

Full Council 21st May:

- Composition of the District Executive has been confirmed:
 - Val Keitch, Leader. Portfolio holder for Housing & Strategy.
 - Peter Seib, Deputy Leader. Finance, Legal & Democratic Services.
 - Mike Best, Health & Wellbeing.
 - John Clark, Economic Development.
 - Sarah Dyke, Environment.
 - Tony Lock, Protecting Core Services.
 - Adam Dance, Chair: Area North.
 - Henry Hobhouse, Chair: Area East.
 - Peter Gubbins, Chair: Area South.
 - Jason Baker, Chair: Area West.
- Around 50 members of the Extinction Rebellion climate change group attended the meeting to support a motion calling on SSDC to declare a "Climate and Ecological Emergency".
 - The motion passed unanimously, and requires the Council to produce a detailed strategy by Autumn 2019.
 - Stakeholder engagement will be taking place over the summer - individuals with expertise or a particular interest in this subject please get in touch with me and I will liaise with the Portfolio Holder.
- Progress with SSDC Commercial Strategy:
 - 2nd floor of Yeovil Innovation Centre let following fit-out by SSDC. This will help to secure 100 engineering jobs in the area.
 - £2.95m investment in commercial property in Milton Keynes completed, generating net 7% yield.
 - Target is to generate £2m of annual income through commercial activity.

Ham Hill:

- Community litter pick organised by the 'Pop up Eco Supermarket' team based in Odcombe on Sunday 18th May.
- The rangers assisted the Friends at Stoke May Fair and raised some funds for the Friends by helping children to make bird feeders for a donation.
- Strimming to open up the paths from encroaching bramble.
- The rangers have been carrying out bird surveys on the Northern Spur. Lots of blackbirds, blackcaps and bullfinches!
- The Friends of Ham Hill and the rangers are currently developing a children's trail leaflet, to be released later this summer. This was funded by the PRIME foundation (linked to Yeovil Hospital construction works).
- The rangers have been busy preparing for the Pop-Up Museum and Activity Centre which will be based at the rangers centre throughout the six week school summer

holiday period. This six week-long event will include daily free activities along with displays about Ham Hill's historical past and wildlife of today. More information will be released in due course...watch this space!

- A memorial bench will be installed to remember our dear Friend and volunteer Terry Smart who passed away early last year. Terry was a key volunteer at Ham Hill who helped the rangers two days a week and he was a member of the Friends group.
- The rangers have been working hard to repair erosion on the top main path along the western rampart. The addition of a ham stone layer will aid drainage to help prevent the path becoming muddy and impassable during wet weather.
- The Wildwood play zone is proving very popular with children and the Friends and ranger team are very happy to see it being so well used.

Casework:

- I have been approached by several residents about the use of Glyphosate containing herbicide for biannual weed spraying by SSDC following a high profile court case in the US.
 - I have met with Chris Cooper, Head of Streetscene for SSDC to discuss.
 - Further details are available on request.
- I have been looking into a housing matter for a resident of Little Mead. Enquiries are currently ongoing.

Upcoming Events:

- Opening of Stonewater housing development, East Stoke. 26th June AM.
- Area North Committee. 26th June PM.
- Full Council, Brympton Way, Yeovil. 20th June Evening. [Provisional date]

Mike Hewitson
3/6/19