

Address to cabinet: The view from Westfield. 5 September 2018

Sometimes I think the Council deliberately sets out to provoke me, this time by having the single member decision on the new Hope House Surgery in the papers. I have supported residents in their opposition to having the last publicly owned green space in Radstock town centre developed, at a time when we are urged to adopt healthy living and combat obesity. However, I am more concerned about the lack of safe pedestrian access from the town centre and available car parking. How many pedestrians will be injured on the roads before a proper crossing is put across the A362. Particularly parents with pushchairs and the disabled will find it difficult to get to the new library – if it is not closed.

Secondly there was the situation on Saturday morning when I could not get to my Westfield surgery because there were no buses up there at all, and no warning notices on bus stops. Even the diversion sign had disappeared. It is a simple thing not to take the diversion signs down until the road is cleared.

The main issue however, which Westfield Parish Council wishes to have communicated to you, is that they object strongly to having services outsourced. Residents are telling them that they object to paying more council precept to cover services such as the youth service and the library service and those living in the Holly Court are horrified that BANES has stopped cutting the grass and contractors will have to be found to do it. The parish council also protest about all the pit paths which are swamped in brambles and nettles. How can children walk to school if access is blocked?

Westfield Parish Council strongly support the youth services, with over 75 young people attending the 'club' at the Westfield chapel, as do Christians Together in Radstock and Westfield, who started the Friday night 'café sessions in Radstock. We appreciate very much all the support officers have given us over the last four years to create a Neighbourhood Plan (referendum tomorrow! 55% of postal voters already voted..) but though we will claim the enhanced CIL/S106 money to realise community aspirations, it will not be possible to provide everything Westfield residents deserve, neither can charities and churches make up the gap. And we take a particularly dim view of littering contracts being privatised and limited to Bath. More on that from Cllr Moss

Eleanor Jackson.

(Lab. Westfield, Westfield Parish Council, Chair: Christians Together in
Radstock & Westfield)