

**County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date of Report: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022**  
**Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington**  
(incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)

**Devon County Council: key issues**

**Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Committee 23<sup>rd</sup> June'22**

**COVID-19 Update:** The Consultant in Public Health (Intelligence) updated the Committee on COVID -19. Key messages included: that COVID -19 was still here, the importance of the continued vaccination programmes and uptake, personal hygiene measures including face-covers in crowded areas; and isolation measures when tested positive (or with symptoms).

**Domestic Abuse: Responsibilities and Responses:** A report was presented by the Head of Communities on the changing context in national policy on domestic abuse and violence against women and girls outlining the Council's developing responses to these changes, including the Council's progress in delivering the new statutory duty placed on the Council under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse (DA) Act 2021. The Report explored the need for further development of the Council's Violence against Women and Girls' strategic intentions.

- Members' comments and discussion points with the Head of Communities; and the Strategic Lead - Violence against Women and Girls included:
- the need to develop benchmark metrics/quantitative data to help measure progress and analysis as part of the workstreams and with the development of the strategy over time;
- the recent development of the Plymouth Violence Against Women and Girls Commission from which there would also be learning for Devon;
- the importance of increased safe accommodation as reflected in the Workstreams detailed in the Report;
- the key importance of education (as a preventative measure) within the County Council, across all partners and communities;
- the close working with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary at all levels and through the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board;
- recognition within the strategic intentions that abuse was also experienced by men; and
- an example of a research project within the Metropolitan Police Force which would also potentially be a good source of additional learning.

It was agreed that quantitative data/information (as well as qualitative) be used within the development of the strategic intentions to assess impacts of initiatives and that the Domestic Violence Scrutiny champion be part of the discussions on the work stream of multi-agency working around safety of women and children including connecting with academic work.

**Connecting Devon and Somerset Update** The Committee received an update on broadband coverage across Devon and progress of the publicly subsidised Airband and Openreach contracts and the Mobile Boost programme. It also set out the approach for Project Gigabit, the national broadband programme led by Government.

Members' discussion points with the Cabinet Member and Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills included:

- the ongoing challenges experienced across the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) contracts, including capacity and workforce, availability of components, supply chains and access to infrastructure and assets that were affecting the delivery of new broadband services;
- the capacity within the industry to resource build and the current lack of skilled resource nationally and further exacerbated by remoteness from major population centres; and the resulting staff turnover and difficulties in securing stable partners in areas like civil and fibre design;

- whilst changes in legislation around the shared use of passive infrastructure, such as ducts and poles, had made a significant improvement in pace and cost of delivery across the industry, this was ultimately a finite resource and the Head of Service undertook to provide Members with more information in this area and in regard to the Rural Gigabit Voucher programme (section 6 of the Report Vouchers and Community Approaches refers); and
- all live contracts were in delay, but it was anticipated that 97.82% of homes and businesses would have a superfast or gigabit capable service by the end of 2024 (401,880 premises).

#### **South Hams HATOC (highways & Traffic Orders Committee Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am (Follaton**

- **DCC Waiting restriction proposals** have been proposed for approval on the following roads to prevent obstructions:
  - Corner of Pack's Close, Harbertonford
  - The rear entrance to Dartington Estate near Staverton Bridge
  - The entrance to SWW works at the end of Brutus Bridge, Totnes
  - The upper part of Weirfields Totnes, where a side road has access.
- **Widening the footpath outside Puddaven Court** (for safety) – Ashburton Road A385
- **Request for a pedestrian crossing on The Lamb** – between The Rotherfold and Kingsbridge Hill – Residents have petitioned and carried out a survey; but the officer recommendation is to refuse this application.
- **(Kingsbridge Hill – resident's request for through traffic restrictions.** Not tabled for discussion - despite assurances to the contrary)

#### **South Hams District Council – Key issues;**

**Planning: Proposed Aldi at Ivybridge** (application by SHDC on SHDC car park funded through a £9M National Treasury loan). This was refused permission at today's DM Planning Committee (against SHDC Officer recommendation. I tabled the proposal to refuse and it was supported by the entire committee. I consider this leaves outstanding questions for SHDC in its process for this proposal and again why it should be providing a store for Aldi. There was a large group of protestors at the site visit on Monday and at today's Planning Committee.

**SHDC approved application (13.04.22) for 80 new houses at Broom Park in Dartington.** The formal Judicial Review of this decision taken by resident's of Week, based n the lack of Heritage assessment by SHDC for this application, continues to proceed.

**Totnes Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan Working Group - The next meeting** will take place on **Tuesday 19th July @ 5pm – 8pm at Totnes Guildhall** where the work that has been compiled for the Totnes Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan will be worked on in a face to face setting to hopefully finish up the plan ready for publication and sharing. Refreshments will be provided. All welcome.

#### **Totnes Traffic & Transport Forum**

A public meeting is being planned for September in Totnes to consider a strategy for traffic calming in the town centre. This will be a stakeholder based meeting, as directed by DCC, to ensure that a broad agreement is reached on preferred measures to be implemented.

**KEVICCS site sale:** A community meeting has been organised by concerned residents to discuss concerns about the potential loss of the Lower KEVICCs/ Elmhirst fields for public recreation and benefit. This will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July in the Totnes Civic Hall from 7.00 - 9.00pm