

County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date of Report: 4th Sept. 2023
Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington
(incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)
South Hams District Councillor for Dartington & Staverton

Devon County Council: key issues

Peninsular public consultation Road Investment Strategy (RIS) period (2025-2030). Regarding the future of the strategic road network (SRN), which encompasses motorways and major A-roads. Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to draft and send in submissions. There was a very strong response from this County division. I will report back on outcomes etc when I am notified further.

Changes, including reductions to Stagecoach Bus services:

This is the information supplied to Devon County Councillors regarding the changes: "I would like to make you aware of a large number of bus service changes that Stagecoach are implementing on Sunday 3rd September 2023. 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. This is why it is even more important that over the next two years we all play our part to promote bus usage in our communities.

The list of changes is long and can be found on Stagecoach's website - <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/south-west/south-west-timetables> As you scroll down the web page, click the "show more" tab to open up the complete list."

KEVICCs Proposed sale of site: No updates and no notifications of acceptance of any of the bids made, nor of the Dept.of Education accepting an change of use from green space to enable development or change of ownership from public to private.

Care services: I have been kept posted by the [Community Services Manager for Moor to Sea Health & Social Care Teams](#), about the closure of Laura House in Antrim Terrace, Totnes. This important fully residential home for people with special needs finally closed on the 9th August. I have been notified that all 10 residents have been moved on successfully. Feedback is that all residents are settling well, we will continue to monitor and review.

Devon Communities Together have produced a report on their impact over the past year. This might be useful for groups carrying out their own self-assessment of their local community supportive activities. Devon Communities Together (DCT - the community council for Devon) has been operating for over 60 years. The DCT Impact Report for 2022-23 provides a flavour of the impact of the varied activities that have been led by, or have involved, the people at DCT; a very wide and varied set of community activities funded similarly by a wide and varied range of funding sources; generating an estimated £3.8m in social value. The report, or on the DCT website www.devoncommunities.org.uk. Likewise, DCT would be happy to hear from you if you would like to discuss the report further.

Moving Traffic Offences – DCC Members have received the following briefing.

Devon County Council (DCC) is one of a handful of local authorities in England applying to the Department for Transport (DfT) for powers to enforce Moving Traffic Offences (MTOs)

Moving Traffic Offences are actions taken by drivers that are in direct violation of the rules of the road.

Examples include driving through a no entry sign, making banned turns, entering a yellow box junction when the exit isn't clear and driving on routes that are for buses and taxis only.

Previously, outside of London, the powers to enforce these restrictions fell only to the police. Following a change in the law local authorities are now able to apply for powers to enforce MTOs, and DCC is consulting on whether our residents would like to see us adopt on these powers. The new powers will enforce areas where existing restrictions are already in place. The council is considering ANPR (Automatic Number Plate

Recognition) camera systems to be located at a number of locations around the county. (I've not been able to locate a link to this consultation but will confirm when I do)

ROADS, ROADS, ROADS!

Priority locations for highways works for annual budget: I have been asked to invite proposals for the draft programme for next year's repairs. As your Devon County Cllr., I can submit proposals on your behalf this coming September, for the first draft repairs programme for 2024/25. If you are aware of any sites that are particularly important to Town / Parish Councils, or for which you are receiving lots of correspondence please submit them (ideally no more than 2 per parish). Due to restrained budgets and existing priorities there are no guarantees of being included in next year's programme, but I'm told that those that are important to the local communities will be given a degree of priority.

2023/24 HATOC Local Waiting Restriction Programme List Closing Date: Friday 29th September

This year's closing date for the waiting restriction requests list for the 2023/24 HATOC Local Waiting Restriction Programme. All County Councillors must ensure we have sent all your requests/proposals to your local Neighbourhood Highways Team (NHT) before this date. Any questions regarding specific locations please contact your local Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO). The Highways team review the list in October and progress the requests through the usual Traffic Regulation Order process. Please note the HATOC Waiting Restriction programme is for quick non-contentious waiting restrictions (not larger scale proposals for example, residents parking and speed limits).

Speed (SCARF) surveys in this division:

Message from our Neighbourhood Highways Team: "I am emailing as the data for the final survey site has been returned and validated. A summary of the data taken is below. The A385 Bridgetown Hill:

Date	Eastbound			Westbound			Both Directions		
	Ave 7-day daily flow	85 th %ile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)	Ave 7-day daily flow	85 th %ile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)	Ave 7-day daily flow	85 th %ile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)
w/b Sat 15th July 2023	8711	34.1	29.2	8428	34.6	30.6	17139	34.4	29.5

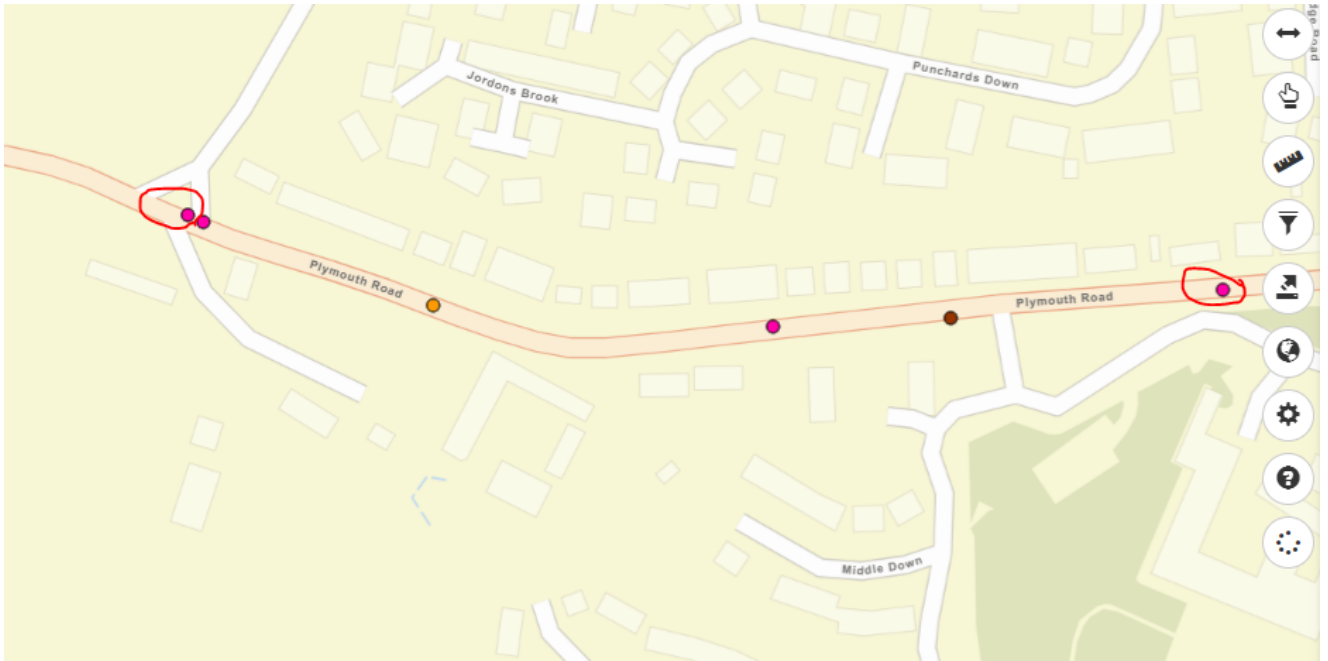
These results indicate a good level of compliance with the posted speed limit so are a really positive outcome and indicate no further action is needed."

Traffic issues on Plymouth Road. Further to a group of residents contacting the Town Council and attending a Totnes & District Traffic and Transport Forum meeting, I referred the matter to DCC Highways team for response: DCC have answered my points raised within my email with *blue text*: The stretch of Plymouth Road passing through the Follaton narrows has been a subject of contention for many of its residents for many years. We understand that the perception of vehicular speeds through the narrow section can appear excessive. Although we appreciate the difficulties residents face daily, the lay out of this road is historic in nature with limited options for improvement and enforcement. In answer to the issues raised:

- Poor visibility at the pinch point: requests for action
- 1. Overgrown foliage overhanging the highway (there is no footpath) needs trimming back: *None of these hedges are maintain by DCC, they are all privately owned. DCC would only make contact with the property owners if their hedges force pedestrians/cyclists away from the nearside of the carriageway by more than 1m. The property owners would be expected to undertake the work to cut back their hedges. I can review this when next passing*
- 2. Overgrown foliage is obscuring traffic signage needs trimming: *I can review this when passing, depending on the level of work required I may cut offending foliage or contact the owners as above*
- Traffic speeds along the residential area of Plymouth Road: issues raised
- Reference to the comments by police that agree there is excessive speeding along this road: *I am surprised and disappointed to learn of the apparent response provided by the local police team. They have neither contacted*

the NHT in relation to this, or submitted data from any of their enforcement. I have reached out via our Road Safety Team in an attempt to retrieve a copy of their reply given to Mr Edmonds and any supporting data they may have collected.

- Reference to the previous speed survey carried out in 2018: *The 2018 data was taken in two locations on either side of the narrow section:*



In summary the data provided for vehicles travelling in either direction was:

	85 th %ile	Mean Speed
Eastern location	33.9	27.7
Western location	36.7	31.3

- The faded white lines have allowed the road to become a racetrack with dangerous overtaking: *I am unclear how the faded lining is causing the poor driving reported. In many areas authorities have deliberately removed centre lining in order to reduce speeds. DCC have a very limited number of road markings that cause a defect when worn by more than 70%, these are restricted to junction markings, stop lines, pedestrian crossings and solid centre lines. Outside this DCC refresh road markings through a cyclic process. Totnes is not in the programme for 2023/24 but is for 2024/25.*
- Anecdotally speeding has increased since COVID – in particular more motorbikes: *DCC have to remain evidence led to justify using our limited resources and funding so anecdotal opinions can not be considered. Government statistics would suggest that speeds have dropped since the known increase during Covid when there were less vehicles on the road: [Speed limit compliance increases in 2021 \(roadsafetygb.org.uk\)](https://roadsafetygb.org.uk)*
- Anecdotally an increase in larger commercial vehicles using this route: *There are no weight restrictions on this section of the C794 so there are no limits on use by larger commercial vehicles*

Requests for action:

1. A request for the non-operational speed camera by the cemetery to be relocated and set to work near the western entrance to Follaton House (it was suggested this could be self-financing!): *As you know, DCC are currently reviewing camera locations and are looking to replace/upgrade both speed and red light enforcement cameras with consideration given to where they are now needed ([Four new high-tech speed cameras for high-risk roads in Devon & Cornwall - vision-zero \(visionzerosouthwest.co.uk\)](https://visionzerosouthwest.co.uk)). Therefore the existing camera on Plymouth Road is under review. I have put forward your request via our Road Safety Team to move the camera nearer the narrow section.*
2. A request for Vehicle activated signs to be installed either side of the pinch point (this will also be raised with the Town Council, but your views would be welcome too: *DCC have a limited number of VAS which are circulated around the county to known sites with evidence of non-compliance. TTC can choose to purchase their own VAS and move it between locations. I have attached a spreadsheet which provides information*

3. A further speed survey to update the previous records: *Rather than to commit to undertaking a new survey immediately, I will wait to see if the police can provide any newer data. If they cannot I am willing to request a new survey as this will aid future decisions in relation to the permanent camera move, the VAS, or SCARF*
4. 20mph speed restriction along Plymouth Road where there are residences: *There remains only one channel for this type of request which is the annual 'Expression of Interest' managed by our Traffic Team. It must be remembered that this would provide a limit and not a zone which would install traffic calming features so is reliant on the existing speeds already being at 20mph*

Lack of safety for pedestrians – issues raised:

- Includes all residents where there is no foot path along this narrow road
 - Cycling is extremely dangerous along this section of road
- Requests for action/information:
1. What options have been investigated to install some kind of pavement or footpath (an offer to DCC by Mr Perrin who owns/owned the old barns some years back was referred to)? *Options are limited to provide a footway as there simply isn't the width of adopted highway to provide one. Beyond limiting the route to a single carriageway managed by signals I see no alternatives. However, that would require huge financial outlay and there is just no evidence to support such a design. I suspect that this design would also increase speeds as the risk of the pinch point is removed. I have managed the South Hams area for only seven years but I have never been aware of any offer of land. That said, even an offer of land is not sufficient reason to progress as there are legal process and numerous costs involved. For those further east than Follaton Gate there is a walking route from Copland Lane to Winslade Avenue, this means that any provision benefits a limited number of properties, all of whom purchased their property knowing the situation.*
 2. What traffic calming options would be possible to reduce speeds and increase pedestrian safety around this pinch point? *DCC do not generally impose traffic calming features in a 30mph limit but use these features when reducing the speed of traffic to 20mph.*
 3. What other pedestrian safety measures have been considered regarding this particularly dangerous pinch point? *This section already has all the warning signs required for a section of carriageway that narrows and has no footway.*

And that's it!– but no opportunity for progress apparently (my comment)

Outstanding Waiting restrictions programmed under last year's budget:

I have raised regular requests for updates regarding two long outstanding waiting restrictions works that have still not been actioned quite rightly many residents remain very concerned:

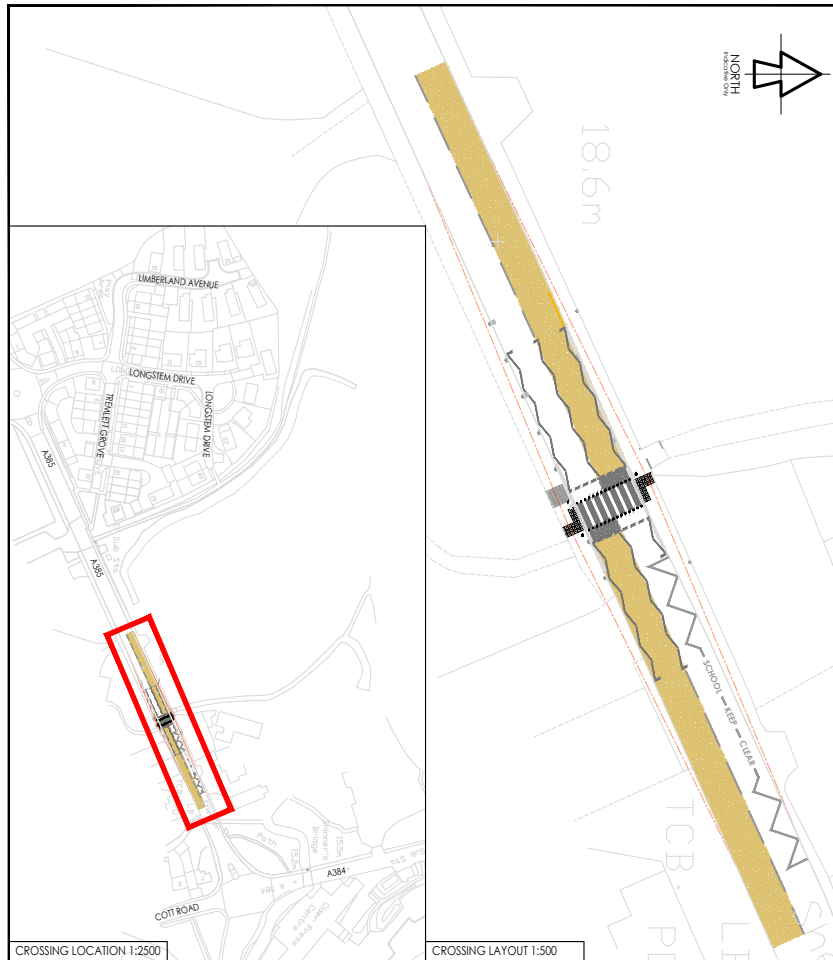
- (i) **Residents' parking scheme at Swallowfields, Totnes:** I recently spent yet another Saturday morning with anxious and upset residents at one of their houses in Swallowfields, trying to explain the inexplicable. I asked if they had received the consultation which I understood was (again rescheduled) going to happen in July. But apparently that has not even started yet.
- (ii) **Double Yellow Lines at Brutus Bridge.** These have been partly done as apparently the van that has been 'parked' there consistently for a number of years, using it as an advertising space, 'cannot be asked to move his vehicle' (this was the response I received at the last SH HATOC in Spring). Having the following week received a formal notification regarding a withdrawal of parking in a different road in Bridgetown, to me this somewhat contradicted the reply given at HATOC. So I reported this into DCC complete with photographs etc that also showed the extremely poor quality workmanship and that the same vehicle had changed number plates in the time it has sat there (is this legal, if the chassis number remains the same?). None of the follow-up assurances has happened, so the vehicle remains with more grass growing under the wheels and obstructing the line of pavement crossing. A mess. Hardly a nice welcome to Totnes.


Highways issues at Dartington's new developments: Sawmills Field and Broom Park

The use of Week Lane by construction vehicles accessing the site was not authorised in their development construction plans, rather they should have been using ONLY the access from the A384. This has caused extensive road damage and as of last Friday has been stopped.

The single lane road closure was similarly misleading as the signs all said it was due to finish on August 16th, that also finished this weekend. I'm informed that the closure was actually approved until September 1st, but that was then extended to 3rd September to allow a gas main. Unfortunately there will be further disruption when the road lines etc are painted.

This is the proposed layout for the new Zebra Crossing on the A385 as prt of the 106 Agreement for Broom Park and Sawmills Field>



Project Title	Scale/Size	Date	Civil & Structural Chartered Engineers Hems Court, Longbrook Street Exeter, Devon, EX4 6AP T. 01392 421600 sands@sands-consultants.co.uk www.sands-consultants.co.uk	
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BROOM PARK DARTINGTON BAKER ESTATES LTD	AS SHOWN/A4	November 2022		
	Drawn Ollie May	Checked David Rowe		
Drawing Title	Sands Project No.	Drawing No.	Revision	
ZEBRA CROSSING LOCATION PLAN	20.06.123	2251	A	

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Staverton - Roads at Landscope

The Road from Park Field Cross to Penn Farm has been reported in repeatedly. It is in many places impassible to regular traffic and is the only access route for the farm and its business. This has been added to the next budget year's maintenance schedule, but in the meantime residents are encouraged to log any defects to on DCC's Report a problem web page: [Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/report-a-problem) so they can be inspected and repaired as necessary (this accesses the Road Safety Budget rather than the Annual Maintenance budget).

Meeting about on-going transport issues and concerns with Anthony Magnall MP and Traffic and Transport Forum members; August'23. Nearly all the issues listed above were raised. Anthony Mangnall said he would investigate and in particular said he would contact DCC to indicate his support for the 20's plenty campaign motion on this week's DCC Full Council agenda 07.09.23.

Totnes: bank Lane Bins obstruction: The large commercial waste bins stored in Bank Lane, Totnes have been the subject of further complaint. "Another one has recently arrived and individuals are still bringing their own rubbish and finding the lids locked simply abandoning it nearby. Some men are still finding it acceptable to use the spaces between the bins as a public toilet." 4 named shops are currently using these bins to store their waste. When this issue was referred to both DCC and SHDC for investigation a few years ago, Highways came back saying they were not causing an obstruction, therefore nothing they could do. However I have sent in a further complaint and request for investigation to both DCC and referenced SHDC, in the hope that the latter's new administration might be able to look into a better policy regarding waste storage by commercial premises and DCC might be able to investigate both the increased obstruction and the public health implications suggested.

Devon's 20's Plenty Campaign: My motion to DCC to implement 20mph as the default speed where people live work and play across the County has been tabled for this week's Full Council meeting at DCC. I have run a well supported petition for the last 2 Saturday's in Totnes for support for the motion: "In light of the support for the Devon 20's Plenty campaign, this Council will support the implementation of 20mph zones where the local Parish Council has passed the 20's Plenty motion". In addition this is the link to the Change.org petition (see below) that can be signed and shared via your social media: <https://chnng.it/HHhVMmdCgc>

There is a map (continuously expanding) of the parishes in Devon that have supported 20's Plenty and written to DCC requesting they change their default policy from 30mph to 20mph. There are likely to be more as they are being added all the time:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1yyGDauH8ekqP1zMRdF3fiNDt2swB4WU&usp=sharing>

The poster and information about the gathering to support the 20's Plenty motion at County Hall from 1-2pm on Thursday is attached below.

Totnes Town Council Climate & Ecological Emergency (CEE) Forum. Next meeting Tuesday 17th September at 6.30pm -8pm, in person at Totnes Guildhall and hybrid with Zoom access at this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81347699786> Meeting ID: 813 4769 9786. Helping our Bees; the threat of Asian Hornets and other topical wildlife matters, plus feedback on local nature projects will be on the agenda.

There has been a big influx of Asian hornets into UK this year. In previous years we have had them in Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, and this year there have been three nests in Plymouth already. They gobble up vast numbers of our local insects, especially honey bees.

The National Bee Unit relies on being informed by the public about any local sightings of these insects, to know where to start hunting for nests. There could easily be nests here but we may not have spotted the workers out and about yet. Please look at the poster in the link below - it shows the difference between the black invasive one and the brown/yellow native one, and how to report them if seen. When reports are sent without photos, volunteer local beekeepers are being asked to go out to get photos on bait in the general area to confirm ID - if you can tell the difference it saves us loads of time attending false alarms!

The situation is urgent now, to get nests found before they produce new queens that will set up more nests next year. See the link for pictures of both, for comparison.

Anyone spotting an Asian Hornet can contact South Hams Beekeepers <https://shbk.org.uk> or South Hams District Council Environmental Health team at <EnvironmentalHealth@swdevon.gov.uk>





**IS
PLENTY
FOR DEVON**

**CHANGE THE DEFAULT SPEED IN
TOWNS AND VILLAGES ACROSS DEVON**

Support the motion to change the
policy at Devon County Council

WHY?

- Safer roads for pedestrians
- Fuel saving for drivers
- Reduces emissions and improves
air quality



7th September 2023, 1-2pm
Devon County Council, County
Hall, Exeter, Devon EX2 4QD

Motion: 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