

FULL COUNCIL

12th December 2022

UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Councillor updates, conferences and events

Cllr Dredge – Citizens Advice AGM – 25th October 2022 (notes attached)

Cllr Dredge - Travelwatch Southwest Bus Meeting – 11th November 2022 (notes attached)

Cllr T Rea – PPG Meeting – 15th November 2022 (notes attached)

Cllr Dredge - DALC Board Meeting – 16th November 2022

Cllr Dredge - DALC Larger Councils Committee – 17th November 2022 (minutes attached)

Cllr T Rea – River Erme Sewage Meeting – 18th November 2022 (notes attached)

Cllr Dredge – DALC County Committee – 5th December 2022

Cllr Abbott (with Town Clerk) – Site meeting with Sustrans and Graham Wilson regarding Bittaford Active Travel Link project – 5th December 2022

General Information

Active Travel Response

The responses to the request resolved to be made by this Council in August are attached. Further representation has been made by Graham Wilson as to why the Planning and Highway Authorities are not immediately adopting PL:21s Street Design Survey as a LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) as it is felt it meets the criteria and would then have to be considered as a planning requirement for any development. This has not been accepted. A meeting is to be held with Sir Gary Streeter MP and others to discuss the future of Active Travel around Ivybridge on 9th December 2022.

Christmas Day

Plans to deliver the Christmas Day activity are progressing and coordinated by Councillors, volunteers and staff.

Butterpark

Devon County Council Solicitors have been unable to agree to our requests to make changes to the covenants to enable the project to progress as the Town Council would

like. Cllr Roger Croad has agreed to arrange a meeting between officers at the Town and County Council to take place in December so that a clearer picture of what is required can be passed to the respective solicitors.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk

Citizens Advice South Hams (CA)
Annual General Meeting
25th October 2022

Chair's Report

Chair Chris Peach advised that over the past year the CA had worked in close collaboration with neighbouring CAs to deliver a more locally focused service.

In 2021/22 the CA helped more than 4,700 clients with 12,270 issues. For those clients over £1.4m of financial gains were recorded. It also delivered over £50,000 worth of fuel vouchers to South Hams clients in fuel poverty through the Household Support Fund. Following a visit by an external Advice assessor the CA was awarded the highest leadership assessment.

Chief Officer Janie Moor reported on the efforts and achievements during the pandemic and also on the current and developing cost of living crisis in an area where wages are low with short-term and insecure employment, a housing shortage and unaffordable rents.

The 4700 clients helped in 2021-22 could be categorised as:

- 54% disabled or long term health condition
- 25% with a mental health condition
- 24% were of pensionable age

The top 5 issues people wanted on were:

- Benefits and tax credits 2,854
- Universal Credit 1,900
- Utilities and comms 1,631
- Debt 1,595
- Housing 905

CA's Value to society

During 2021/22 the CA generated at least:

- Savings to the Local Authority £119,483
- Savings to the NHS £247,195
- Financial gains to clients £1.4 million

Projects during 2021/22 included:

- Energy Advice
- Healthwatch
- Debt Advice
- Partnership with Totnes Caring

Treasure's Report

The CA has to rely less on grants received and more on generating income through projects.

The accounts showed a deficit for the year of £11,739 but this is covered by specific reserves.

Looking forward to 2022/23 and beyond, the funding environment remains competitive and there is a need to secure more funded projects to offset any reductions in core income.

Cllr Phillip Dredge
27th October 2022

Getting Bus Users Moving
Travelwatch Southwest Remote Meeting
Friday November 11th 2022

I was very much an observer at this meeting at which senior officers of bus operating companies discussed the current difficulties being experienced by the industry and resolved to hold further meetings to agree common strategies.

In the main the geographic area covered was the west of England but there was representation from a 'bus operator in Reading.

The salient points discussed were:

- Resistance to passenger travel following the pandemic which could be interpreted as a fear to travel on public transport
- Shortage of drivers
- Lack of financial backing
- Shortage of drivers where there is financial backing available
- Poor publicity strategy and dearth of information available to potential customers
- The need to co-ordinate 'bus travel with connecting rail services
- A need to set up 'bus user groups in the format of existing rail users groups coupled with the need for "bus champions'.

It was very sensible of TWSW to set up this initial meeting as the first of a series in order to contribute to the development of the 'bus industry in these difficult times but perhaps they are best attended by those within the industry who have the ability to influence policy.

Cllr Phillip Dredge
15th November 2022

Jonathan Parsons

From: cllrrea@ivybridge.gov.uk
Sent: 17 November 2022 12:43
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: PPG Report

Hi Jonathan,

Please can this be circulated to all councillors.

I attended the AGM of Beacon Medical PPG on Tuesday 15 November. The Chair (also acting Treasurer) and Secretary stood down as they previously informed, this after many years of service. Sadly, nobody was able to volunteer to fill these roles - so the PPG is in something of a 'limbo'.

There is now a standing committee of 4 including myself. We look to Beacon medical to publicise that more volunteers are needed for this important role.

Two Beacon representatives gave us an informative presentation of the latest patient survey. This shows that, apart from continuing issues with the telephone system and making appointments, Beacon compares favourably with national and local patient views. Please access the results from the link below.

[Patient Experience \(gp-patient.co.uk\)](https://gp-patient.co.uk)

Cllr. Tony Rea, Ivybridge Town Council

LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE



Date: Thursday 17 November 2022
Time: 1400-1530
Location: [Zoom](#)

Minutes

Present:

Axminster	Paul Hayward
Brixham	Tracey Hallett
Cranbrook	Cllr Barrington Rogers
Crediton	Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking, Rachel Avery
Dartmouth	Cllr David Wells, Charlie Pritchard-Willar
Dawlish	Andrew McKenzie
Exmouth	Cllr Tim Dumper, Lisa Bowman
Honiton	Stephen Hill, Heloise Marlow
Ivybridge	Cllr Phillip Dredge, Jonathan Parsons
Kingskerswell	Juliette Thompson
Kingsteignton	Carol Lakin
Newton Abbot	Phil Rowe
Northam	Jane Mills
Okehampton	Cllr Julie Yelland, Emma James
Tavistock	Carl Hearn
Teignmouth	Iain Wedlake
Totnes	Cllr Emily Price, Catherine Marlton

In attendance: DALC Mark Clapham (Policy Officer)

1. Apologies

Barnstaple	Rob Ward
Bideford	Cllr Simon Inch
Cullompton	Cllr Gordon Guest
Dawlish	Cllr Lisa Mayne
Exmouth	Cllr Steve Gazzard

2. Minutes

2.1. Minutes of the meeting held 12 May 2022 were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda.

3.1. There were no matters arising.

4. Letter from East Devon District Council to the Prime Minister on Growth

4.1. The committee noted the letter written by East Devon District Council to the Prime Minister on growth. Promises of green and blue growth often replaced with over development. Dartmoor National Park prepared to endorse. Needs balance between development and environment. The committee recommended that DALC endorse the letter.

ACTION: County Committee to make final decision whether to endorse the letter.

5. Investment Zones

5.1. The committee discussed the government proposal for investment zones. Existing Devon enterprise zones including the science park, no correlation with investment zone concept. Raised at Team Devon, principal authorities could submit proposals to investment zones, proposals were being considered based on existing planning proposals, Devon made a proposal and waiting for a response. Committee would want to know more if the investment zones were in their area. Investment Zones policy re-thought in Chancellor's Autumn Statement today, not yet clear exact changes to policy.

6. Cost of Living crisis

6.1. The committee discussed councils' responses to the cost-of-living crisis and shared experiences e.g., setting up warm spaces. Exmouth's community resilience group looking at cost of living issue, putting together information on all the community initiatives: warm coats, warm spaces, food packs etc. Exmouth also has grant money for community projects. Libraries unlimited doing warm spaces and coat donations. Axminster can't commit town hall as warm space as a charity runs it as a venue, instead facilitating community groups and paying out from a £5000 warm spaces fund. Axminster considers these efforts to be of general and equal benefit to everyone under section 137. Totnes coordinating with charity and voluntary groups, allocating funds from a £25,000 grant pot, allocated officer time to coordinate community response, trying to get more volunteers. Other councils taking a similar approach. Funds to organisations and charities not individuals.

7. Council Budgets

7.1. The committee discussed the pressure on town and parish council budgets under the current economic circumstances. Crediton has no money earning assets, dependent on precepts. Ivybridge has found assets can be liabilities during the COVID era. Tavistock experiencing £200,000 increase in costs against income, must be balanced against services already committed to. Mid Devon District Council wrote to PTCs saying they will need to take on maintenance of assets. Dartmouth took on assets and liabilities in 2018, been a burden with limited revenue raised.

Action: Propose to County Committee that DALC write to Principal Authorities saying that if they want to devolve services, communications should be taken when PTCs are setting their budgets not in November when precepts and budgets already set. DALC to communicate issue via Team Devon.

8. Urban Renewal Study

8.1. The committee received updates on the pilot scheme proposed in the urban renewal study.

8.2. Seaton and Axminster both chosen for programme, Hardisty Jones consultants paid £20,000 to do the research from Welcome Back European fund. Meetings, working parties: outcome a final draft presented last week. Axminster better received: medieval town in the modern era, road layout for horse and cart, problems getting HGVs through. DCC and EDCC expended a lot of officer time, Hardisty Jones' final report doesn't feel specific, could be any number of towns, identifies same challenges as any town. List of challenges and possible solutions, but no funding for the solutions. DCC found money for quick wins to jump start projects, but not core funding, £5000 to do legal work and conveyancing but not building. Seaton more complicated, probably needs £20-30 million just for immediate renewal. Third manifestation of a similar project over thirty years, not seeing action, dispiriting. Wish lists. If there is another levelling up project Axminster and Seaton ready to put in evidenced bids, but don't know whether that will happen.

- 8.3. Bideford is planning to launch their scheme in January 2023. Getting support from Kier Duffin at DCC and Hardisty Jones.
- 8.4. Dawlish has endorsed its urban renewal plan and awaits TDC and DCC adoption. Five areas to focus on. Most of the things cannot be delivered by Dawlish Town Council alone, and other tiers can't pay either. Third review in fourteen years, same issues apply. Looked at maybe doing a park and ride with Teignmouth but didn't make it into final plan. Ideas on paper not ready to go business cases as intended, doubt able to get business case together if needed.
- 8.5. Teignmouth had similar experience to Axminster, Dawlish and Seaton. Got a wish list, not a solid business case that could use for funding.
- 8.6. Honiton met with East Devon about SPF fund for a feasibility study.

9. Climate emergency (*standing item*)

- 9.1. The committee noted the publication of the Devon Carbon Plan.
- 9.2. Members shared council led initiatives planned or underway:
 - Cllr Dumper reported on the wrap up of the DALC Climate TFG. Devon Carbon Plan seems positive. Exmouth employed a part time climate officer, hoping to liaise with Districts and DCC.
 - Regional railway proposals are positive. New Cranbrook development has significant carbon reductions in new houses being proposed, solar panels and EV charging.

Action: Policy officer to contact Cllr Rogers to discuss Cranbrook progress with developers.

10. To receive representative reports

- 10.1. **GWR Conference, Travelwatch SouthWest meeting, Travelwatch SouthWest bus meeting.** Cllr Dredge (Ivybridge)
 Cllr Dredge provided written update on these recent meetings which highlighted the challenges to UK railways following the pandemic (during which railways received a government bailout) with the current economic situation meaning reduced funding from government. Very wary of the future, practices will need to change. Budgets to be agreed annually with Department for Transport. At the TWSW bus meeting, reports of challenges getting people back on the buses following pandemic. Cllr Dredge felt the meeting was more for chief execs and will not attend again. Overall Cllr Dredge finds these meetings concentrate on the region around Bath etc, less focus on less urban areas further south. Cllr Dredge noted that DevonLive send out an 'In Your Area' email of events around South Hams that other members might find useful. Cllr Dumper reported Exmouth having problems with bus services, will circulate a written report.
Action: Policy officer to circulate DevonLive 'In Your Area' email with minutes.

11. Member items for discussion

- 11.1. There were no additional items.

12. Items for the next meeting

- 12.1. Climate emergency as standing item
- 12.2. Urban renewal study as standing item
- 12.3. Cost of living.
- 12.4. Team Devon and other communications with principal authorities.
- 12.5. Civility and Respect project for Devon – progress update.

13. Dates of future meetings

- 13.1. The next meeting will be in February, with meeting dates for 2023 to be confirmed at the end of 2022.
-

Mark Clapham, Policy Officer
e: mark@devonalc.org.uk

Report on sewage in the River Erme.

On Friday 18 November I represented the Council at a meeting devoted to pollution of the river Erme, held in Holbeton Church. Present were representatives from South West Water (SWW) and the Environment Agency (EA). Sir Gary Streeter (SGS) was there, so were Councillors from Ermington and Holbeton along with Surfers Against Sewage and other interested residents – a number from Ivybridge.

Everyone recognised there are issues with pollution due to SWW out-pouring untreated sewage into the river at times when their treatment plants cannot cope with the flow of run-off water into their sewers.

SGS praised the new law and said it will improve things but not quickly. 2035 and 2050 are key dates. Many thought we should not simply sit back and wait whilst the river continues to be polluted.

EA pointed out that their priorities in this area are the rivers Dart and Teign. Ivybridge Water treatment Works (WTW) had been non-compliant during 2022 **[I suggest we follow this up with a question re the nature and frequency of the non-compliance and what enforcement measures were used]**.

I asked David Pateman of SWW whether the new housing developments built in and around Ivybridge have been matched by the necessary increase in the WTW capacity. The answer is yes, capacity for handling the increased **LOAD** has been made. He pointed out that increased **FLOW** was the issue. Pre 1960s buildings may drain run-off rainwater into sewers, but buildings since then are engineered differently, rainwater is taken away by separate culverts and pipes and therefore not into sewers. During periods of heavy rain, run-off from pre-60s builds together with water getting into the system (through breakages, etc.) is the issue. This extra flow is difficult to cope with, either the WTW are flooded and thus put out of action, or the untreated sewage is let into the river. He suggested, as an aside, that improvements could be made at the Ivybridge WTW but did not elaborate **[I suggest we follow this up with a question re the nature of the improvements which could be made at the Ivybridge WTW and a timescale for such improvements]**.

There was a suggestion (made after the meeting by email) from Ermington that a standing committee, or group, representing the whole of the Erme catchment be formed. This would include Cornwood, Harford, Ivybridge, Ermington, Holberton, Modbury and Kingston. **Is this something that Ivybridge could take a lead on** as the larger (and most central) partner?

Cllr T Rea, November 2022

Jonathan Parsons

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 October 2022 13:49
To: jonathanparsons@ivybridge.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Active Travel Ivybridge

Sent on behalf of Meg Booth

Dear Jonathan

Thank you for your email, and apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I gather a meeting has been arranged for December to take forward the suggestions, and DCC will be represented at that meeting. For clarity though, we are working closely with South West Devon District Council, who are planning to develop an LCWIP focused on the urban cycle routes in the market and coastal towns of West Devon and South Hams. This will complement DCC's wider Countywide LCWIP and we are engaging with Gemma Bristow, who I understand is also attending the meeting.

The speed at which the County Council is able to deliver walking and cycling infrastructure is dependent upon funding. Currently, our only guaranteed source of funding is from the Local Transport Plan, which has reduced significantly in recent years. We are therefore reliant on competitive Government grant funding opportunities, which are currently focussed on the large urban areas, or developer funding. Regarding the former, and following unsuccessful bids for our rural and smaller settlement networks, we met with Active Travel England to raise our frustration at funding being targeted on the large town / city urban infrastructure. In terms of developer funding, I understand that nearly all of the Joint Local Plan (which runs until 2033) allocated development in Ivybridge on the eastern side has been granted planning permission, with appropriate levels of funding collected and infrastructure delivered. Any contributions need to meet the tests of section 106 obligations, including being necessary to make the development acceptable, being related to the development, and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind. There is one site remaining, and we are making a significant request for cycle improvement S106 funding and also requesting money for a new Toucan crossing on the B3213, to link development on the southern side of the road to the north, where the railway station and safer routes to school exist.

Engagement with the upcoming South West Devon LCWIP is important, as this will be the mechanism Active Travel England (an executive agency of the Government) expects local authorities to take to develop long-term, prioritised plans for walking and cycling. Such plans will be important in both making the strategic case for external grant funding, or in negotiations with developers for securing future s106 funding or direct delivery of schemes on the back of development. Public consultation and engagement will be an essential part of LCWIPs, and the PL21 / Sustrans work puts Ivybridge in a strong position to assist with its development.

With kind regards,
Meg

Meg Booth
Director, Climate Change, Environment & Transport
Devon County Council
01392 383000

Disclaimer: <http://www.devon.gov.uk/email.shtml>

From: Jonathan Parsons <jonathanparsons@ivybridge.gov.uk>

Sent: 20 September 2022 13:34

To: Meg Booth <meg.booth@devon.gov.uk>; Councillor Andrea Davis <Andrea.Davis@devon.gov.uk>; Councillor

Stuart Hughes <stuart.hughes@devon.gov.uk>; Chris Brook <chris.brook@swdevon.gov.uk>; 'Cllr Tom Holway' <cldr.tom.holway@southhams.gov.uk>; 'Cllr Hilary Bastone' <cldr.hilary.bastone@southhams.gov.uk>

Cc: 'Graham Wilson' [REDACTED]

Subject: Active Travel

Dear Colleagues at Devon and South Hams,

The Town Council resolved last month to ask me to write to DCC and SHDC to request that they develop an Active Travel Masterplan with us (the Town Council), PL:21 and any other relevant stakeholders. If possible, it is hoped it could be included in any updates to the JLP/Neighbourhood Plan.

The desired outcome of this is to ensure S106 requests for Active Travel are logical, coordinated, and meet the plans set out and supported by the Street Design Study, completed by PL:21 and supported by the Town Council. It will also provide a shelf full of projects ready to be put forwards should future funding from elsewhere become available.

At the moment, the perception is that not enough is being requested by DCC & SHDC from developers, and what is requested doesn't seem like it is focussed on a cohesive strategy.

Although the Town Council appreciates the requirement for S106 requests to be viable, we also don't want to lose the opportunity that the major developments present, as once they are all completed, the opportunity will be lost.

The Town Council and PL:21 would very much like to support both Councils in making the best decisions possible and I hope the involvement of local input and expertise may support you in that.

I do hope you think this is an idea that is worth considering, and that we can come together to discuss how it may happen and what impact it may, or may not have on future decision making.

I look forwards to hearing from you,

Jonathan

Jonathan Parsons

Town Clerk
Ivybridge Town Council

Telephone 01752 893815

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Jonathan Parsons

From: Gemma Bristow [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2022 14:53
To: jonathanparsons@ivybridge.gov.uk
Cc: Adam Williams; Cllr Tom Holway; grahamwilson [REDACTED]
meg.booth@devon.gov.uk; andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk;
stuart.hughes@devon.gov.uk; Chris Brook; Cllr Hilary Bastone
Subject: RE: Active Travel

Dear Mr Parsons,

Cllr Holway forwarded your email below on account of the new role I am taking on, in supporting active travel across South Hams and West Devon. I can confirm that the Council is very keen to support Ivybridge (and all of our main towns) in the preparation of an LCWIP to ensure maximum contributions are secured for active travel infrastructure. We are currently waiting on the outcome of a bid which would secure the funding to deliver this project and so we hope to be in touch later this year with good news. When the funding is confirmed one of my first steps will be reaching out to all the main towns to understand what work has already been undertaken and what the aspirations are. I am aware that the work of PL21 likely puts Ivybridge well ahead in this area.

I hope and look forward to working with you in the not too distant future,

Kind Regards
Gemma

Gemma Bristow | Active Travel & Digital Connectivity lead

Monday to Thursday

South Hams District Council | West Devon Borough Council
[REDACTED]

From: Jonathan Parsons <jonathanparsons@ivybridge.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 September 2022 13:34
To: meg.booth@devon.gov.uk; andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk; stuart.hughes@devon.gov.uk; Chris Brook <Chris.Brook@swdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Tom Holway <Tom.Holway@swdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Hilary Bastone <Hilary.Bastone@swdevon.gov.uk>
Cc: 'Graham Wilson' [REDACTED]
Subject: Active Travel

External Message: This Message has originated outside your organization.

Dear Colleagues at Devon and South Hams,

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I look forwards to hearing from you,

Jonathan

Jonathan Parsons

Town Clerk
Ivybridge Town Council

Telephone 01752 893815

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