

County Councillor's Brief for Town & Parish Councils



South Petherton and Islemoor
Division

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92

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HEADLINES

- **Super Fast Broadband.** New digital maps for the Connecting Devon and Somerset website. The Connecting Devon and Somerset team has developed a set of new digital maps for their website, which will enable users to more easily search for information on the deployment of fibre broadband at a District and Parliamentary Constituency level. See: www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/further-information/information-for-districts-and-parishes/
- **Schools Funding.** Nearly £20million of capital investment has been agreed to build, expand and renew Somerset schools and settings for young children in 2015-16. Included are: £6.5million for a new primary school in Yeovil, over £6.5million for new classrooms at existing schools, such as South Petherton, and £5million for schools' and children's centres structural repairs and maintenance and a dining hall at the Merriott First School. Wincanton Primary School is to expand to meet a rising demand for school places. The proposals would see around £5m invested to secure nearby land and build eight new classrooms.
- **South Petherton School gets new classroom extension project.** Worth £286,000 a single class extension will be constructed and equipped this summer by the Kier Construction Group. Work is due to start on 8th June and complete in late August 2015.
- **£5m plan to expand Wincanton primary school** Major plans to There is still some way to go, but hopefully the new classrooms will be open for September 2017.
- **Promoting early learning among vulnerable.** Somerset County Council's work in helping vulnerable children access free early learning has been recognised at a national level for the second time in 12 months, placing it in the top ten LAs.
- **The County vision for Somerset:** "People in Somerset will remain independent for as long as possible because we help their families and communities give them the support they need to reduce the risk of them losing their independence."

- **Peer Review.** Somerset County Council welcomes a report into its strengths and areas for improvement following a review by the Local Government Association.
- **The Care Act is here** The Care Act reforms were official from 1st April 2015 and people in Somerset are set to benefit from the changes.
- **“Smokefreelife”** Somerset service Smokers in Somerset looking to quit now have a wider range of free support on offer. Throw out the habit with new stop smoking service
- **Glowing Ofsted result for ‘turn-around’ Taunton nursery.** A fantastic turn-around for Circles Nursery, which has been given a ‘Good’ rating by Ofsted just six months after “inspirational” staff began work to turn it around. Glowing Ofsted result for ‘turn-around’ Taunton nursery.
- **A major road building scheme in Taunton enters next phase.** The improvements are in progress for the Northern Inner Distributor Road (NIDR), a multi-million pound project commissioned by Somerset County Council to provide a link from Priory Avenue to Staplegrove Road, easing congestion in the town centre and on Priorswood Road.