

Council – 08 November 2022

This report is written at a time of change at Station 18 in Weston-super-Mare which is part of Avon and Rescue and as such is involved in the service the best in the community when resources are stretched, when fire fighters\ crew are under pressure to do more than expected.

The good news is that there are few station-based causes for complaint at the moment: improvement in the dormitories movement, in provision for adequate protective equipment for hovercraft pilots, although this can seem fragile. The pigeon issue was causing upset last year but has been largely forgotten.

Complaints coming from Weston-super-Mare Station are mainly about time to fix issues in the past.

I am pleased to report there are not any real current issues with the current state of affairs. Crews appear to be content with the current state of affairs on station. Therefore, nothing serious to report.

Primary appliances need a crew of 5 including An Entry Control Officer who is a crucial part in maintaining the safety of Breathing Apparatus wearers in a fire. Where they keep riding 4 and 4, instead of 5 and 4, there is a reduction in safety. It is understood there are limitations in training capacity and there is a shortage of fire fighters. It is accepted it will take time to rectify.

On the 23rd of August we held an 'Emergency Service' event in St Georges with fire engine and hovercraft in attendance - together with the police. Unfortunately, the ambulance crew had covid and could not attend. Avon Fire and Rescue were delighted to say that community Avon Fire and Rescue were committed to their community. The event was a great success with in attendance face painters who were very successful and a cake stall which sold out.

Avon fire and rescue Station 18 and crew should be commended. I am delighted to be part of the team.

I commend this report to the Council.

Councillor Ruth Jacobs

After the Avon Fire Authority meeting on 5th October at Keynsham, the following was appended to Cllr Jacobs's report by Cllr Davies:

1. appointment of new Assistant Chief Fire Officer Richard Welch who was previously Deputy Assistant Commissioner for South East Area Operations at London Fire Brigade.
2. ongoing issues remain for pensions from McCloud Sargeant court case, with Fire Authority in somewhat a situation of limbo until central government introduces new legislation to amend previous changes to fire pensions.