

Dear All,

Below is a brief report as requested.

At the Full Council meeting on Feb 11, an extra £200k was allocated to the Climate Change and Biodiversity earmarked reserves. While very welcome I am concerned that this is just moving money from one pot to another. There remains no proper plan on how it should be deployed in my view. I am due to meet with Cllr Judy Pearce (Leader) and others members and officers to discuss some immediate projects this month. I submitted a list of suggestions at the end of last year and received a commitment to discuss.

Also at the Full Council meeting on Feb 11 a paper was presented on improving democracy at the Council. I have submitted 10 proposals that are not addressed in the paper and am due to have meetings with the CEO and Monitoring officer to discuss, before a paper comes to Full Council on 25 March.

Parish Councillors will be aware of some of the important items in the Chancellors budget statement. Of particular interest is the "restart grant" and the "regeneration grant". The "restart grant" will be administered through SHDC and will I believe be hugely important for local businesses. I know of several that I hope will be able to benefit. The "regeneration grant" is of interest for many communities across the area not least Harbertonford's shop and pub issues.

I would like to draw the attention of the Parish council to the approval of the Combe Park application to add units. I believe this an important success and will make a real difference to building a local resilient green economy. During the committee debate it was clear that members were unhappy with aspects of the JLP and these issues need to be addressed. There will be opportunities to change the JLP but this needs to be considered in the context of the proposed changes to the planning system that could overtake any arguments for change.

I had a call from TRAYE, who use the Harbertonford play-park, saying they were worried about the state of it. They use it for sessions with local children and were concerned about the sharp willow sticks lying about. However, having been to have a look I went back to tidy it up and its all been done, thank you Peter ! I was also told that children can get into the fenced-off 'tangle' ? I also noticed that the bin doesn't look like its been emptied in awhile ... I have pursued.

Finally, I would like to mention the accident at the zebra-crossing in Harbertonford. I have received several verbal and one written description about what happened and I have been in touch with the police. The accident was logged, as an ambulance did attend due to a minor injury. I have put all this into a document that I will be sending to Devon Highways and of course to Jacqi and the PC. I believe moving

the zebra-crossing is now under active consideration by DH, but currently this is unlikely to happen until 2022/23, due to budgetary constraints. I am asking that it be pushed up the list of priorities. I believe the traffic levels are likely to increase, due to housing developments either underway or proposed in Dartmouth and Kingsbridge, which can only serve to make the current location even more dangerous.

Can I also mention that it seems that the automated speed sign, when entering the village from the South, is not working. Could the PC take this up with DH please.

Best regards,
John