

# **FULL COUNCIL**

**7<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

## **UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

### **Councillor updates, conferences and events**

Cllr Dredge – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – GWR meeting ref proposed closure of railway station booking offices (notes attached)

Cllr Dredge – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Police South Hams Councillor Advocate Meeting (notes attached)

Cllr Dredge – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Travelwatch SW Meeting ref proposed closure of railway station booking offices (notes attached)

Cllr Dredge – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Road Safety Seminar (notes attached)

### **General Updates**

#### **Abbeyfield House**

A meeting was held with the Director of Housing (Abbeyfield), the Mayor, SHDC Councillors and a SHDC Senior Housing Officer to discuss the consultation on the closure of Abbeyfield House.

#### **Councillor Engagement**

Councillors attended and operated a Town Council stall at both the Pedal Power event and the Rugby Club Funday. It was felt it was a good opportunity to interact with residents and get feedback on what is happening in the Town.

#### **International Gateway Study**

See attached from Peninsula Transport.

#### **Community Economic Plan**

The Steering Group for the Community Economic Plan is being formed. It will be chaired by Cllr Matt Steele, and the Ivybridge Town Clerk will be the secretary. A broad range of community representatives have been invited to joining the steering group, while also keeping the size manageable.

#### **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

A meeting was held with SHDC and Graham Wilson, the Mayor and the Town Clerk to ensure that the progress and opportunities in Ivybridge were included in the plan. Further engagement is expected as the plan is developed.

## **Events**

Road Closure has been submitted for Remembrance Sunday and plans are progressing for the Christmas Festival including seeking sponsorship and stall holders underway.

GWR Teams Meeting  
Friday 7th July 2023  
Re Proposed Closure of Railway Station Booking Offices

The meeting was chaired by GWR CEO Mark Hopwood who expressed surprise at the low number of people attending.

Mark explained that the proposed closure of booking offices is in response to customer demand as, although purchases of tickets at booking offices accounted for 82% of ticket sales in 1996, it is now currently below 15%. He also stressed that it will not lead to redundancies and that there had been misconceptions about just what the move will entail and its effect on both the travelling public and GWR employees.

This is not just a GWR exercise but is a national innovative.

Main points covered:

- Multi-skilling of staff and greater efficiency
- Should not lead to a loss of jobs
- Salary grades will be protected
- However, because it is a significant change of practice, protocol demands that unions have had to be advised of 'jobs at risk'
- The project should take between 18 and 24 months to complete.
- Some ticket offices will remain open but opening hours may be amended
- All other station features will remain
- Consultations are now underway and TravelWatch SouthWest (TWSW) will be consultees for GWR services outside the London area.

It is fair to say that the question and answer session showed considerable doubt and scepticism by those town councillors attending.

My question about whether there had been a similar reduction in travel enquiries at booking offices as particularly older people appreciated face to face contact rather than telephone or web contact was not really answered although I was told that Plymouth would remain as a hub station.  
sessions.

## Jonathan Parsons

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**From:** Cllr Phillip Dredge  
**Sent:** 12 July 2023 15:51  
**To:** Jonathan Parsons  
**Subject:** South Hams Cllr Advocate Meeting 12.07.23

Hello Jonathan,

There was not a lot to report back regarding Ivybridge at today's meeting.

The overall aims remain as previously reported, e.g. violence against girls and women, victimisation and exploitation, drugs, and theft from motor vehicles.

Regarding anti-social behaviour in Ivybridge, the police have secured funding for an out of area crewed marked police car to visit ASBO hotspots and that will include Ivybridge.

There is a lag of about one week in recording crimes but the most recent 2 week period for Ivybridge showed crimes as below:

Violence with injury	4	
Violence without injury		2
Rape	1	
Other sexual assaults	1	
Vehicle offenses	2	
Thefts	1	
Possession of a knife	1	
Others	6	
Total	18	

Phillip  


TravelWatchSouthWest (TWSW) Meeting  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July  
To Discuss Responses to Proposed Closure of Railway Station Booking  
Offices.

It is fair to say that no one at the meeting other than the GWR representatives spoke in favour of the proposed closures or possible changes in opening hours of those booking offices remaining open.

There is a need for simplicity when moving by rail from A to B for the 'man or woman in the street' who is not computer 'savvy'.

If a clear response is to be made to the proposals there needs to be evidence of specific instances of inconvenience to passengers for example by any change to booking office opening hours.

The fare structure is so complex that passengers need face to face contact when planning a journey and getting the right tickets – i.e. best value. It was pointed out that TVMs (Ticket Vending Machines) often are not working, can be complicated to use, are slower than ticket offices, do not have the ability to sort out the best deals and can be difficult to operate by disabled people.

Currently there are often queues at booking offices. How will passengers find the 'wandering' staff and avoid altercations?

Clare Morgan of GWR intervened with 'It's a proposal and may change. All other existing facilities will remain and staffed stations will continue to be staffed. The proposals are currently being discussed with the trade unions.'

It was not made clear whether the platformed staff would be able to sell tickets or just help people use the TVMs or their own smartphones. (I have sought confirmation from TWSW)

Many examples were given by attendees of the current difficulties in obtaining tickets at larger stations and the point was made that root and branch reorganisation is needed before any closing of booking offices is even contemplated.

Cllr Phillip Dredge  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

## Jonathan Parsons

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**From:** Cllr Phillip Dredge  
**Sent:** 17 July 2023 14:47  
**To:** Jonathan Parsons; Cllr Victor Abbott  
**Subject:** Road Safety Seminar

Hello Jonathan,

There was a seminar today for council advocates on road safety. The seminar lasted for two hours and included slide and video presentations.

As such I can only give a flavour of the meeting but a video of the proceedings is to be made available and it may be that there will be access to it by town council members, or perhaps more comprehensive notes could be taken from it

The Commissioner advised that the various initiatives the police are undertaking to increase road safety can only be effective if there is sufficient community engagement. As an example of this she stated that there now over 200 speedwatch schemes in the two counties. It became clear that if a 20mph speed restriction is to be policed, then a speedwatch scheme is needed in order for intelligence on speeding violations to be passed to the police for them to act on.

It also became clear that it was unlikely that DCC would countenance a blanket 20 mph scheme in a town but rather look at those areas (town centres perhaps or through roads in villages) where such a limit was deemed necessary. You also need to make a case in the first place for such a speed limit.

Another interesting area was the use of drones to monitor driving with the ability to contact police on the ground for them to intercept the vehicle. It is likely that they will be used in the future to calculate average speeds and to provide evidence to the courts without the intervention of police 'on the ground'.

There was much emphasis in the meeting on the vulnerability of motorcyclists and the difficulties in persuading them to alter their approach to road safety. The number of accidents with resulting deaths or serious injuries to them is totally out of proportion to the number of riders compared with the number of road users.

Phillip  


## Jonathan Parsons

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 July 2023 22:55  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Peninsula Transport International Gateway Study: strengthening the region's global connections

OFFICIAL

***Email sent on behalf of Councillor Andrea Davis, Chair of Peninsula Transport***

Dear Stakeholder,

We have just published the International Gateway Study which looks at strengthening our region's global connections.

The International Gateway Study, which covers both the Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway STB areas, examines the current and future performance of the South West's ports and airports.

International gateways are dealing with changes in the supply chain caused by the pandemic, the implications of leaving the European Union and adapting to the need to decarbonise transport.

Strengthening global connections could see an increase in the movement of people and goods. It also recognises that ports and airports are not only important for passengers and freight – they are also centres of economic activity which sustain jobs and generate revenue.

It highlights some positive trends including:

- Ports and airports could diversify into supporting new sectors such as offshore renewable energy and support emerging activities in the space and aviation industries.
- Better connections between international gateways and supply chains could open new freight markets.
- Access and general transport connectivity to ports and airports via road and rail could be improved.

The study sets out a comprehensive set of recommendations to strengthen the peninsula's global connections. Peninsula Transport will use the analysis to inform the transport strategy for the region by:

- Contributing to the development of the proposed aviation and aeronautical engineering Demonstration Zone.
- Facilitating communication between ports and airports with regional tourism and manufacturing groups to promote services, explore ticketing options as well as propel and scale new industries like offshore renewables.
- Providing clear, sector specific information on freeports.
- Making the case for the use and reinstatement of rail links to ports and airports.
- Engaging with the Department for Transport (DfT) and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on the consistency of data collection.
- Considering capturing Mobile Network Data to understand origins/destinations of goods to and from international gateways.
- Working with regional bodies, businesses and groups on alternative fuel production, storage and distribution.

The International Gateway Study can be found at <https://www.peninsulatransport.org.uk/international-gateways/> - please feel free to share this briefing and the link with your networks. We are also promoting the strategy via our social media channels and would welcome your support in sharing content across your own channels

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/peninsula-transport/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PensTransport>

Best wishes,

Councillor Andrea Davis

Chair of Peninsula Transport

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Strategic Planning and Infrastructure  
Plymouth City Council  
Ballard House  
West Hoe Road  
Plymouth  
PL1 3BJ

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[www.plymouth.gov.uk](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk)

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