

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

12 APRIL 2022

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD WARDEN SCHEME

The Assistant Town Clerk has been exploring the highway safety courses available to the Parks Officers. Both officers have undertaken the basic e-course in highway safety provided by Devon County Council, and one officer is already qualified in Traffic Management for Community Events.

Devon County Council offers a Signing, Lighting and Guarding course, this would normally cost £320 per operative. If the Town Council signs up to the DCC Road Warden Scheme it would then enable both Parks Officers to undertake this course free of charge and then be able competently work alongside and on the highway. It would supersede the Traffic Management for Community Events course, removing the requirement for the other Parks Officer to undertake this course at a cost of £110. This would also dovetail in with their role as snow wardens.

Road Warden Scheme

- The road warden scheme enables communities to carry out minor works which DCC are no longer able to resource and do not have a legal responsibility to carry out;
- DCC provide third party insurance for the works;
- Free training on DCC arranged courses;
- Priority status for Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund (HMCE) Fund applications;
- Access to a store of tools which are held at various locations around the county.

The scope of work covered in the scheme is listed below, and although appears fairly extensive, any work undertaken would be performed in agreement with the DCC Highways Neighbourhood Officer, and signing up to the scheme would not place an obligation on the Town Council to perform this work.

- Road Warden Scheme;
- Pothole repairs (when they do not meet DCC intervention criteria);
- Clearing weeds;
- Cleaning signs;
- Cleaning drainage (gully grating);
- Cutting grass;
- Repairing finger posts;
- Cutting hedges;
- Set up a road closure for special events;
- Managing verges for wildlife.

Details of the Road Warden Scheme can be found here

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/opportunities/road-warden-scheme>

The Parks Officers are very proactive and there have been occasions where we have had to restrict their activities because they are situated on DCC land and not Town Council responsibility. It can often be more time-consuming in ascertaining ownership than them performing a simple task that they wish to do. By signing up to the Road Warden Scheme this would offer training, not only benefitting the Parks Officers in Town Council tasks requiring working on the highway, but also provide opportunities to maintain pride in Ivybridge's public realm.

Members are **recommended** to approve the Town Council signing up to the Road Warden Scheme.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk

Julie Gilbert
Assistant Town Clerk