

District Council Update

- *SSDC intends to launch another Great Parish Tree Giveaway in time for the autumn/winter planting season. If there is the appetite then please start to locate potential planting locations in readiness for the ~60 trees that will be offered.*
- The initial unitary consultation and research that took place between all 5 of Somerset's councils in 2019 agreed that merging all councils to create one authority was not the best way forward to improve services. Consequently, Somerset's 4 District Councils have collaborated to produce a business case for local government reorganisation.
- There was a full council at SSDC on 10th September, during which a majority of councillors (38 for; 13 against) voted in favour of *Stronger Somerset*. All 4 of Somerset's District Councils, including Conservative-run Sedgemoor, have voted in favour of *Stronger Somerset*:
 - *Stronger Somerset* in summary:
 - Proposal to divide Somerset into 2 unitaries: West Somerset and East Somerset
 - Residents represented by ~200cldr, or 1cldr per 2,800 residents (County's plan is for only 100cllrs, or 1cldr per 5,600 residents)
 - An agenda of reform, not simply cuts and reorganisation
- Savings of £202.4million by year 10 (County's plan = savings of £168million)

Coronavirus response

- There is still one Somerset-wide contact number for covid enquiries: **0300 790 6275**
- Cases remain comparably low in South Somerset, but the national picture is bleak. Please remain vigilant.

Planning

- **19/02972/FUL (formation of store behind village hall):** after a very lengthy and frustrating delay, I was pleased to help progress this application which was finally approved on 10 September.

Casework relevant to Chiselborough

- Nothing to report.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday 15th Oct - Full Council
- Wednesday 21st October - Area West Committee (CANCELLED - no business)



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