

County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date: 4th November 2024
Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington
(incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)
South Hams District Councillor for Dartington & Staverton
SHDC Executive Portfolio Councillor for Waste and Composting

Devon County Council (DCC): key issues

Local Highways matters

South Hams Highways & Traffic Orders Committee – meeting Thurs 7th November. 10.30am at Follaton House.

Agenda items:

- Stopping up of public highway. Forder Lane, Dartington
- Outcome of Site visit at Pkymouth Road, Weston Bypass junction, Totnes – verbal update
- Approach to inclusive Design (report in response to my questioning this at Full Council last February)
- Bus Users and Stakeholders (BUS) Forum
- Petitions / Parking Policy Reviews
- Actions Taken under delegated powers (Installation of Zebra Crossing at Harbertonford)

Agenda and reports pack at this link:

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/g5015/Public%20reports%20pack%2007th-Nov-2024%2010.30%20South%20Hams%20Highways%20and%20Traffic%20Orders%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

Local Councillors can request to speak at this meeting on agenda items by contacting the clerk to the committee: at least 24 hours in advance: 01392-381362 fred.whitehouse@devon.gov.uk

Approval of applications for 20mph roads and zones – Totnes has scored 12 and is one of the top four areas that are being investigated to go forward for funding in 2025/26 budgets. A further 8 with lower scores are also going forward, but no others are in this county division

Green Travel Plans for schools: Unfortunately I have not been able to progress the Green Travel Plan work I started earlier this year. I am awaiting the report of the survey conducted by St John's School, Bridgetown, which they have also given permission for this to be shared with the Grove, as both schools have similar issues. I am hoping to expand this work to the other schools in my division, utilising each schools work to share and network the schools for safety improvements

Travel issues at Shinner's Bridge: There was considerable upset for school pupils trying access busses at Shinner's Bridge in the third week of October due to road works being carried out by BT across the junction. I followed up on the complaints and concerns raised by parents and carers, where they considered that the children's safety was not being adequately addressed during the busy rush hours. DCC highways coordination are looking into this.

Applications for safer Active travel Routes: Site visits with DCC Officer 04.11.124

Bridgetown Hill – Request for pedestrian crossing to enable safe access to bus stops near Blackpost Lane:

This morning I met with a senior Highways Officer, the Team Leader of Highways and Transportation Planning at the top of Bridgetown Hill. On the way I timed myself walking up from the pedestrian crossing (with traffic lights) just below Coldharbour up to the junction with Blackpost lane. I was doing a fair pace, it took 6 minutes.

The officer agreed that installation of pedestrian lights would be a benefit to safely crossing the road and to increase access to the bus stops on either side. He said it could cost £200,000 (average estimate). He dismissed the idea of a roundabout due to visibility and the proximity of the offset junction. He also dismissed the option of a mid-way refuge or a mini-roundabout as the road is too busy and too narrow. I explained that there had been many requests to me for pedestrian crossing at this location, in particular since the busses (Stagecoach in particular) had changed and reduced their routes mainly out of the residential roads of Bridgetown that they

had previously served. I also pointed out that this location is within the Totnes AQMA (Air Quality Management Action) plan area and that to date no investment or funding had been used to address the emissions problem.

He explained that this location would score well as it is a busy A road and services school children. He also suggested that we might consider a Welcome to Totnes 'Gateway' above this location where the speed limit drops to 30mph to remind drivers to slow down and have a greater visual impact.

This proposal will now go forward for consideration by the officer's team.

Plymouth Road junction with Weston Bypass – follow up on site meeting with HATOC Committee: I asked the same engineer this morning to accompany me further to give me his views on this request for pedestrian lights. He agreed that pedestrian access from the public footpath from Paige Adams and Follaton is not served and that access to the town and bus stops from this location is limited. He agreed that pedestrian lights would enable school children with safer access to walk to school and also provide useful audible signals to persons with a disability to enable them to cross this road. He also agreed that the footpath on the upper side of Plymouth Road is very narrow and potentially dangerous for high volumes of pedestrians or those with limited access.

He examined the area and found that there are metal covers in situ over what are probably electric junction boxes for these lights both on the lower side refuge on the A381 and the inside corner pavement where the crossing lights would need to be installed. He considered that the preparatory wiring for pedestrian lights might already be in place since the recent maintenance works at this junction. This could massively reduce any costs for additional pedestrian lights as requested, since there would be less reason for any road closure or installation of additional wiring routes. Again, I mentioned the relevance to the AQMA and lack of funding to address or reduce traffic. This location carries a lot of local school trips for safe access. The forthcoming Baltic Wharf application could be considered for 106 funding for these AQMA measures.

I'll report this into the HATOC meeting on Thursday.

Huxhams Cross, Dartington. A384 – request for a pedestrian crossing to link bus stops and public foot paths. The officer had checked this on the way into this morning's meeting and considered the location too difficult and too dangerous to install an pedestrian crossing. I asked whether a crossing could be installed at the highest part, i.e. top of the ridge, perhaps one with the exaggerated arrows on the flanks that slows drivers...but apparently this would be too close to the A384 road junctions with Rattery and Staverton.

Puddaven Terrace, Dartington A385. dangerous very narrow pavement. Needs some redesign to create a safe footpath access to the houses. The new Transition Homes development at Clay Lane is about to commence. I asked whether there was any possibility of some road safety improvements as part of this. The answer was no. Very disappointing.

Totnes & District Traffic and Transport Forum meeting and Steering Group meeting. 30.10.24 This group now includes representatives from Dartington, Staverton and Littlehempston. The meeting covered a number of items already reported on this paper. Gemma Briscoe who has led the South Hams LCWIL investigating cycle path options locally attended and the cycle paths, including the Littlehempston Cycle path were discussed. On the latter there has been considerable local pressure applied to retain the route as part of the current planning application for South West Water's solar array plans at Littlehempston. This is the application reference:2929/23/FUL. There was also discussion of meeting with the local MP in the near future to raise some of these matters, both local and regionally strategic.

Meeting with Totnes Diversity and Inclusivity Group. 31.10.24. The South Hams Highways & Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) meeting this week was discussed, in particular the **Approach to Inclusive Design report**, which was considered very disappointing. Councillor members of the group will be attending and addressing the committee.

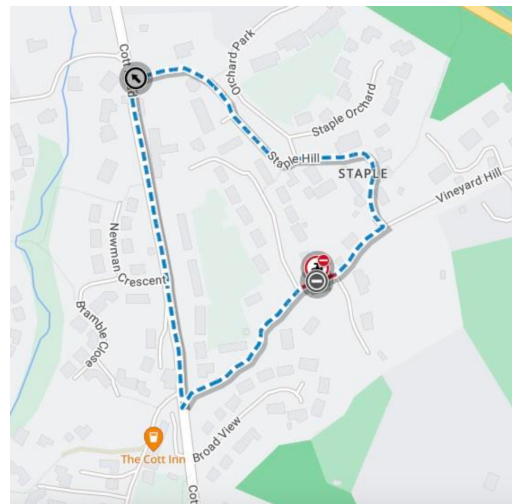
It was reported that **Google Maps are still sending drivers up through the High Street**, even though it is an access only route. I agreed to ask DCC Officers to report this and have it changed.

Totnes Old Bridge – proposal for one-way going West to East only (i.e. away from the town centre) could prevent traffic coming down through Totnes town centre from Bridgetown Hill directly and enable the footpaths to be safer for all users. I raised this today with the DCC Officer who agreed this could be an interesting and safer option. But said no more. I will raise this further as some investigative was carried out by the Totnes Transport Community Board back in 2010, which included surveys that would still be relevant

TRAFFIC ORDERS & Restrictions

Temporary Traffic Notice - ROAD FROM COTT CROSS TO THE QUEENS ARMS, Dartington (TTRO2560103)

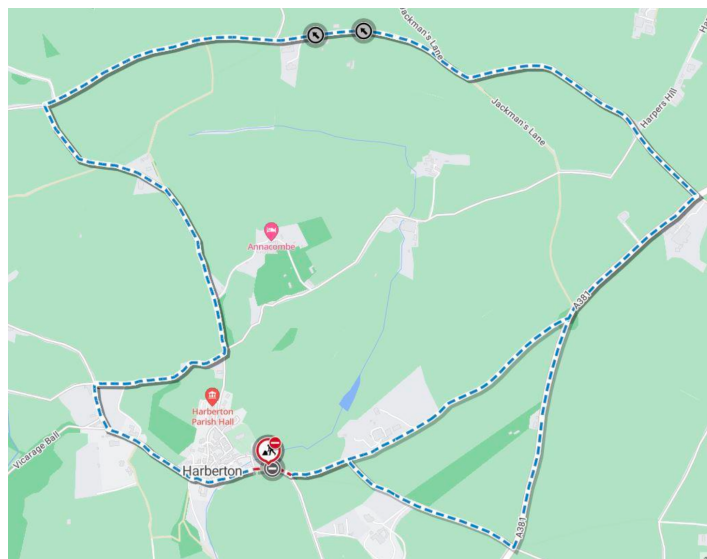
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC
 DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Until WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2025 (both dates inclusive). No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - ROAD FROM COTT CROSS TO THE QUEENS ARMS, DARTINGTON The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via ROAD FROM COTT CROSS TO THE QUEENS ARMS, COTT ROAD TO STAPLE, STAPLE HILL, COTT ROAD, ROAD FROM COTT CROSS TO THE QUEENS ARMS AND VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - DIG OUT AND EXCHANGE METER AND STOP TAP
 For additional information contact: KIER ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST WATER Telephone: 01726 224400



Upcoming drainage works in Harberton

TTRO2459043 TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC & PARKING. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2024 for a maximum of 5 days. Until FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2024 (both dates inclusive), No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed or wait on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - LEIGH BRIDGE TO BROADPARK STILE, HARBERTON

The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via -
 DIVERSION 1: MILL CROSS TO TRISTFORD FARM, MILL CROSS TO GILLS CROSS, COPPERTHORNE CROSS TO GILLS CROSS, ROAD FROM BLAKEMORE CROSS TO COPPERTHORNE CROSS, GREEN LANE TO NORTH OF COPPERTHORNE CROSS, ROAD FROM BOWDEN PILLARS PAST TRISTFORD CROSS, A381, FORDBARN CROSS TO PEAK CROSS, ROAD FROM BROADPARK STILE CROSS TO FORDBARN CROSS, DIVERSION 2: ROAD FROM BROADPARK STILE CROSS TO FORDBARN CROSS, FORDBARN CROSS TO LANGRIDGE CROSS, A381, ROAD FROM BOWDEN PILLARS PAST TRISTFORD CROSS, GREEN LANE TO NORTH OF COPPERTHORNE CROSS, ROAD FROM BLAKEMORE CROSS TO COPPERTHORNE CROSS, COPPERTHORNE CROSS TO GILLS CROSS, MILL CROSS TO GILLS CROSS, MILL CROSS TO TRISTFORD FARM.



ROAD FROM BROADPARK STILE CROSS TO FORDBARN CROSS, DIVERSION 2: ROAD FROM BROADPARK STILE CROSS TO FORDBARN CROSS, FORDBARN CROSS TO LANGRIDGE CROSS, A381, ROAD FROM BOWDEN PILLARS PAST TRISTFORD CROSS, GREEN LANE TO NORTH OF COPPERTHORNE CROSS, ROAD FROM BLAKEMORE CROSS TO COPPERTHORNE CROSS, COPPERTHORNE CROSS TO GILLS CROSS, MILL CROSS TO GILLS CROSS, MILL CROSS TO TRISTFORD FARM.

This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - DRAINAGE WORKS. For additional information contact: MILESTONE INFRASTRUCTURE Telephone: 0203 307 7858

Harberton & Harbertonford – addressing Flood Risk public meeting. Thursday 14th November 4pm – 8pm at Harberton Parish Hall. TBC The meeting will have Devon County Council Flood Risk Team and officers from the Environment Agency. Officers from both DCC and the EA will attend to assure residents that they are a priority and that investigations are ongoing and also to provide guidance and an update on what has been achieved to date. This will be an opportunity for local residents to find out what emergency plans are in place and how they can be supported during extreme weather conditions that could otherwise lead to a repeat of the flooding of last September that caused such devastation in this area. All welcome.

Other local Highways matters:

The damaged pillar at the corner of Weston By-pass / Plymouth Road has been rebuilt and to SHDC Conservation officer requirements. Local residents seem generally very pleased with the result.

Swallowfields Residents parking scheme meeting 28.10.24. I hosted a meeting with residents to discuss the outcomes of the recent DCC public survey. This was considerably different to the previous survey I conducted in September 2020 which had been very positive for a resident's parking scheme. The meeting was well attended with residents from both parts of Swallowfields, plus Riverside and dirtside in attendance. It was clear that despite the informal community consultations and discussions that had taken place over the past 6-8 weeks, no consensus had been achieved, not was it at this meeting. I proposed that a six month pause while perhaps other ideas which has been proposed at the meeting, including a community request to KEVICs to make their Elmhurst site car park available for paid parking, could be explored. A straw poll showed this to have almost unanimous support, so there will not a proposal going to South Hams HATOC this week, and there will be a interim reconvening to see what has been progressed in three months time.

DCC Leader - Cllr McInnes Autumn briefings to Town & Parish Councils - South Hams

Cllr James McInnes will be meeting with Town and Parish Councils to discuss the County Council's priorities, budget and current issues and this year are in person only. A member of SLT will join each meeting. Details for South Hams as follows:

Date	District	Venue
Thursday 14 November 2024 6-8pm	South Hams	The Watermark Erme Court Leonards Road Ivybridge PL21 0SZ

Totnes: Totnes Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th November at 6.30pm. Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm at Totnes Climate Hub. This meeting will discuss ideas for projects that could be suitable for the South Hams Climate Emergency and Nature Festival 12-22nd June 2025. There will also be an update on the community composting project for Totnes. All welcome.

Totnes Community Compost project: A new group has been established to support the process of bringing this to fruition. The group will be meeting on Wednesday 6th November at Bridgetown Community Hall.

REMINDER 2 Transport Strategy consultations: (see my October report for fuller details)

(1) Consultation on the draft Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan

Have Your Say: The consultation will take place between 1st October and 30th November 2024. During this time, we will be inviting people to submit their views through an online questionnaire, which can be found on the [Transport and roads Archives - Have Your Say \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/transport-and-roads-archives) webpage.

If you would rather provide a written response by email, then please send this to transportplanning@devon.gov.uk Printed versions of the draft Local Transport Plan document, other supplementary materials, and the feedback questionnaire will also be available in all libraries in Devon and Torbay from 1st October 2024.

Webinars: 18 November 4-5pm - <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/28d02db2-1e03-407a-bb5c-d5fd105d51c8@8da13783-cb68-443f-bb4b-997f77fd5bfb>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing transportplanning@devon.gov.uk
Transport Planning Team Devon County Council

(2) Devon Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Public Consultation from 1 October until 30 November 2024. 10 routes for improvement are proposed as part of the LCWIP:

- Route 1: Tarka Trail (Knowle to Willingcott)
- Route 2: Ruby Way (Holsworthy to Hatherleigh)
- Route 3: Clearbrook to Roborough
- Route 4: Yealmpton to Newton Ferrers
- Route 5: Ashburton to Buckfastleigh
- Route 6: Boniface Trail
- Route 7: Teign Estuary Trail
- Route 8: Otter Trail
- Route 9: Sidbury to Sidford
- Route 10: Beer to Axminster and Uplyme

The current engagement period is a chance for the public and stakeholders to feedback on the proposed routes and propose alternative routes for consideration. Full details about the engagement process, and all of the proposals, will be available on DCC website: www.devon.cc/devon-lcwip

DCC would like to speak to stakeholders who may have a particular interest in the LCWIP or a route within it. **If you would like to speak to our project team about the LCWIP, please get in touch and we can arrange a meeting at a time that suits you.** If you wish to comment on proposals, please contact us before the closing date by completing the questionnaire available on our website, by writing to the below address, or by emailing us at transportplanning@devon.gov.uk.

Transport Planning Team, Devon County Council, Transport Planning, 01392 38 2690

I attended the webinar on 30.10.24, the slides presented are attached with this report

Peninsula Transport Shadow Sub National Transport Body meeting 3.10.24. (local interest has been expressed about these meetings)

Issues discussed included:

- Strategic Implementation Plan– where the short term priorities were formally approved
- Easier Journeys – Rural mobility prospectus (Coach action plan, expansion of Devon & Cornwall Rail card, rail going electric
- Freight workstream – considering new freight to rail opportunities / pilot schemes
- Peninsula Transport Update
- EV Forum & Action Plan
- Peninsula Rail update (impact of HS2, Rail reform and decarbonisation)

The Easier Journeys and rural mobility item in the reports pack might be of interest for this rural area,

Links to the agenda reports pack:

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/g5139/Public%20reports%20pack%2003rd-Oct-2024%2010.00%20Peninsula%20Transport%20Shadow%20Sub%20National%20Transport%20Body.pdf?T=10>

and the minutes of this meeting:

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/g5139/Printed%20minutes%2003rd-Oct-2024%2010.00%20Peninsula%20Transport%20Shadow%20Sub%20National%20Transport%20Body.pdf?T=1>

