

ANNEX B TO CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
DATED 26TH JANUARY 2012

Parish & Town Councils Councillors Update Seminar – 16th November 2011

Organised by Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC)

Held at the Dorset Youth Association HQ, Lubbecke Way, Dorchester.

Attended by Cllr Harris and Cllr Bundy on behalf of Crossways Parish Council.

Main points of the seminar.

Localism Act 2011

- Received Royal Assent on the 15th November 2011
- Much of the specific details will be contained in Regulations
- Designed to give powers back to communities and councils from central government

Code of Conduct

- A lot of content with regard to London and Mayoral Boroughs
- Standards Board for England is abolished
- Code of Conduct is retained
- Parish Councils must adopt a Code issued by their District Council
- District Councils must set up investigative regime
- There will be a criminal offence relating to financial irregularities

Planning

- Local Plans to be produced in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework
- New Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which will take over from Section 106 – has to be in force by 2014
- Introduction of Neighbourhood Plans
 - o Prepared by local communities
 - o Will be part of the development plan
 - o Will be independently checked in line with strategic policies of the district plan, national planning policy and EU legislation
 - o Cannot cover strategic issues such as policies on minerals / waste and major infrastructure
 - o Cannot reduce the minimum level of growth where this is set
 - o Will include – the local community decide subject to the tests
 - A new housing / employment site
 - Location of development / development boundaries / criteria
 - Design standards

How are Neighbourhood Plans prepared ?

- Parish Council initiates process but the District Council must agree the area to be covered
- Local community develops the plan (the District Council has a duty to support)
- Draft plan is submitted to the District Council
- Independent check against national and local strategic policies and EU legislation
- Local referendum – if there is a majority (at least 51% in favour of those that vote) the plan is adopted

Where do Parish Plans fit in ?

- Neighbourhood Plan is about planning policy
- Parish Plan is more about actions / delivery of services
- Processes are complementary – they help
 - Bring different groups together
 - Identify priorities and provide an evidence base
 - Identify those who can help, locally and at different levels

General Power of Competence

- Under the Localism Act virtually anything an individual can do a Parish Council can now do.
- Waiting for “conditions prescribed by the Secretary of State” which may include a requirement for 2/3rd of councillors to have been elected and for the Parish Council to have a qualified Clerk

Superfast Broadband

- Defined as greater than 24 mb/ps as set out by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK)
- BDUK vision is to deliver this to 90% of premises by 2016
- Will involve infrastructure (trunk supply to exchanges / cabinets) access to broadband for 172k residential and business premises in Dorset
- Funding will not cover the “final mile connection” to the individual premises – this remains the responsibility of the customer and internet service provider
- Proposals focus on ‘white’ areas in Dorset where the market will not provide
- BDUK will only deal with tier 1 authorities – Dorset County Council acts as lead authority and set up a team to deliver the proposal
- Access to funding required a submission of a Local Broadband Plan which was submitted in Spring 2011 – called DPSN+
- This built on the Dorset Public Service Network (DPSN) which is aimed at utilising existing network and which is due for renewal in July 2012

- Investment in the DPSN infrastructure was also used as the Dorset match funding contribution

Superfast Broadband (continued)

- Dorset were not successful in the first round and a decision was made to separate from the DPSN and submit a new proposal
- Despite losing out in the first round BDUK have ring fenced £9.44m for Dorset
- This money will be subject to approval by BDUK of an acceptable local broadband plan
- Dorset will need to provide a minimum of £10m capital match funding over the next 2 financial years (2012 / 2013 and 2013 / 2014)
- The match funding is proposed to be split 2/3rd to tier 1 authorities and 1/3rd to tier 2 authorities – if this is agreed there will be no precepts required from towns and parishes
- The supplier will be required to match the BDUK and Dorset funding – ie £20m
- Requirement to demonstrate demand and encourage take up

Winter Service

- Dorset County Council have their structure for gritting in place and will continue to fill grit bins
- Grit bins are to be purchased by Parish Councils
- There are dedicated DCC teams that can be contacted – the details can be found on the DAPTC website – members area - under F & Qs

DAPTC Developments

- The AGM passed an amended constitution and this can be viewed on the DAPTC website
- Subscriptions will increase by 1% in 2012 – this is less than the 4.4% recommended
- A discussion took place regarding precepts and it was stated that it is good policy to look ahead and gradually increase the precept rather than have a very significant increase in one year.
- A reminder was given as to how to access the members area of the DAPTC website
- The DAPTC will be sending out surveys in due course