

Report on County Council Matters to North Nibley Parish Council

5th October 2020

County Council meeting 9th September

This was a busy week for virtual meetings with a full meeting of the County Council on the Wednesday and a 6½ hour Planning Committee meeting the next day with all the preparation these entail, particularly the planning meeting where the agenda papers alone ran to almost 300 pages.

The outcomes of the motions debated on 9th September were:

Restoring our Rivers (Lib Dem)

After some debate, the Conservatives moved a “motion without notice” to refer the issue to the Environment Scrutiny Committee and that was the outcome. Whilst there is merit in allowing a wider hearing, there is concern that it may delay any progress. On a previous occasion a motion was delayed in this way for around two years. As vice-chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee I am calling for it to be on the agenda soon.

Public Health England (Lib Dem)

This motion asked the County Council to note with dismay the Government’s intention to dismantle Public Health England at a time when the ONS estimates that around 3000 people are still being infected with Covid-19 every day. It asked for the Council Chief Executive and Council Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health to express this grave concern and to reiterate the need for a thorough and transparent enquiry into why the UK has one of the highest Covid-19 mortality rates in the world. It also asked for the 25% cut in the public health budget in England compared to 2015 to be reinstated. The Conservatives voted against the motion, so it was lost.

Rainbow flag crossing (Labour)

Again, the Conservatives used their majority to refer the motion, this time to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Whilst several such crossings now exist in other parts of the country, they are not formal road crossings such as zebra crossings, which would give rise to safety issues. It has been suggested they could be put in pedestrian areas.

Joint Meeting of the Environment and the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committees, 23rd September

This joint meeting considered the results of the consultation on the review of the Local Transport Plan. The draft plan itself has not yet been updated as officers are waiting for a delayed Government document on decarbonising which may affect the Plan. It will now not be considered by the Cabinet until late January, but it is hoped it will get to the full Council for the March meeting.

John Cordwell

(GDPR health warning:) If you no longer wish to receive this report please let me know.