

**Chairman of Somerset County Council
and Member for the Dunster Division**

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Withycombe Parish Council Annual Report

It always gives me great pleasure to take the opportunity to thank the parish council for all their hard work. Our new chairman has settled in well and is leading the parish council well and with great enthusiasm and style. Our clerk continues to offer good guidance and has a wealth of very useful knowledge.

I am delighted that work on Titholes is beginning to take shape. Hopefully the new build will be commencing soon with the children's' playgroup following soon after.

I am very sorry that homes are still experiencing damage due to large lorries accessing the village, with parked cars often restricting access this is not helping this situation. Lorries should always use the one way system that is approved. I will do all I can to further monitor the situation.

Winter flooding continues to be a problem in many of our villages, therefore the parish council and I will continue to monitor drains, gullies and field run off and report any incidents to the highways department.

This is a very special year for our Queen who will celebrate her 90th Birthday on the 11th & 12th June 2016. Her majesty requests that communities large and small celebrate this special weekend with a street fair or parties in the park wherever they can. I am very happy to give advice or help should any of my parishes require it.

At County Hall, we shall continue to check our budgets and keep within our limits. The government has given us £2.9 million more this year and along with our leader John Osman, I shall continue to request further financial support for our rural areas due to the increased costs involved in delivering services to these areas.

I am pleased that broadband continues to roll out across West Somerset, Exmoor National Park and West Somerset Council, and joining with SCC to ensure that as many properties within the locality have access to this facility.

Christine Lawrence
Chairman of Somerset County Council