

Ordinary Meeting of Harberton Parish Council
Tuesday 12th September 2023

8. Correspondence

- 8.1. 20230713 Temporary Traffic Order - East Moore Cross to West Leigh Cross, Harberton *For information* Cllrs are informed of the road closure in place between the dates of 13th – 24th November 2023, to enable Devon County Highways patching works.
- 8.2. 20230719 DALC #31 2023 E-bulletin *For information* Cllrs are informed that this issue included an article introducing a new Housing Commission established by the Devon Housing Task Force, and supported by the University of Exeter. The commission will develop recommendations to start to address the broken housing markets across Devon. People and organisations in Devon can have their say on issues related to housing by responding to a survey. This article has been forwarded to members of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee undertaking redrafts of the housing chapter of the Neighbourhood Plan
- 8.3. 20230719 Devon Air Ambulance Community Landing Site Night Operation Review *For information* Cllrs are informed that Devon Air Ambulance (DAA) has recently completed an extensive review of its night flying operations which has taken into account pilot training, new advances in technology on the aircraft and use of night vision goggles whilst in flight. In consultation with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), DAA has been able to assess the feasibility of landing at Community Landing Sites without the use of lights and have recommended that DAA crews can land at these pre-surveyed sites without using the lights if they wish to.

In due course this will lead to nighttime operations landing at un-surveyed sites but for now DAA's focus is on allowing the crew the flexibility to land at Community Landing Sites without lighting. Effectively very little will change on a day-to-day basis for the Harberton and Harbertonford Community Landing Sites as the network of Community Landing Sites are safe, pre-surveyed sites with established contacts and access for ambulances to meet the aircraft. The only difference is that from Autumn 2023 if a helicopter needs to land at an existing Community Landing Site they may not need to turn the light on but instead land safely using night vision goggles. DAA still need to be informed if the site needs to be taken offline for an event such as a wedding or fair. Lighting columns and systems at the site, which are already owned and managed by local communities can continue to be managed and they can be used for other events if wished (subject to planning restrictions). The Landing Site Manager will still continue to survey the site once a year and the Landing Site team are still available for support if needed.

- 8.4. 20230721 Play Area Agreement letter 2023 Harberton *For information* Cllrs are informed that a letter was received in July indicating that the agreement for the service provided by South Hams District Council to inspect and insure play areas in Harberton and Harbertonford was due for renewal on 1st September 2023. This is an automatic renewal each year as per the agreement the Parish Council signed in 2020. The current service which is subsidised by South Hams District Council includes: Public Liability Insurance in respect of the play equipment and safety surfacing, monthly inspections by qualified South Hams District Council Mobile Locality Officers, plus an annual engineering report (currently by Allianz).
- 8.5. 230804 Temporary Traffic Notice lane from Higher Grove to Lower Ashridge Farm, Harberton *For information* Cllrs are informed of a road closure in place from 23rd November for a maximum of five days between the hours of 9am – 4pm to enable the replacement of a BT pole. There is no possible diversion.
- 8.6. 20230809 Stagecoach Southwest Bus Service Changes for September 2023 *For information* An email has been received with news of a large number of services changes across Devon that will be made to the bus timetable from 1st September 2023. The email commented that the changes are mostly positive as they show signs towards growing the bus network back again, following the service frequency reductions in 2022. The enhancements are funded from the Department for Transport's post COVID recovery grants. All the service improvements have the potential to achieve long term sustainability if patronage increases. The email comments that it is even more important that over the next two years that everyone plays their part to promote bus usage in our communities. Specifically relating to buses operating in the parish, the timetable for Service 92 (Dartmouth to Totnes) is enhanced significantly with the frequency of buses doubled to every hour for much of the day Monday to Saturday. A number of additional early evening journeys will also be introduced, providing later journey opportunities in both directions. Services 7 and 92 will provide an hourly frequency from Exeter to Dartmouth via Newton Abbot, with a guaranteed connection in Totnes. The vast majority of journeys are designed to connect in and out of Service 7 at Totnes.
- 8.7. 20230816 #35 2023 DALC E-bulletin *For information* Cllrs are informed that this issue of the e-bulletin includes
- i. information about a new webpage dedicated to planning available on the National Association of Local Council's website. The page has been developed in order to help local councils in their local engagement with the planning system. You'll find information on local councils' planning powers, case studies highlighting how best to use the planning system to help communities and other valuable resources.

- ii. notice of a new date for the popular 'Responding to Planning Applications' Zoom course on 27th November 2023. The course runs between 6-8pm on Zoom and covers an overview of the planning system, the role of parish councils, how councils should respond to applications including material considerations, and how best to get your communities voice heard.
 - iii. notice of DALC's annual AGM, Conference and Exhibition, to be held at Exeter Racecourse on Wednesday 27th September. Tickets are £45 plus VAT per person.
- 8.8. 20230818 Raising awareness of flash flooding in Harberton *For information* Cllrs are informed of correspondence from the Environment Agency noting that parts of Harberton Parish are one of 76 'Rapid Response Catchments'; places where dangerous flooding can occur from river levels or surface water rising very quickly in response to very heavy rainfall. The Environment Agency would like to work with the Parish Council to raise awareness of this potential hazard with Parishioners and visitors to the area. The Environment Agency has provided posters for display in the area, leaflets for printing or circulating online and an article for a Parish Magazine, newsletter or website. The Clerk will respond to a request from the Environment Agency on whether the Parish has a flood plan, flood group, if the Parish Council is signed up to the flood warning service or Severe Weather Warning Service.
- 8.9. 20230821 Have Your Say on Housing Issues in the South Hams *For consideration.* The Parish Council has been asked to take the opportunity to respond to a survey, launched by the Devon Housing Commission as part of an initiative to tackle the housing crisis. The survey asks about the housing issues faced across the South Hams District, how to solve them and how the commission might be able to help. South Hams District Council's Housing Team has responded to highlight all challenges they have noted, but ask the Parish Council to take the opportunity to have a say on the issues faced in the local community.
- 8.10. 20230823 #36 2023 DALC E-bulletin *For information* Cllrs are informed that this e-bulletin includes news about a recent publication from the Devon Housing Commission calling for new measures on Devon holiday lets. The Commission is keen to hear from a wide variety of organisations, including parish and town councils. They are particularly interested in hearing what you believe might make it easier to deliver the housing needed, and what solutions might be.
- 8.11. 20230829 Invitation to the DALC Annual General Meeting *For consideration* Cllrs are informed of a formal invite to attend the Devon Association of Local Councils AGM taking place on Wednesday 27th September at Exeter Racecourse. An AGM agenda has been provided, which includes presentation of annual reports and accounts for the organisation, a report on emerging priorities for the coming year and proposals on subscription fees for 2024/25, agree the appointment of the board of directors and auditor and agree the draft articles of association. As members of DALC, each council/parish meeting may appoint two representatives to attend and speak at the AGM, but only one may vote. Councils unable to send representatives may use the Form of Proxy to appoint the chairman of the meeting as the Parish Council's representative.
- 8.12. 20230831 20's Plenty for Devon 7th September, 1-2pm, Outside County Hall Exeter *For information* Cllrs were informed that CCllr Jacqui Hodgson has tabled the following motion to be discussed by the County Council at the meeting of 7th September 2023: "*In light of the support for the 'Devon 20's Plenty' campaign, this Council will support the implementation of 20 mph zones where the local Parish Council has passed the 20's Plenty motion.*" The 20's Plenty Campaign sought to encourage individuals to attend a demonstration of support on the steps of County Hall to coincide with the County Council's consideration of the motion. An online survey was also established and circulated a few days prior to the meeting taking place to demonstrate the strength of public support for the motion.
- 8.13. 20230831 Devon County Council Stakeholder Liaison Team *For information* Cllrs are informed that a new Stakeholder Relations Team with Devon County Highways has been set up to liaise between contractors and the public, concentrating on keeping Councillors and Parishes up to date on what is happening in their areas. Parish Councils are used to being emailed about upcoming roadworks that will affect the Parish, but the Stakeholders can provide a more personal touch and are available to discuss any issues or concerns and to help resolve any problems, if at all possible. The team will be responsible for ensuring that any affected properties, businesses, schools, etc will be informed of upcoming works in plenty of time before the start date; liaison with contractors and businesses to try to minimise impact of upcoming works and try to sort out any problems before they arise. Highways already produces Roadworks – Roads and Transport webpages for jobs that it anticipates will generate a lot of customer contact. Now the Stakeholder Liaison Team will begin putting information on social media to raise awareness of annual works such as Gully Cleaning, Re-surfacing etc and when to expect them in different areas.
- 8.14. 20230831 South Hams CVS update and new CEO *For information* Cllrs are informed that an update on the priorities for South Hams CVS had been forwarded by the organisation's new CEO. Having undertaken a survey with organisations working in the district, South Hams CVS will be: adapting its training offer to target the areas of need identified by community groups; recruiting a Fundraising Manager to assist the organisation in building its capacity to meet the needs of the local voluntary sector and to offer training/fundraising advice to our groups; reviewing other roles – in reviewing other roles – in particular community builders, communications and volunteer recruitment – to benefit our South Hams

voluntary and community sector. Alongside this South Hams CVS has a long standing relationship with the Ukrainian Community and is working with the District Council to support the Ukraine Community's health and wellbeing needs. The organisation is now looking at winter resilience in our communities, alongside priority areas around dementia, carers and reducing social isolation with the aim of increasing capacity and training for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. Responses to the recent survey have been provided and can be forwarded to cllrs on request.

- 8.15. 20230901 Rolster Bridge Glamping *For information* Cllrs are informed of observations on the expanding development which is now listed on Air B&B and on Facebook. A YouTube video on Rolster Bridge Quarry shows the original site and how much it has been developed over a short amount of time, with 2 converted shipping containers, a shepherds hut, shower/bathroom, a new bridge, fire pits and fencing.
- 8.16. 20230903 South Hams Cost of Living Briefing *For information* Cllrs and the Clerk are invited to a briefing on the Cost of Living crisis and how it's affecting people in the South Hams on Monday 2 October in the Carey Room, Follaton House, Totnes from 10.30am to 12pm. The programme will include: an overview of the current situation facing households in the district; a detailed look at how people are coping with energy costs, housing and debt levels using the latest Citizens Advice South Hams local statistics; a brief summary from some of the Council's project leaders about work they are doing to address the situation for thousands of people every year and the Council's plans for the near future; new research on the failure of the Local Housing Allowance in the South Hams; and opportunity to ask questions of the Council's expert team.
- 8.17. 20230907 Temporary Traffic Notice - East Leigh Cross to East Moore Cross via Langford Bridge, Harberton *For information* Cllrs are informed of the road closure from 2nd October for a maximum of five days to enable telegraph pole recovery. Works are only anticipated to take one day. A diversion will be in place.
- 8.18. 20230907 #38 2023 DALC E-bulletin *For information* Cllrs are informed that this e-bulletin includes news that NALC has launched a consultation to update its Model Financial Regulations, last updated in 2019. Consultation events will be taking place in October, and an online questionnaire asks questions as to how the model regulations could be improved and updated. Once updated, the Parish Council should consider adoption to stay up to date with best practice.
- 8.19. 20230907 Invitation from the Mayor of Totnes *For consideration* Cllrs are invited to the Mayor of Totnes' Civic Service at 11:15am on Sunday 22nd October 2023 to be held at St Mary's Church, High Street, Totnes, followed by a Civic Sunday Lunch at the Royal Seven Stars, Fore Street, Totnes at 12:30. Tickets cost £20 to include a 2-course Sunday lunch and a drink. RSVP required.