

Annual Report for 2019 / 20 from SDDC for Dalbury Lees Parish

A busy year with an even busier time during the pandemic. SDDC has a very firm financial foundation and this has underpinned our ability to keep front line services going during these difficult times. Most notably the refuse collecting services where staff have risen to the challenges of social distancing. We have been administering grants and loans to businesses throughout our district and coordinating community support groups.

We have purchased new machinery recently to assist with maintaining our street scene, we have commenced a wildflower planting programme with trial sites around the District, we have a community fund of £250k available for environmental projects for parish councils and we have continued all of our core services throughout the recent lockdown. This includes planning of which I am Chairman.

Consultation on the newly emerging local plan process has made a gentle start with an initial call for sites. These will be assessed and developed into an issues and options consultation paper later in the year.

Planning applications are beginning to lessen over the last few months as the construction industry has shut down and is only just beginning to wake up this week. Taylor Wimpey and Bellway Homes are back on site from this week. Planning determinations have continued under delegated powers and a planning committee meeting is planned for the next few weeks to determine the more complex applications.

We have a new Head of Planning who will be starting in the post on 6 July, replacing Tony Sylvester.

How the pandemic will affect District Council finances, loss of income through business rates, council tax and our services is yet to be fully assessed but we are a prudent council with a strong financial base. I am confident our frontline services will be sustained and developed to the public. Our emphasis is that the environment should be at the heart of decision making across the whole of our service provision and this is reflected in our corporate plan, which, while you might find it rather tedious reading, gives a clear sense of direction and sets out our objectives in representing you, the residents.

Best wishes,

SDDC Councillor Lisa Brown