

Freshford PC Chairman's Report – 08 June 2020

1. Overview

This months Chairman's Report is largely a pointer to items on the agenda, providing an overview.

2. Street Lighting

2.1. SSE Maintenance

Please refer to the detailed report provided by Selina Jobson.

The new contract, whilst having details that SSE still need to clarify, is 20% increase on the previous maintenance contract and maintenance activities will only be undertaken in 1 of the 3 years covered by the contract.

There are options of joining the other BANES PCs in switching to a new maintenance provider.

2.2. SSE Supply

The SSE Supply invoices received are being investigated, due to the massive increase (to £1,836 for 9 months, projected to be c.£2,500 p.a.).

Getting responses from SSE to queries raised is proving to be a challenge, so this may be a slow burning issue.

3. VPA

Please refer to the detailed report from Julian Carpenter.

In summary, following a meeting with BANES, only 2 options are to be recommended of the A36 Severance Report – Bathampton and Freshford/Limpley Stoke Midford Lane/Church Lane junction.

4. BANES Community Hub

The BANES Community Hub is the BANES one-stop shop for any and all access to services during the Covid-19 lockdown. It is being run hand-in-hand with MIND. The Hub has been using all BANES officers, which is why certain aspects have been slow or non-existent.

Now BANES officers are spending more and more time on their day-to-day activities, things will begin to get back to normal – at least in terms of BANES activities.

5. BANES Community Meetings

BANES Community Meetings have been cancelled due to the lockdown and are beginning to start again as virtual meetings as from Monday 8 June.

The first meeting is a Community Forum Chair and Vice Chair's meeting on Monday 8 June. As Chair of the Cam Valley Forum I will be attending, and key agenda items include:

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- Track and Trace system
- Re-opening the High Streets
- Resilient Communities

This is immediately before the PC meeting, and I will provide a verbal update to the PC of the information received.

6. Website

Google have sent an email stating that the web site home page does not meet standards – which is interesting as it is a simple page built using their tool - Google Sites.

Running the 2 most recently created pages through the industry standard Accessibility Checker (the W3C Validator) provided the following:

Web Page	When	Construct	No. Errors	No. Warnings
Community Emails	April 2020	Simple text containing 2 links	81	53
Meeting Agenda	June 2020	Simple text with attached documents	122	53

The Accessibility issues will exist through every page through the site. Given that these pages were created using Google Sites, which should result in zero errors for new pages, a new web site is needed.

Legally, these issues need to be resolved by September this year.

Several options have been put forward, which merit consideration.

1. SLCC recognise that this is a significant issue for PCs and have negotiated an agreement with Aubergine. They certainly have an approach that would provide an excellent solution for the PC. It provides a modern web site, a presentation design tool, and will be maintained to automatically incorporate changes in web standards. Basically, the solution would be future proof in terms of standards.

Questions are being raised with Aubergine about design, on-going maintenance and hosting costs.

2. Two further options have been identified by Winsley PC, which merit deeper investigation. An initial view indicates:
 - a. Parish Council Websites: A constrained design (not particularly modern or 'clean'), which will overcome the immediate issues, but may not provide the design flexibility needed. This option will certainly provide PC functionality but may not support the remaining functionality of the existing web site.
 - b. Steve Jackman – a Norfolk based PC solution – a reasonable design. Concerns exist over the extent of the functionality that is supported, and also that this is a single person based in Norfolk.

A few issues that need to be overcome when moving to the new website:

- Functionality
 - The existing web site is far more than a pure PC website. It includes information about aspects of the community, historical documents such as the Neighbourhood Plan library, information about visiting Freshford and other

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information. Therefore, an off-the shelf PC solution will only satisfy part of the current functionality.

- Maintainability
 - The new solution needs to be easily maintained in terms of content and structure.
- Redesign
 - Experienced design support is needed, preferably from within the community
- Implementation
 - The new web site will not suddenly appear, there will be a period of time where both the new and the old website will need to run side-by-side. The migration of functions over time will need to be managed.
- The Bulletin
 - The new web site needs to incorporate The Bulletin
 - Advice and guidance is needed on how best to achieve this, whilst being able to provide the Bulletin as a Newsletter and also support printed copies

7. Covid-19

The LiFERAFT initiative is continuing.

Please refer to section 5.