

From our Mendip District Councillor

Dear Residents,

I must begin my report with offering my profound sympathy to those who have been affected by the pandemic, relief that in Mendip we have not seen the level of affliction suffered by some areas, and gratitude for the generosity and care that key workers, volunteers, friends and neighbours have shown during this most difficult of times. You may be aware that many officers in Mendip were seconded to help support testing and vaccination, only now returning to their normal role.

In the midst of this, we have also had to deal with the Government's view that districts and county councils in four areas including Somerset should dissolve and one, or two, Unitary authorities should take over the function of local Government. Such timing. The Ministry opened a consultation and in addition, a poll sent out by districts to better enable residents to express their view by a simple choice between two models of Unitary closes on Friday

Specific to Lamyatt, we have had the determination of the planning application from Wyke Farms. I have been in contact with various residents before and since. Resident's concerns led me to request conditions and the opportunity to make representations on how those conditions are enacted, a task that is still continuing. I'm sorry to say I am advised the Planning officer involved will be leaving Mendip's employ: there is a predictable level of officers leaving both at District and County level because of the uncertainty. One of my main concerns remains the protection of the village from flooding, and I will continue to support Paul Chadwick in his efforts to get information from the Flood team, as well as underlining the need for vigilance with the Planning officers.

Last time I reported I was anticipating Recycle More, and now I can say that on the whole it has gone really well, with residents being very helpful in making it a success. The recycling path is working as you would want it to: 97.5% of all recycling staying in the UK (up from 90%), and 50%+ staying in Somerset. I have also been challenging SWP's Chief Executive, Mickey Green, to ensure that their activities are not a contributory factor behind rural fly-tipping. From our dialogue, I can report that the content of fly-tipped materials is being analysed, and that the police are going to be spot-checking suspect vehicles: if someone offers to take waste away for you, please make sure they are a licenced waste carrier.

Personally i have been continuing my work on Audit and Finance, and have recently been asked to lead the Green group of Councillors at Mendip. I am grateful for the correspondance and phone calls from Lamyatt residents, the lively posts on the Lamyatt Matters Facebook Group, and the advice of your Chair/clerk, Paul Chadwick, who is always a respected ambassador for Lamyatt. If anyone has any questions relating to this report, Mendip or simply needs help, please contact me by email or phone...my details are on the Mendip website.

Thanks, and Kind regards

Michael Gay

Leader of the Green Group of Councillors, Mendip DC

District Councillor, Postlebury

Parish Councillor, Wanstrow & Vice-chair of Audit Board, Mendip DC

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