**Report to Lytchett Matravers council 24 Feb**



**Councillor Alex Brenton & Cllr Andrew Starr**

This has been a busy month, as Dorset Council prepared for the annual Budget Meeting, and finalising the new Dorset Constitution and the Dorset Strategic Plan.

The annual **Budget Meeting** was important, several meetings have been held concentrating on a balanced budget, there were two amendments to be voted on 18th Feb. One to try to divert some money earmarking for possible staff pay rises into a youth services support for 2 workers and grants for some youth groups. The other is to install the principle that any gains from medium term investment should have priority for mitigating climate change. Neither got through. There was a strong contingent of activists, protesting about a Waste incinerator proposed for Weymouth/Portland, about the proposed Oil Drilling station at Puddletown both of which are still subject to Planning considerations and National Guidlelines rather than the Dorset Council. Also Extinction Rebellion protesting about the perceived slow speed of Dorset Council actions on Climate change. – The inquiry into the public suggestions should be finished in early March.

**The Constitution** was a provisional format written by the Shadow council before May 2019. Alterations to the structure of the Council will allow two Overview Committees (forward Looking) on People & Health Issues and Place & Resources and two Scrutiny (Looking back) committees on the same subjects. The Scrutiny committees will be chaired by the largest opposition group and no councillor can sit on an Overview and a Scrutiny committee at the same time, so one cannot scrutinise a piece of work that the same person planned. I regret that there is no section on coordination with Parish & Town Councils, just vague intentions and despite some good feedback meetings with Cllr Tony Alford no movement on setting up Area Liason meetings.

The **Dorset Strategic Plan** has been mildly tweaked but still does not include much about Cultural activity even though that is a prime mover in some areas for social and economic activity particularly in rural areas.

The extreme rain has given the Highways team some sleepless nights with trees down on Holton Heath road and the A31 and along the A35. The soil is so saturated that any heavy rain is causing problems. It is at least making it obvious which areas flood particularly at high tide. Which gives us ammunition against development on flood plains.

I have had a request for a 40mph speed limit at Slepe near the caravan park on those bends, Dorset Highways is reluctant to do so as it has not had any request from the Town Council and does not see any particular problem there.

Cllr Star and I attended the Holocaust Memorial Day service and concert in Dorchester. It was also useful to be reminded that Gypsies were also targeted by the Nazis. Also that the conflict between Bosnian Serbs and Croats in the Balkans with extreme ethnic cleansing was fuelled by sectional hatred and division, It was was a moving and sad commemoration, and ended with a determination to stand together against hate.

On a better note Win On Waste is doing well at our monthly collection sessions in the Library 1st Saturday of the month 10-11am. We desperately need another couple of volunteers, and access to better storage while we bulk up the collections for despatch. It would be great if there were dedicated Aluminium and Tetrapack collection bins in Lytchett Matravers as there is a demand for somewhere local. Could the Parish Council consider this?

I have attended a training session on the regulations involved in making Traffic Regulation Orders , all about changes to speed limits and yellow lines.

Also a day conference in Bristol which was about changes councils can make in using digital technology to improve delivery of services and streamline information available to residents. An interesting App developed in Bristol which collated all the information on local clubs and services run by volunteers so it was easy for residents to find a suitable group in the area. Dorset does have intentions to update and improve these services, but one concern is reliability and resistance to cyber attack.

The away day in Lytchett Matravers was very interesting and we wondered if this model could be used elsewhere?

The hideous piece of road between Morden Park Corner and Quarr hill in Morden on B3075 is to be resurfaced on 20-22nd May . House Marten house is to be built on the Frenches Ram SANG is there a demand for specialist wildlife refuges/nest boxes at flowers Drove?

There has been a successful bid for £4.3mill for a TRIAL rollout of 5G in Dorset. The schemes involved are for the RNLI as a coastal observation scheme to be able to pinpoint incidents as existing mobile phone signals and 4G do not work well under headlands and coves. To connect Lulworth castle leisure and housing businesses, at the Dorset Innovation Park, and a trial in North Dorset to monitor and help Agri-Tech work on farms. There is a bulletin about safety of 5 G available to calm concerns.