

Dorset County Council November 2015 Report

Bere Regis new School

As you may know, DCC were due to start preparation work for the new school over the summer holiday period. Unfortunately, as is evident on the site this has not happened. A price was agreed with a Contractor who then changed their mind (upwards!) on their price for this and other buildings they were constructing for DCC. Therefore, a decision was made to appoint a new contractor to carry out the works. This means that fresh prices had to be obtained and contract details revised. Unfortunately this has caused a delay in starting the work. The project team has made some good progress with the new builder and DCC expect the delay to be limited to about 3 months, so the target is now to start work on preparing the access road to the site in November this year with the new school ready for use during the 2016 autumn term. DCC apologise for this delay but I am confident that the best decision has been made to ensure that the Council and Bere Regis School obtain good value for money for this project and the best possible facilities for the children.

Navitus Bay Windfarm

County council (working closely with Purbeck District Council) submitted a detailed response opposing the windfarm and we are pleased that our concerns have been upheld and approval for the project has been withheld.

A31 Closure

PART of the A31 in Dorset will be closed for 17 weeks overnight when drainage works starts this month. Highways England, who are responsible for the road, said works would take place between the A31 Bere Regis roundabout and the Red Post junction. They are due to start on November 9 and continue for 17 weeks. A spokesperson for Highways England said: "The works on the A31 are for drainage works. The scheme is the second phase of planned works between the A31/A35 Bere Regis Roundabout to the Red Post junction which is to prevent reoccurring flooding, in turn reducing the amount of future pavement repairs required along this stretch. The scheme is due to start on November 9 and is estimated to last for 17 weeks. All works will be carried out using weeknight closures between 9pm and 6am. No weekend working is expected at this time. Although alternative forms of traffic management have been considered to keep the road open, due to the road being a single lane – and the narrowness of this historic road – the decision has been made to close the road overnight while the work is carried for the safety of both the workforce and road users." The works could continue until mid-February.

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. and at Wool in Black Bear 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 can not get to the surgery my email address is peterwharf@hotmail.com.

Peter Wharf
County Councillor