

County Councillor's Monthly Report

Councillor: **Robert Vint.**

Report for: **9th January 2017**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN DEVON & SOMERSET

My motion calling on references to the need for affordable housing to be added to the housing policy in the 'Heart Of The South West Devolution Prospectus' was finally backed by the County Council on the 8th Dec – after my initial motion was rejected by the Conservatives at the Council meeting on the 6th Oct and at the Cabinet on the 9th Nov. The final decision is minuted as follows:

72. Affordable Housing and the HOTSW Devolution Prospectus (Minute 59 of 6 October 2016)

Pursuant to County Council Minute 59 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Vint that:

'That this Council calls for references for the need for affordable housing to be added to the housing sections of the HOTSW Devolution Prospectus'

and notwithstanding the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 104(d) of 9 November 2016: Councillor Hart indicated his willingness to accept the further amendment in the name of Councillor Vint and **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED** that, as the Heart of the South West Partnership's "Prospectus for Productivity" is a high level strategic framework document with links to statutory local plans for each District Council the document should reflect the high priority given to affordable housing by all participating councils."

I have therefore now submitted the following question to the Cabinet:

"May I thank the Leader for supporting my Motion on Affordable Housing at the Council meeting of 8th December and ask *how* and *where* the Council proposes that references to the need for affordable housing will be added to the Devolution Prospectus and *how* this matter will be raised with other members of the 'Heart of the South West Partnership'"

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT PARKERS BARN.

Following the decision by DCC to sell the Parker's Barn site I have been seeking assurance from both the County and District Councils that this site will be used to provide affordable housing for local people. If agreed, this should reduce the pressure for housing to be allocated elsewhere in Totnes in the JLP. I have also asked both Councils for assurance that the opportunity to provide vehicle access in and out of the Riverside / 'Camomile Lawn' site via this site is not missed.

RESURFACING OF THE LAMB

DCC have announced that SouthWest Highways will be resurfacing the Lamb and that the road will be closed for through traffic and parking from Mon 2nd-Fri 6th January. This work includes replacement of the highly damaged brick surface in the Lamb with tarmac. I have pointed out that this does not accord with the original S106 agreement with Midas for the Southern Area development or subsequent proposals which included traffic calming measures including use of a textured / imprinted surface in the Lamb and Leechwell Street and a preferred crossing point across the Lamb at the Leechwell St junction. The Traffic & Transport Forum have backed my request for these features. The proposed work also does not include repair of the pavement in front of the REconomy Centre which has been requested repeatedly over the last 10 years. Resurfacing the road with a plain surface does not prevent subsequent texturing / imprinting of that surface or the subsequent installation of a preferred crossing point so I see no need to halt the current work. As

SHDC are responsible for overseeing S106 agreements with developers I have also asked them to investigate the original agreement in the hope that these features can still be added at a future date.

FOLLATON FARM & PLYMOUTH ROAD FOOTPATH

The far end of Plymouth Road still has no pavement and remains very dangerous for residents. I have been pressing for improvements for the last 10 years. While I have obtained improvements to the road markings and speed signs on this stretch of road the main remaining challenge is the extension of the pavement. There is now an opportunity to extend the pavement that currently runs from Follaton House in from of the Follaton Oak development further along towards Follaton Lodge. I have proposed to both DCC and SHDC that such a path be incorporated into the proposed development at Follaton Farm but this has not yet appeared in the proposals. [I had also requested that a VAS (Vehicle Activated Speed Sign) is located beyond Follaton Lodge to slow incoming traffic – and had offered to pay for such a sign – but DCC say that they first need to monitor the speed of traffic to confirm the need for such a sign. I do not believe that any such monitoring has yet happened.]

FUTURE OF HEALTH SERVICES IN DEVON

Two key motions proposed by opposition councillors were unanimously supported by the Council on the 8th Dec in recorded votes following a long campaign and speeches from campaigners:

1. Proposed Cuts to Devon Health Services and Impacts on Patients (Councillor Biederman, Independent)

‘This Council is deeply concerned about the impact the proposed cuts to Devon health services will have on patients – especially the loss of whole departments including maternity services at North Devon District Hospital - and massive reduction in acute and community hospital beds across Devon, as set out in the sustainable transformation plan.

This Council also recognises that Governments have not provided the NHS with a fair level of funding and now calls on local MPs to lobby government ministers to urgently and significantly increase the level of funding to the NHS, in order to protect our precious health services for current and future generations’.

2. NHS Success Regime (Councillor Greenslade, LibDem)

‘County Council believes that the NHS Success Regime project for Devon is now flawed and accordingly asks the Secretary of State for Health and NHS England to put the process on hold, until issues relating to the ‘independence’ of the Success Regime are investigated and for fair funding to be considered]. County Council further calls on Government and NHS England to firstly address the issue of fair funding for our area and to ensure the general election promise of an extra £8 billion of funding for the NHS is taken into account when assessing the claimed deficit for Devon NHS services. Until funding issues are addressed it is not possible to decide whether or not there is a local NHS budget deficit to be addressed. Unnecessary cuts to local NHS budgets must be avoided! Devon MP’s be asked to support this approach to protecting Devon NHS services’.

DCC ENERGY POLICY UPDATE.

Last year I was part of a Working Group that produced an Energy Report that recommended a wide range of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in County Council buildings and on County Council land. This report was approved and adopted by the Council but little has happened since then. I have asked for a review / progress report at the next Place Scrutiny Committee meeting.

District Councillor's Monthly Report

Councillor: **Robert Vint.**

Report for: **9th January 2017**

MOTION ON SECOND HOMES

My Motion, seconded by Cllr John Birch, that:

“Council notes the ruling of the High Court (Case No:CO/2241/2016) in support of a housing policy known as ‘H2. Full Time Principal Residence Requirement’ as set out in St Ives Area Neighbourhood Development Plan and which provides that: ‘New second homes and holiday lets will not be permitted at any time..’ and supports (~~and encourage~~) Town and Parish Councils within the South Hams District to adopt similar policies in their own Neighbourhood Development Plans.”

was supported by the full council - though the Conservatives insisted on the removal of the phrase “and encourage”.

Following the County Council's support of my motion calling for references to the need for affordable housing to be added to the Devolution Prospectus for Devon & Somerset (see above) I have now asked the District Council to support the County Council's position on this and have encouraged colleagues on other District Councils across Devon to support similar motions on Second Homes and on Affordable Housing in the hope that we can significantly shift the housing policies for Devon & Somerset in favour of the needs of low income local families rather than the profit of developers.

CHICKEN RUN WORK

After I alerted SHDC to concerns about excessive tree felling & vegetation clearance in the Chicken Run this work was halted and a site visit was arranged. I asked that the Town Council's new tree wardens be invited to attend. The site visit on the 12th Dec was well attended by District and Town Councillors. It was generally agreed that the work had been excessive and that consultation had been inadequate. Damage has already been done but hopefully damage to the remaining area has been halted. SHDC officers are now consulting prior to further 'landscape management'.

RESURFACING OF THE LAMB. [See DCC report above.]

SHDC officers are now investigating the S106 policy and discussing this work with DCC.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT PARKERS BARN. [See DCC report above.]

SHDC officers assure me that they are now in discussion with DCC about the future use of this site and its possible use for affordable housing. They think that 100% affordable may not be possible but I am hoping that a high percentage of affordable housing on this site is still an option.

FOLLATON FARM & PLYMOUTH ROAD FOOTPATH [See DCC report above.]

I have reminded SHDC of the need for the pavement that runs from Follaton House in front of the Follaton Oak development to be extended as far as possible towards Follaton Lodge to reduce the significant danger faced by residents living in the houses opposite who currently have no pavement. The current proposals for new housing at Follaton Farm still do not include any proposal for extending the footpath.

T3 TOTNES CENTRAL AREA AND THE JOINT LOCAL PLAN

Following a complex debate at the Council meeting on the 15th December the following motion was approved:

"This Council appreciates support from the Council's officers to consider the Market Square in Totnes as a non-designated heritage asset and further the Council supports the work being done to designate Leechwell Garden as a public open space. For this reason, the two areas will remain in the Local Plan. Further, the Grove School site and all remaining sites in the Totnes Central Area will be removed from the Joint Local Plan"

Whilst I am in support of the overall intention of this motion, it was not announced in advance of the meeting so the local councillors did not have an opportunity to ask detailed questions or to propose improvements so I think it has some flaws. We were assured that the *only* reason for keeping the Market Square in the JLP is to designate it as a “*non-designated* heritage asset” (can you ‘designate’ a ‘non-designated asset’?) and the only reason for keeping Leechwell Garden in the JLP is to designate it as a ‘public open space’ (by which I think they mean a ‘Local Green Space’). I am not clear that designation of these assets depends upon them being in the Joint Local Plan as such designation can, and will, be provided through the Neighbourhood Plan. I already have the agreement of the Neighbourhood Plan group to support a detailed proposal for Leechwell Garden to be designated as a Local Green Space.

I was also concerned by the refusal to remove the proposal for 70 houses to be built in the T3 area. The Council’s reasons for refusing to remove this figure (in response to repeated questions) were very unclear as the T3 site (as proposed in the draft JLP in August) could never have accommodated 70 dwellings (as pointed out by the responses of the Neighbourhood Plan group and TotSoc) and the wording of the motion (above) now makes it totally impossible to do so. The problem with keeping this fantasy figure in the JLP is that if this number of dwellings are not built here they may have to be built elsewhere. We should not be providing an opportunity for this false logic to be used to justify building an extra 70 houses elsewhere in Totnes in addition to those already planned.

MARKET SQUARE ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE NOMINATION

I proposed several months ago that the Town Council nominate the whole of the Market Square (front and back) as an Asset of Community Value. As the Town Council’s lease agreement with SHDC for the Civic Hall indicates, the Town Council already has unrestricted access rights across this entire area until 2082. I have now worked with Town Council officers to finalise and submit this nomination to SHDC (copies available from the office).

TOTNES MARKET TRADERS ASSOCIATION

Having been involved with the creation of the first Market Traders Association six years ago I am delighted that the Association is being revived with the support of the Chamber of Commerce. I have met with traders to pass on the assurances we have obtained from SHDC that there is now no prospect of building on the market square or of the loss of town centre parking spaces. The formation of a Market Traders Association will ensure that traders now have a collective voice in matters relating to the Neighbourhood Plan and tourism and that they have a collective channel of communication with the Town Council and the District Councillors.

Cllr Robert Vint
4th January 2017.

South Hams District Council Sandbag Information

South Hams District Council does have sandbags available, but for residential properties only with a maximum of 10 per property. Sandbags can be collected free of charge from council depots in Totnes, Kingsbridge and Ivybridge, Monday to Friday 08:00 to 16:00 (excluding Bank Holidays). It's worth telephoning 01803 861234 first to check availability and which depot has them in stock.

| Town / Parish Council | Sandbag Information |
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| Ashprington | Residents can access the stock of sandbags kept at the South Hams District Council depot in Totnes. Ashprington Parish Council also has a very small stock of Aqua Sacs. There are only enough for a few houses at Tuckenhay. Further details are available in our Emergency Plan which is posted on the website. |
| Aveton Gifford | Aveton Gifford Parish Council provides a limited supply of sandbags for use in emergency. A new shed will be put up by the drive into the village hall, and some filled sandbags will be stored there. There will also be a smaller store for filled sandbags for the school. South Hams District Council also provide sandbags - contact 01803 861234 for more information. |
| Berry Pomeroy | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Bickleigh | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Bigbury | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Blackawton | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Brixton | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Buckfastleigh West | Buckfastleigh West Parish Council do not have a supply of sandbags, if residents require them they can collect them from South Hams District Council depot at Totnes. |
| Buckland-Tout-Saints | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Charleton | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Chivelstone | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |

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| Churchstow | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Cornworthy | If residents require sandbags they can contact South Hams District Council 01803 861234 for more information. The nearest depot is at Totnes. |
| Dartington | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Dartmouth | Sandbags for Dartmouth are provided by South Hams District Council at their depot in Mayors Avenue. |
| Dean Prior | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Diptford | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Dittisham | Residents can contact Peter Dale on 01803 861278 or peter.dale@southhams.gov.uk for more information about sandbags. The local depot for sandbags is at Dartmouth. |
| East Allington | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| East Portlemouth | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Ermington | Ermington parishioners are entitled to 10 filled sandbags per household. These are provided free of charge and can be collected from South Hams District Council Depots during working hours at Ivybridge, near the fire station, Totnes at Babbage Road Industrial Estate or Tor Quarry, Kingsbridge. |
| Frogmore & Sherford | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Halwell & Moreleigh | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Harberton | Harberton Parish Council has a designated area in the village to use as a sandbag store. Anyone wanting sand bags can contact George Waite on 01803732191 or 01803732465. In an emergency situation, residents should drive to the South Hams District Council Totnes depot and collect them. |
| Harford | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Holbeton | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |

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| Holne | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Ivybridge | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Kingsbridge | Local residents may pick up filled sandbags from South Hams District Council's local depot at Torr Quarry Industrial Estate during opening hours. For more information call 01803 861234. Kingsbridge Town Council is due to receive its own sand hopper, bags, 4 tons of sand for volunteer flood wardens to make up and distribute locally when required. |
| Kingston | A stock of sandbags is held at the local South Hams District Council depot at Torr Quarry. |
| Kingswear | Residents can obtain sandbags from the local South Hams District Council depot at Dartmouth. Residents can contact the Parish Clerk on 07990 590012 for more information. |
| Littlehempston | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Loddiswell | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Malborough | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Marldon | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Modbury | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Newton & Noss | Residents are advised to contact South Hams District Council for sandbags on 01803 861234. The local depot is at Ivybridge. |
| North Huish | The Flood Emergency Plan is currently being developed. The proposal is to have a sand store located at the Avon Inn car park and empty sandbags stored somewhere. |
| Rattery | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Ringmore | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Salcombe | South Hams District Council supplies the sandbags with the nearest depot located at Kingsbridge. Residents can phone 01803 861234 for more information. |

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| Shaugh Prior | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Slapton | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| South Brent | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| South Huish | Residents can contact South Hams District Council regarding sandbags. The local depot is at Kingsbridge. |
| South Milton | Sandbags for South Milton residents are collected by the Parish Clerk (01548 560181) from Torr Quarry based on resident requests. Residents are also free to collect their own. |
| South Pool | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Sparkwell | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Staverton | The Parish Council's Emergency Plan is still in the discussion stage. South Hams District Council provides the sandbags at the Totnes depot. For more information call 01803 861234. |
| Stoke Fleming | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Stoke Gabriel | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Stokenham | Residents can contact South Hams District Council who provides sandbags as none are held in Stokenham. Residents can phone 01803 861234 for more information. |
| Strete | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Thurlestone | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Totnes | South Hams District Council provides the sandbags for Totnes from the local depot. For more information call 01803 861234. |
| Ugborough | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Wembury | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| West Alvington | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for |

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| | more information. |
| Woodleigh | Currently no details available. Please contact individual Parish for more information. |
| Yealmpton | Yealmpton Parish Council's Flood Warden contacts South Hams District Council to confirm that sandbags are available at the Council Depot in Ivybridge (next door to the Recycling Centre) and to find out when the Depot will be open for people to collect sandbags. The information is then passed onto residents at risk from flooding. Residents should ring South Hams District Council to find out about sandbags. |