

**DAPTC NORTHERN AREA**  
**MEETING HELD 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022**

The following notes are a record of an informal meeting held of the Northern Area section of DAPTC at 19.00 in Sturminster Newton Council Offices. They are not formal minutes.

This was the first chance the Northern Area had held a meeting since the outbreak of the pandemic and those who attended said it was good to be meeting again. There were representatives from Charlton Marshall, Marnhull, Stour Provost, Durweston and Iwerne Minster. The Chief Executive of DAPTC was unable to attend because of a covid infection.

It was decided that this meeting was to be an informal session to get to know one another again. Two subjects were uppermost: planning and the speed of traffic. Other subjects included the position of the parish churches in their areas, most allow for the maintenance of the graveyards in their precept, having to pay for extra verge cutting over that offered by Dorset Council (DC) and the feeling of isolation, could a system of information sharing about projects that are happening in councils that are in their area that could have an impact, to enable people to be more aware of what is going on.

**PLANNING:-** Those present felt that there is a disconnect between the 'local and DC'. Not being part of pre application discussions, the apparent non recognition of comments on applications. Although there is a 5 year land supply at present councils still feel threatened by the actions of developers and development companies seeking to obtain permissions for third parties. The fact that DC Highways never question the impact of additional development and raise no objections to applications. The idea that the Leader of DC will get Dorset accepted as a pilot scheme to pool all the county development in one place and obtain a two year extension the finalising the Local Plan was thought totally unrealistic. The disregarding of settlement boundaries and flood plain development was a common theme. Durweston questioned the fact that Blandford Forum seemed to have included the immediate villages in their development plan thinking was also raised. Neighbourhood Plans were touched on, but accepted that what ever plans were agreed at a local level would have to match the County and National plans and were going to take a while to get off the ground bearing in mind the actions of development companies.

**SPEEDING:-** The discussion wondered if the DAPTC could lean on DC to implement a '20 is plenty' across the county. Iwerene stated that it took them 5 years of constant badgering to obtain a 20 mph limit through the village and questioned the stamina of some councils to be able to carry out the task.

**GENERAL:-** It was felt that the ability to be able to every three months was a goal to aim for. Face to face was preferred but a mixed meeting with some members joining on 'zoom' could also work. It was felt the next meeting should be end June/July allowing for the Platinum Celebrations. The question was asked was there a brave enough member of the planning team willing to talk to a future meeting, speakers on a variety of topics would be welcomed. There was a reminder about the DAPTC AGM in Nov with a request for it to be held in the morning. IT was recognised that membership of DAPTC was good especially the support it gave to Clerks<sup>1</sup>. We must work to ensure as many councils as possible attend future meetings especially the smaller councils and wondered if there is value to DAPTC in setting up a 'small council section'. The meeting closed at 21.00.

Stuart Waite  
Chairman Northern Area DAPTC

<sup>1</sup> I forgot to mention the training undertaken by DAPTC for many organisations in the county.