

# Dorset County Council March 2014 Report

## Minerals Consultation

Every ten to fifteen years we embark upon a consultation process for minerals extraction. This is a consultation that we have to hold and let whoever wishes to propose sites to have the freedom and opportunity to do so. The inclusion of any site does not indicate that DCC supports it and does not confer any status upon it other than it will now go through a detailed consideration and evaluation exercise. A number of residents have expressed concern that sites previously deleted at the last consultation some years ago have reappeared at this one. I now understand that deletion at a previous inspection does not prevent a landowner or developer from submitting the same site again. This is part of the democratic process and no special significance should be read into it. However if a site was deleted some years ago one can take some comfort in the fact that there are greater controls and awareness of environmental issues now than there ever has been and it is likely that unless the situation has markedly changed then an application that was refused on ecological or environmental grounds previously is even more likely to suffer the same fate today. The process of consultation is now drawing to a close and DCC will now embark upon an analysis phase followed by an Inspector looking at the applications, which is then followed by a final decision on which sites can proceed some time next year. I will keep you informed. I have submitted (as your County Councillor) formal objections in writing about the following sites:-

- Woodsford AS19
- Gore Heath AS23
- Moreton Plantation AS10
- Philliols Farm AS12

## Become a “Shared Lives” Carer

The ‘Shared Lives’ scheme has come to be called “the best kept secret in adult social care” and many people who would otherwise be living in a residential home, have benefited from the initiative and enjoy a normal family life where they are treated with respect and dignity. ‘Shared Lives’ is for adults who cannot live on their own without help and support because of physical or learning disabilities, mental health needs or because they are older and have become frail. It offers them the opportunity to live with families who can give them the support and encouragement they need to live as independently as possible. In Dorset there are 60 truly amazing and dedicated Shared Lives Carers who have been approved to provide support in their own homes, out in the community or in the homes of people who need extra help and support at home.

Geraldine Hooton has been a Shared Lives carer for the past seven years. As well as looking after older people with dementia, she also offers people with learning disabilities a place to stay if their family or carers needs a break. Geraldine said: “Being a Shared Lives carer enriches my life tremendously and keeps me focussed. I enjoy the many various aspects of being a carer, and it is very rewarding to see the difference you make in someone’s life.” “Being a Shared Lives carer is a big commitment and requires a lot of patience, understanding and hard work. Carers are paid an allowance but mostly the reward is the satisfaction that they are helping a person with disabilities and enhancing their quality of life. We have carers from all walks of life, people who have a background in social care and people who simply believe in the right of others to live full lives whatever challenges they may face.”

If you are someone who could welcome and support a vulnerable person into your home, then Dorset County Council's Shared Lives team would like to hear from you. You can call them on 01308 422234.

### **Council Tax**

A council tax increase of 1.99 per cent has been agreed by Dorset County Council for 2014/15 – the first rise in four years. It will bring the council's charge for a band D property to £1,191.51 – an extra £23.22 a year. This will be added to precept charges from District, Town or Parish councils, Dorset Police and Dorset Fire Authority to give the total council tax amount.

### **Surgery**

Surgeries are held on the first Saturday of every month. These are held at the communal Lounge in Turberville Court in Bere Regis from 09.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. I am now also holding a surgery at Wool in Knowlewood Knapp communal lounge at 11.30. If you have any questions or queries related to the business of Dorset County Council please come along. If anyone wants to contact me and cannot get to the surgery my email address is peterwharf@hotmail.com.

Peter Wharf  
County Councillor