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Families are the focus for the 10 Parishes

GOOD progress is being made on the feasibility study into the 10 Parishes Centre, following the second stakeholder's meeting to introduce consultants Hannah Reynolds Associates from Exeter.

The meeting on January 12th was chaired by local parent Jenny Carey-Wood. She said: "We are really pleased to be working with communities, local organisations and the councils to make a difference. The next few weeks will firm up our proposals so that we can make funding bids to provide services locally."

The meeting was a great success and the community was able to begin pulling out the eventual "footprint" of the Children's Centre, and other services on the Croft Way site. Everyone at the meeting was impressed with how much could be achieved on the site in terms of community buildings.

The consultants, led by Hannah Reynolds and Martin Davidson, will begin by carrying out research to find out how the Children's Centre activities based on the site can link with other services for children and families in the 10 Parishes area.

The area is made up of the parishes of Ashbrittle, Bathealton, Brompton Ralph, Chipstable, Clatworthy, Fitzhead, Huish

Champfflower, Milverton, Stawley and Wiveliscombe.

At the meeting the community expressed its desire to see the new children's centre develop as an innovative and imaginative space. At the core of this many people asked for the site to bring together a wide range of services so that they "can get it all done in one place".

The community hopes that the new centre will bring together a wide variety of services that are needed by a growing family and taking an innovative approach to giving people new opportunities.

Somerset County Council have agreed to make the site available for community use and have acted as partners with the community throughout the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative process.

For further information on this please contact Paul Cottingham on 01984 624777 or email projectcoordinator@wiveliscombe.co.uk

STOP PRESS: On January 25th the Children's Centre Strategic Planning Meeting of the County Council agreed to build a Children's Centre on the Croft Way site. "We look forward to working with you and the whole community to deliver the centre in time to open by 31st March 2008."

*Vicki Taylor (Manager
Integrated Services - Early Years)*

Maundown Waterworks update

DETAILED design for the proposed reconstruction of Wessex Water's Maundown Water Treatment Works is now underway following a successful consultation period.

Wessex Water is investing £25m to upgrade the water treatment works, which is one of the company's key assets. Once complete, the entirely rebuilt works will enable major improvements in the quality of drinking water and help Wessex Water meet increased demands for water in the area.

Wessex Water project manager, Richard Thackeray, explained what progress the company has made to date. He said: "In November, we awarded a contract for design of the treatment process and the engineering. We have delayed submission of the planning application to allow the project team to concentrate on refining the layout of the new buildings."

"The result is a small reduction in the overall size of the new main treatment building and we are now finalising the planning application package for submission to Taunton Deane Council at the end of January."

Construction work is still planned to start this summer. Before then, local people may

see some construction activities on the site.

Richard explained: "These are essential works to move some existing pipes and services out of the way in preparation for the main construction. This needs to be done early so that we can make best use of the summer period for the main excavation."

The rebuilding of the works is due to be completed by 2009. There will then be a period where both the old and new works operate together, before the old works will be taken out of service, demolished and the area landscaped. Wessex Water aims to ensure any disturbance and environmental impact caused during the construction work is kept to a minimum.

The works, which was built in the 1960s and extended in the early 1970s, treats water from the nearby Wimbleball and Clatworthy reservoirs and supplies around 200,000 people in central Somerset. The project has the support of the Drinking Water Inspectorate, the government organisation responsible for regulating public water supplies in England and Wales.

More information on the scheme is available from project manager Richard Thackeray, Wessex Water, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7WW, telephone: 01225 526000 or e-mail Richard.thackeray@wessexwater.co.uk.

Age Concern Local Link Project

AGE Concern Somerset serves people over the age of 60 in the county with a wide range of services.

These include an information and advice service, providing general information on a range of issues affecting older people, and an advocacy service which will give individual advice, in your own home, on pensions, welfare benefits, residential care and mental health issues. Advocates can also help in completing benefit forms.

Age Concern Somerset also offers advice on crime, accident and fire protection in the home, including free fitting of certain safety equipment, a befriending service, toenail cutting for a small charge, and a wide range of competitive insurances including home and contents, motor, and travel covering the over 50's.

The Local Link project is an initiative launched last year offering older persons living in rural areas or local communities an easy way to access these services, initially within the parishes and local communities within the Taunton Deane area.

The Local Link volunteer is based in the village, parish or community assigned to them and will

promote our services locally, act as a human signpost for older people, and refer requests for help or advice on to Age Concern Somerset.

We are pleased to advise we have appointed the following volunteers in the Wiveliscombe area as follows:

For Wiveliscombe contact Barbara Lloyd on 01984 623183

For Huish Champflower, Clatworthy, Chipstable, Waterrow, Raddington and Ashbrittle contact Yvonne Williams on 01984 624670

For Bathealton and Stawley contact Pamela McBratney on 01984 623580 (Mon - Fri after 6pm)

For Halse and Fitzhead contact Margaret Cookson on 01823 430253 (Mon - Fri between 9-12 and 2-5)

Please feel free to contact any of the above for help, or if you wish to contact Age Concern Somerset direct please telephone 01823 423496. Anyone requiring further information on the Local Link project may contact me on 01823 433409 or by email - johnb.locallink.acs@tiscali.co.uk

*John Buchan
Local Link Development
Worker
Age Concern Somerset*

Housing update

THE bungalows by the Primary School are progressing, with roofs going on as the end of January approaches.

At the time of writing, January 23rd, Taunton Deane Housing Dept have passed a list of nominated prospective tenants to Magna West Somerset Housing Association, who are the developers and the landlords for this totally rented development.

The bungalows are being built for local people aged over 55 or registered as chronically sick or disabled under the Act.

Despite some weather induced delays, it is anticipated that CS Williams will hand over the bungalows in May. The site will be called "Tuckers Meadow", recognising the help that Tony Tucker, the previous land owner has given to the project.

Wiveliscombe Community Market

As usual the market will be operating regularly this year so try and give it your support.

Dates: February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 9 (Christmas market).

New Stawley Village Shop and Post Office open

SHERI and James Corry are pleased that after much planning and hard work by so many people, the new Stawley Village Shop and Post office opened on February 1st.

Located conveniently right next to the Primary School with ample parking, the shop was financed by community grants, donations and fundraising initiatives by local people including publishing 500 copies of a cookery book of favourite recipes.

Sheri explained that the Shop will sell bread, dairy produce, fruit and vegetables, deli items, everyday essentials, sweets, cards, stationery and eventually they hope to have a licence to sell alcohol.

The aim is to provide locally sourced produce wherever possible.

Sheri and James, who lived in Holland for many years, now live in Ashbrittle and their involvement began when they helped with the voluntary milk and paper round on Thursdays.

Later Bill and Peggy Wootton, at Greenham Post Office, asked them to take on the milk and papers as a separate business.

When the new shop and Post Office venture came about, Sheri and James were the ideal people to take it on.

Sheri emphasised that Bill and Peggy will be a very hard act to follow; not only did they run the Greenham Post Office for many years but they are both real stars of the community giving their time generously to all sorts of local groups and events. Peggy's MBE is well-deserved.

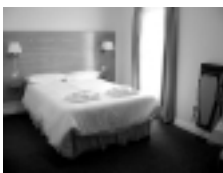
The Messenger will be available in the new Stawley Village Shop and we wish James and Sheri every success. There will be a Grand Opening between 2-4pm on Saturday 18th February.

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