held at Durweston Hall where the existing Chairman Cllr Val Potheary was re-elected to serve for that final year.**

**The NDDC Planning Committee also met at Durweston Hall in May, there were no local applications.**

**Cllr Victor Fox.**



Pauline Batstone County, District and Town Councillor.

May was a month of doing a lot of things in the public domain but not specifically work for the County or District Councils. Helping organise and run the Centenary Reunion of my old school Lord Digby's School Old Girls Association took a lot of time but seemed to bring great joy to a lot of now older Dorset ladies as they met friends they had not seen for year. The Community Chest likewise has taken time. There have also been several political events.

I have attended what was presumably the last Annual Meeting of North Dorset District Council and the first meeting of the Shadow Dorset Council. As the Chairman of a Committee at DCC I find myself on the Shadow Executive Board which will be making decisions pertinent to the new authority and that also means I am on the Organisational Transformation Board which is meeting fortnightly. I am also on a Task and Finish Group about Service Integration which is about to restart its work, having adjourned for a while whilst progress was made in other areas of reorganisation. The new Warding proposals are out for discussion with Parishes and Towns and will shortly be released for general discussion. It is confirmed that whatever the final shape of the individual Wards there will be 82 Councillors in place of 206.

In the meantime business continues as usual with my Safeguarding Scrutiny about to hold its summer meeting to consider the work being done to reduce road casualties, the early intervention work to support children and families and reduce the number of children coming into care, the protection of vulnerable adults from abuse, and a half-yearly review of the Youth Justice Plan. We will have two more meetings in this municipal year, one in October which will finalise any outstanding work and possibly one in January to wind things up. There is to be a review of the impact of the closure of the Youth Centres which will be conducted by the People and Communities Overview Committee. It has yet to be decided what the Committee structure will be under the new authority. A Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been set up under the new Shadow Council scrutinising the major actions of the Shadow Executive in particular and the progress towards LGR.

I have attended my usual round of parish and town council meetings, surgeries, door knocking and Coffee Mornings. I have also attended the first Fete of the season, at Glanvilles Wootton and have several more to go as the summer moves on. I am in the process of sending out my Summer In Touch newsletter.

Pauline Batstone County, District and Town Councillor.

12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

