

Key Issues Devon County Council

Budget Pressures: An update from CEO Phil Norrey. "Against the backdrop of significant funding pressures for local government, DCC Cabinet will consider the latest budget position for the County Council and any proposed savings initiatives that could be taken. While overall the Council is forecast to overspend, we remain in a relatively stable position financially and it is vital that we continue to do all we can to carefully manage our budgets to support the most vulnerable people in Devon. In response to the forecast financial pressures, several measures are being proposed by Leadership Group that could help save the authority just under £5 millions in the remainder of this financial year. These include a two-month delay on recruitment to all non-essential job vacancies, stopping non-essential overtime, and ceasing conference attendance, hospitality and travel allowances, unless externally funded." This is due to be decided on Weds 14th November at DCC Cabinet.

DCC Highways Winter Services survey: The 'Speed Limits' and the 'Highways Winter Service' Scrutiny Task Groups are looking to gauge and collate the views and experiences of communities across Devon on traffic speeds and winter gritting, through a survey to Town and Parish Councils.

The survey is available at this link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gzehjWjLP0S7S5I_d_1b-0d6EYezn3xOqV09Mya0qGxUNTJPRjVYQIBQSkxQMEgyWIBMNFUNK5GVi4u

Dartington Mast

Further to replies I have received from Vodafone and The Secretary of State at Local Government and Communities, both of which refused to consider relocation of the new 10meter mast in the centre of Dartington, I wrote to the DCC Director of Education Services and the DCC Director of Infrastructure and Highways. Meg Booth, the latter person wrote back on behalf of both Directors and informed me that she had personally written to Vodafone to echo the local community's request to relocate the mast. She also supported my request to her for monitoring results of non-ionising radiation from the mast and sent me a copy of the report of monitoring that had been carried out in July this year. She also requested and had it agreed from Vodafone to carry out further monitoring in December '18. Subsequent to this I joined up with the Don't Bury Dartington Under Concrete for a public event at Meadowbrook on Saturday 3rd November to enable residents to view these results. Quite frankly they are very worrying in my view as they indicate a 67% increase in non-ionising radiation at Dartington Village school gate. Proposals for even more housing development in Dartington is pushing the need for more infrastructure including masts and busier roads. (see attach info sheet)

Further to this I have spoken with Dr Sarah Wollaston MP and updated her on these findings. I have asked her for a meeting with her and the Minister for Housing and Planning Kit Malthouse MP with local representatives of the PC and Neighbourhood Plan groups for Dartington & Totnes and myself to consider what is happening to this parish and town in terms of permitted development rights and in terms of the expectation that this area should take 10% of the new housing proposed under the JLP. Democratic rights and the spirit and rights of the Localism Bill are not being adhered to and I would like him to seek his intervention.

Public Consultations; Formal Submissions on Fracking: I made formal submissions to the Shale Gas public consultation on granting Permitted Development Rights to Companies wishing to explore for Share Gas and the similar public consultation on seeking public views of Share Gas Exploration being considered a major infrastructure project (and therefore potentially exempt from regular planning and public consultation obligations). Many residents have contacted me with their concerns regarding shale gas exploration, the associated fracking process and this continued use and support for fossil fuels to provide energy which affects climate change. I expressed these views which I share, in my responses, objected to permitted development rights being given to this process, and asked for fracking to be banned in the UK (as it is in France, Scotland, Ireland etc)

Current open public consultation: Designated Landscapes review. The national review of AONBs and National Parks has a call for evidence running until Tuesday 18th December 2018. Details at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/landscapes-review-call-for-evidence/>

Attendance at meetings etc. as elected public representative:

Thurs 11 th Oct.	DCC 20mph Speed Limit Working Group meeting – presentation from '20 is Plenty'
Fri 12 th Oct.	Skatepark Group meeting at Follaton – to discuss assessment of Tenders to redevelop Skatepark
Sat. 13 th Oct	Joined Anti-fracking protest rally in Totnes – well attended 'Welcome to Dartington' Community event organised by Parish Council
Mon 15 th Oct	Site meeting with DCC Highways Officers & Proud2be to view optional sites for rainbow crossing
Weds 17 th Oct	Devon Community Recycling Network – meeting to discuss actions for reducing plastic waste

Thurs 18 th Oct	SHDC Training for Devon Home Choice Meeting with residents at Nellie's wood regarding Commercial site development
Tues 23 rd Oct	Meeting with developers, planners & residents regarding Nellie's Wood commercial site. The developer has agreed to reconsider his plans for the site and take on board resident's views.
Weds 24 th Oct	Totnes & District Transport & Traffic Forum meeting
Thurs 25 th Oct	Meeting with Totnes resident re: traffic issues
Sat 27 th Oct.	Survey of Residents' parking needs in Gidleys Meadow
Mon 29 th Oct.	Meeting with Proud2be group to discuss options for Rainbow Crossing further to site meeting with Highways Officers.
Tues 30 th Oct.	National Association of Local Councils (NALC) annual conference in Milton Keynes. I attended workshops by the Woodland Trust and a LA presentation on working in Partnership across tiers of Local Government.
Sat 3 rd Nov.	Open public event at Meadowbrook with Don't Bury Dartington Under Concrete about the JLP public consultation and the outcome of the Mast monitoring
Mon 5 th Nov.	Totnes Town Council FC meeting
Thurs 8 th Nov	Community Charter meeting with reps of Dartington Neighbourhood Plan Open event at Market Place Ministries to celebrate successes with their Homeless supports
Fri 9 th Nov	Totnes Skate Park partnership meeting to evaluate tenders for new skatepark Young Devon event to launch new Youth Café at 3 Lower Fore St. Totnes
Mon 12 th Nov	Totnes Skate Park partnership meeting to evaluate tenders for new skatepark (continuation) South Devon Refugee Support Network meeting