

Dorset County Council December 2014 Report

Highways

Over the last year, two significant funding bids have been made to central government for highway maintenance funding through the Severe Weather Recovery Scheme and Pothole Fund. Through these bids, DCC have secured nearly £9 million which they are spending on carriageway resurfacing and improving drainage across the highway network. The Department for Transport based the level of funding awarded on the individual local authority's strategy to maintain their highway network with particular emphasis on Highway Asset Management Plans and the Authority's evidence of linking to the recommendations of their Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme.

Last week the DfT issued feedback to each Authority on the quality of their submission and published a ranking in relation to the 152 other highway authorities across the UK. The feedback was divided into four categories and a ranking offered for each and one for overall. Dorset was ranked first in three of the four categories, 27th in the other and 2nd overall.

This is good news and gives clear evidence that DCC's highway maintenance strategy is well thought of by Government.

Weymouth Challenge (Triathlon)

The event this year (September) was badly publicised and poorly organised. Following this I asked for a meeting to review the exercise and plan for the future. The organisers have accepted that many people in Purbeck were unaware of the event and that road closures closed off many parts of Purbeck with no warning and insufficient controlling marshals. The event will be held next year on Sunday September 13th 2015 and will involve substantially the same course as last year from Weymouth up to Affpuddle and then back to Weymouth via a circular route. Churches, Parish Councils and community groups will be informed and involved many months in advance this time and publicity will be properly targeted and also produced well in advance for the next event.

Boundaries

There is a review of the divisional County boundaries County Councillor seats which has now been ratified by DCC. This is being done in order to make more equal the size (in population terms) of each division in Purbeck. DCC are proposing to move Wool, Chaldon Herring, Bovington and Winfrith out of Egdon Heath and effectively to replace them with Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers. Wool would join in a seat with Wareham. I am submitting my own comments to the Boundary Commission that this is an unnecessary change as the current division is within the tolerances for its population.

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 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