

8th August 2022

UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Councillor updates, conferences and events

Cllr Brown – New Councillor Training – June 2022

Cllr Dredge - Councillor Advocate Forum - Office of the Commissioner for Police and Crime – 7th July 2022

Cllr Dredge - DALC Board ‘away day’ at Cheriton Bishop at which fundamental changes to the organisation were discussed including doing away with the County Committee and replacing it with more direct access for town and parish councils – 14th July 2022

Cllr Dredge - Remote meeting with Inspector Ben Shardlow for South Hams Councillor Advocates which included how the police deal with alleged shoplifters – 14th July 2022

Cllr Rea - Beacon Medical PPG – 15th July 2022 (report attached)

Cllr Dredge – Accompanied the Mayor for presentations to Police Cadets at college – 21st July 2022

Cllr Dredge - Remote DALC Board Meeting – 29th July 2022

Forthcoming training/conferences/representation

Cllr Abbott - New Councillor Training - September/October 2022

Cllr Brown – New Councillor Training – October 2022

Cllr Rea – Community Resilience Forum – November 2022

General Information

Christmas Celebrations

A meeting was held to share with stakeholders the plans for this year’s Christmas Festival. Some new ideas are being explored to include this year, or next year if time doesn’t allow. A summary of the discussion points is attached.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

A meeting to restart this work took place between Councillors and an updated action plan will be shared with the previous group members which included representatives from across the community with a view to holding a full meeting soon.

Butterpark

Although still progressing, things have ground to what feels like a halt with the summer holidays affecting staff (outside the Council) availability. The Town Clerk is currently awaiting a final discussion with the DCC property advisors and legal team with regard to the proposed contracts and covenants, and then the opportunity can finally be advertised.

Erme Court

The owners and their agents have continued to ignore concerns, other than relenting on maintaining the 2 hours free parking. They are continuing with their other plans despite near unanimous opposition from the tenants. A public statement will be made informing residents about the details of the changes when they are finally confirmed, and hope is lost that further compromises will be made. It is believed the changes will impact Blue Badge holders who currently get five hours free parking, and will now only get two. It will damage the evening trade in The Watermark as charging will happen 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whereas currently this ends at 6pm. And the removal of the ticket machine will discriminate against those with no mobile phone to pay for extra parking or those that simply don't want to use an app.

Verges

The Town Clerk is still awaiting a quote to deliver some wildflower verge improvements initially in Woolcombe Lane and Cornwood Road with a view to expanding if budgets allow.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk

Beacon Medical PPG, Report from Cllr T Rea (15/07/2022)

Yesterday I visited Beacon medical telephone hub (at Glenside, Plympton) along with another member of the Beacon PPG.

There were 10 patient advisers answering calls. I was there from 0900 to 1140 and the maximum wait time for callers was 10 minutes (average 3.5 minutes) the average call time was about 3 minutes. At 0930 they had handled appx. 120 calls that day and calls were coming in as we were there. I was able to listen in on some calls, having completed the necessary privacy declaration. These ranged from two carers calling on behalf of vulnerable and elderly patients (one of these was scheduled for a GP home visit that day the other needed an anti-biotics review), a patient needing a re-supply of regular medicines (this patient was directed to E-Consult or NHS App) a patient needing a follow-up discussion with her GP (appointment made) and a patient calling as he had a missed call from the surgery. This resulted in an appointment being made for a blood test.

During this time with the patient adviser in the phone hub, I was able to see the daily diary of one the GPs. These were very FULL. One had started at 1000, had E-Consults and appointments until lunch time, had home visits to make between lunch and mid-afternoon and was on E-Consults and appointment again until 2000. Few of the consultations (apart from home visits) were face to face.

The patient adviser had been working at Beacon for a number of years and felt that the current system led to quicker consultations (other with a GP or another medic) than previously. She re-called that there years ago the wait for a non-urgent GP appointment was 4 to 6 weeks.

We also had an opportunity to see how E-consult works at the secondary stage (ie once it has been sent to Beacon). It was easy to see that the E-Consult algorithm 'flags' (literally, there is a red flag icon on the computer screen) some E-Consults. This might be because the patient is a young child, somebody very old or otherwise vulnerable, or due to answers to questions.

The E-Consults are first sifted by a patient adviser to separate medical from administrative queries (eg repeat prescriptions, sick/fit notes, test results) and patients are contacted within 2 hours (unless they submit the E-Consult very close to the daily deadline) with details of what happens next. It is important to understand that **ALL medical E-Consults are passed onto the duty GPs** and a GP decides what to do next.

I would be delighted to answer any questions

Suggestions from Christmas Meeting (28/07/2022)

Decorations:

Have a Christmas tree on the green outside the Tile and Slate Centre
Bloomers going to decorate planters in Fore Street. Would like to decorate hanging baskets hung off some of the Christmas tree holders, with holly, ivy etc, red and green foliage with fairy lights

Illuminating the veteran tree – ‘The Tree that Saved Ivybridge’ for anyone wishing to sponsor something and nothing else to sponsor – need to be careful though as not everyone opposed to Aldi planning application

Flag festival, or decorate the Christmas trees in holders. Invite community groups to decorate these and businesses pay for the decorated tree

Shop trees – where existing brackets are used and are above 2.1m then no Council issue. Just the building owner/insurance.

Community decoration – flags or trees, groups and organisations could decorate trees on behalf of businesses. Maybe a trail or best decorated competition.

Activities:

Grotto at Makers Mews in weeks following the Christmas Festival. Rotary could do Santa and hand out fliers advertising grotto

Wreath making in the Bridge managed by Shirley Weeks

More making stalls. Lantern workshop popular

Groups to run an activity

Skate Park South Devon to do a skateboarding event at skate park

Rotary have a wreath maker could do workshop

Tour of town lights for those houses that have decorated.

Sampling Ukrainian food. On 24/8 Ukrainian Independence Day, on 22/8 Shirley hosting Ukrainian baking session. Will have a discussion with them then

Entertainment

Interactive entertainment

Market stalls

Let Miss Ivy know there is a demand for extra space. Some people unaware that priority was opened up to local businesses before being offered to her stall holders

Possibly use Glanvilles Mill/Harford Rd car park for extra stalls

Utilise performance space area for tent serving coffee – very dark, would need lighting

Layout

Barrier off Fore Street just down from Hartley Court to segregate where traffic can't go

Make use of Chapel place

Methodist Church not doing their Advent Market this year. Will enquire if can be used for wet weather alternative for Paw Patrol, Advent Market

Extra lights in Harford Road or Glanvilles Mill car park if they are to be used.