

COUNCIL - 22nd February 2021

UPDATE AND INFORMATION

Councillor updates, conferences and events

The Mayor Cllr Laity attended the Patient Participation Group presentation on e-consult (report attached).

Cllr Dredge attended the GWR Local Transport Forum which included regional developments, temporary timetables, re-imagining stations and 'Return to Rail' (marketing). He also attended a TravelWatch South West meeting looking at revitalising town centres with public transport.

Cllr Dredge and the Town Clerk attended the DALC Large Councils Meeting. Subjects included differing budget and precept approaches, the future of remote meetings and any post-Covid 19 plans (minutes attached).

Cllr Dredge and the Town Clerk attended the Peninsula Pensions LGPS Annual Employers Meeting which included updates on the fund management and investments.

Cllrs Laity and Hladkij and the Town Clerk were invited by Harford Parish to attend a meeting to discuss Moor access. This highlighted the strain on the Harford Moor Gate pre and post Covid. A positive discussion was had, but no solutions as yet. The next meeting will include Ugborough as there were some thoughts about improving access to the east of Ivybridge. There were also some opportunities for us to discuss with Dartmoor National Park about their A38 corridor projects to encourage people to explore south of the A38 on foot/bike to take the pressure off the moor. They are keen to talk more to us and a meeting will be arranged with them and Graham Wilson/PL:21.

Cllr Laity and the Town Clerk attended the South Hams District Council Mayors and Clerks meeting. This included an update on the new waste and recycling scheme, with the roll out likely to start in Ivybridge. Also an enhancement to the localities operation, which is mostly built around increasing the cover for coastal/tourist towns.

Cllrs Laity and Dredge with the Town Clerk met with the new Police Sergeant Ryan Canning. Although he is not able to report to meetings, he is extremely open to cooperating with us as much as possible should issues arise. He is keen to know what is happening in the town, and has welcomed contact from the Council if there is an issue we are concerned about (notes attached).

If any Councillors wish to update Council on activities that they have undertaken on behalf of the Town Council, then these please submit these in advance.

Forthcoming training/conferences/representation

PL:21 Meeting on 24 February 2021 – Cllr Lannin as Council Representative and Town Clerk

Moor Access on 3 March 2021 - Cllrs Laity and Hladkij with the Town Clerk will attend a further meeting with Harford, Ugborough and Dartmoor National Park regarding Moor access.

General Information

Covid-19

The Town Clerk is continuing a weekly briefing with the Community Connector (which this Council co-funded with South Hams CVS) and Shirley Weeks who runs So Social Ivybridge. The helpline is currently very quiet and the last publication was the February Signpost magazine, which included all the helpline details.

The various social and support groups are thinking about the post-Covid era and how to support the community in the longer term, including a Wellbeing Collaboration.

At the moment the funding currently allocated for the Community Connector project will run out in September, and so a discussion has begun with South Hams CVS to explore how the project could continue. A report will be brought to the Council if a funded, or fundable, proposal is developed.

Bedford, Virginia

Contact has been made by a representative of the Bedford International Alliance as they are wanting to re-establish the relationship and add to their 'Bedford Boys Tribute Center' more information about Ivybridge. Cllr Wilson has responded and is establishing how we can help and build on the historical ties.

Big Bike Revival

Graham Wilson has been coordinating the funded 'The Big Bike Revival' in Ivybridge.

Part of a drive by Cycling UK to get even more people out on two wheels and enjoying cycling, Dr Bike sessions are designed to get old bikes back on the road (or trails), giving the rider peace of mind that their bike is safe to do so. Run by a fully qualified mechanic, Dr Bike sessions are Covid secure, pre-booked, and 30 minutes each and involve the mechanic giving each bike a thorough check, then carrying out any necessary minor repairs. These could include new cables, new brake pads (dependent on brake type), or new inner tubes. These services are free of charge for the bike owner. The sessions will be held in Leonards Road car park, with the front area of The Watermark offered as a back-up location.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk