



Since the last newsletter, no further news on the impact of the financial crisis at Somerset Council has been received. It is clear by the number of redundancies at Somerset Council, and response to issues, that we are experiencing the fallout. This means we are paying for services that are not our responsibility; as our income is limited (approximately one fifth of CCTC), difficult choices on spending must be made. This council has prioritised the health and safety of our residents.

Somerset has double the national average of road fatalities and we are regularly contacted by residents reporting safety issues with the A371. In response we have formed a group to investigate and lobby for safety improvements on this road. Anyone wishing to contribute to this, please contact our clerk. A representative from CCTC will also be invited. An urgent concern is poor lighting, signage and broken lights on the crossing outside of Ansford School. An upgrade of this is required, but it will cost several thousand pounds and Somerset Highways state no funds are available. Councillors have witnessed near misses, particularly at the end of the school day. We are considering commissioning these works from Somerset, at our cost. A new crossing at Station Road was part of a S106 agreement with developers. Currently, the developers have not been held to this agreement by Somerset Council and we are lobbying our district representatives that this obligation be fulfilled.

Overgrown footpaths and pavements continue to cause problems, pedestrians are struggling to use the pavements along Station Road and the A371. We have undertaken a cutback of all main routes, including the station footpath. These will be regularly managed by APC, with other footpaths, throughout the growing season. This should be the responsibility of Somerset Highways.

We have approached Somerset Council to take over the ownership of the football pitch beside Caryford Hall. With the closure of the gym and the unavailability of the tennis courts, we hope to develop some facilities beside the football pitch for residents of Ansford and Castle Cary.

There has been discussion after we proposed stopping home delivery of the newsletter to CCTC. We have received emails in support and opposition, and APC continue to support hardcopies being available in town, as well as reading online. For all the reasons outlined, this was to save on costs, afford vital works and keep increase in the precept to you, to a minimum. With a cost-of-living crisis, we felt it was unfair on households to do otherwise. What was proposed was typical of other parishes where home delivery is by subscription only (e.g. Bruton). Further consultation is required, and we ask you to contact our clerk by email ([clerk@ansford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ansford-pc.gov.uk)), with your full name and address, if you wish to maintain the existing arrangements.

Finally, we welcome our new councillor Michelle Maxted who is a resident of the new developments in Station Road and will bring that representation to our council.

Enjoy your summer  
Ansford Parish Council