

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2019

PRESENT: Cllr: R Lyon (Mayor); F Pritchard-Tagg (Deputy Mayor)
Cllrs: M Baillie; R Cooke; A Fyson; T de Galleani; D Gent; B Harriss; R Springett; S Thomson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Sergeant: R Lambden; Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; District Cllr: H Bastone; R Rowe; Dartmouth Chronicle: Charley Adams; Youth Genesis: Michelle Taylor, Tim Moss & Hazel Smith (Director); David Eaton: CCTV Project Manager from the Devon and Cornwall Police; Dartmouth Visitor Centre: Karen Perrow; Harbour Master/CEO: Capt Mark Cooper & 6 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs: P Allen; I Pritchard; S Smith; F Hawke

PART I - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

166. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced the standard emergency evacuation procedures. He requested that mobile phones and other devices be set on silent or turned off. Anyone intending to record any part of the meeting was asked to declare this.

167. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs: P Allen; Cllr: D Kelland; I Pritchard; S Smith; F Hawke.

168. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none at this point.

169. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public asked if the Council were inclined as a council to support initiatives by the community as an independent group to support the Neighbourhood Plan, but possibly with some Council support.

Was the intention to allow a group to proceed?

The Mayor said that this had been discussed informally and it was generally thought that a community group to lead the Neighbourhood Plan would be the way forward. Cllr Gent said he thought this solution would be a good idea.

The same member of the public asked if the Council would support this, and the Clerk said that this was not possible as per Standing Orders No 37:

RESCISSION OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

37. A decision (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within six months save by a special resolution, the written notice whereof bears the signatures of at least half the Members of the Council. Any rescission should be dependent on new information, including legal advice, coming to light. This Standing

Order shall not apply to resolutions moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee.

The Clerk also said that a new Council would be elected, so no current Cllrs should comment on this.

The Mayor added that the member of the public would be welcome to contact him and discuss it further.

A member of the public asked about the controversial planning application for a bridge on Council owned land Manor Gardens for a private house, The Mayor clarified that Dartmouth Town Council did not own Manor Gardens and that it still belonged to South Hams District Council.

The Mayor also said that the Planning Committee recommended refusal to this planning application.

The same member of the public asked about rumours going around Dartmouth about how many Cllrs would stand again in May.

The Mayor said that you should not believe every rumour and wait until people put their names forward for the election which will take place on the 2nd May.

The start of the nomination process is 10am on Thursday 21st March, and the deadline for receipt of nominations is 4pm on Wednesday 3rd April.

170. PRESENTATION ON CCTV FROM DAVID EATON

David Eaton (CCTV Project Manager) from the Devon and Cornwall Police gave a verbal presentation about how CCTV can help to assist with crime in the area. – Appendix A

Questions

Cllr Cooke said that what worried him was this may be a knee jerk reaction because of a few problems in town with some youth. He asked what CCTV does for the prevention of crime and stressed that this wasn't a replacement for the police. David Eaton responded that the management group in Cornwall receive a quarterly report back from the fire service and some towns feel it has enhanced the feeling of safety in their town.

Cllr Gent didn't think that CCTV was needed in the town, and that it was a poor replacement for the much-needed police presence in Dartmouth.

Cllr de Galleani said she felt it was an expensive reassurance and didn't know if it would help with the issues that take place late at night of anti-social behaviour around the Market area.

Cllr Fyson said that the reassurance was valid as it's a psychological issue. He knows people who are nervous of using the cash machines after an elderly lady was robbed in the summer.

The Mayor thanked David Eaton for coming to talk to the Town Council.

**171. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:
THE POLICE**

Sgt Simons was unable to attend but had submitted a written report, which was circulated to all Cllrs, it is Appendix B below.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Rowe was in attendance and had submitted a written report which is Appendix C below.

There were no questions

Cllr Bastone gave a verbal report and submitted notes which are Appendix D below. There were no questions

172. PRESENTATION FROM YOUTH GENESIS

Michelle Taylor, Tim Moss and Hazel Smith from Youth Genesis had been invited to speak about the work that they do in Dartmouth, their notes from their meeting are Appendix E below.

Cllr Cooke thanked them for the work they do and hoped that this Council continued to support them.

The Mayor thanked them for coming in and talking about what Youth Genesis do for the young people of the town.

173. PROPOSAL FOR NO SMOKING IN THE OLD MARKET

Cllr de Galleani declared an interest in this item.

There was a discussion about the Old Market and whether it should be a no smoking area, the Chairman of Corporate Property Cllr Springett said that legislation wasn't completely clear as to whether the Old Market was a substantially enclosed public work place or not. The Mayor suggested that the Clerk approach the two cafes in the Market and ask them if they would be against a smoking ban in the market.

Cllr Springett said he felt that he was happy for the Clerk to go and talk to the cafes but we needed a policy on it.

Cllr Harriss agreed with Springett and thought it should be banned in the market.

Proposal: Cllr Springett

Seconded: Cllr Gent

Resolution: That the Council adopts a no smoking ban in the Market and works with the cafes to enforce it.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

174. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7th JANUARY 2019.

Members reviewed the minutes of the previous Town Council meeting.

Cllr Fyson referred to page 6 and the wording with regards to the Neighbourhood Plan and would like it slightly changed to better reflect what he said. The Clerk asked Cllr Fyson to discuss the wording after the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Gent

Seconded: Cllr Springett

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Town Council held on 7th January 2019, once corrected with Cllr Fyson's amendment be confirmed and signed as a true record.
All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

**175. TO RECEIVE SUCH CORRESPONDENCE AS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE TOWN
MAYOR**

The Mayor said that he had received a letter from the Chief Inspector Julian Pezzani and noted a couple of comments which were interesting.

The inspector mentioned that they were looking forward to returning to their former station in the town, and also that Dartmouth is at the forefront of the innovation of a jointly retained firefighter / special constable who will arrive in April.

Also received a response from Alison Hernandez

Both included as Appendix F

**176. TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS OF THE UNDER
MENTIONED COMMITTEES:**

- **Finance Committee – 9th January 2019**

Cllr Pritchard-Tagg reviewed the minutes.

Proposed: Cllr Pritchard-Tagg

Seconded: Cllr Gent

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the above meeting be approved.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

- **Personnel Committee – 22nd January 2019**

Cllr Thomson reviewed the minutes and also mentioned that she would like to discuss item 29 in the confidential section if Cllrs were all in agreement.

Proposed: Cllr Thomson

Seconded: Cllr Harriss

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the above meeting be approved and that item 29 be discussed in the confidential section.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

- **Corporate Property Committee meeting Tuesday 22nd January 2019**

Cllr Springett reviewed the minutes.

Proposed: Cllr Springett

Seconded: Cllr Gent

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the above meeting be approved.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

- **Planning Committee meeting Wednesday 23rd January 2019**

Cllr Gent reviewed the minutes.

Proposed: Cllr Gent

Seconded: Cllr Springett

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the above meeting be approved.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

- **General Purposes report from the inquorate meeting on 29th January 2019**
Cllr de Galleani said that as this meeting was inquorate there are no formal minutes, a report was circulated.

177. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM AND PUT QUESTIONS TO REPRESENTATIVES ON PUBLIC BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Cllr de Galleani said that the Green Partnership's accounts from last year are completely up to date and will be in the office.

Cllr de Galleani also said that she had followed up with a second visit to Plymouth with the Administrator to the access labs, she told them that she'd been successful in getting signs up along the embankment asking coaches to turn their engines off and they had told her this could decrease up to 15 tons of co2 in a year, so this was successful.

The Mayor invited the Harbour Master: Mark Cooper to say a few words.

Mark Cooper spoke about the River Dart in general and plans that Dart Harbour Navigation Authority (DHNA) has for its future, and also said that in the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan, he would like the Dart Harbour and the Council to work together for plans for the River Dart.

He covered the following topics:

- Dart Harbour run a trust port, established by an act of parliament and are a non-profit organisation.
- Turnover of 1.7million mainly from moorings on the river.
- If they make a profit, they have to pay corporation tax at 19% so they try to invest their excess of income in expenditure.
- they need to spend about £290,000 a year to level the books, and this almost matches the amount they need to spend to replace the things on the river that brings people in, ie: moorings.
- One of the things they are looking at is how best to spend that money in the area of the river, but to do this as a trust port, they need to consult with their stakeholder who are three main groups
 - Leisure users (leisure clubs)
 - commercial users (ferries, fishing vessels)
 - and lastly the communities (Parish Councils, Town Councils, District Council)

Mark Cooper said that he would like to get together to ask questions about the types of things that the Council supports in relation to river activities.

The Mayor asked for Mark Cooper to write in to the Council and that these issues could be addressed to the General Purposes Committee.

Cllr Gent said that he was the Chairman of the Planning Committee and that he would ask for Mark Cooper to be added to the planning distribution list.

Mark Cooper said that he would circulate the regular report/newsletter to the Town Council, which is also on their website.

Cllr Thomson said that she supported the river and with regards to Noss on Dart Marina on the other side of the river she hoped Dartmouth didn't get left behind.

Cllr Springett said that he would like the Council and the Dart Harbour to work together and would love to receive a regular report/newsletter from the Harbour Master.

178. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT OF FINANCIAL MATTERS FOR DECEMBER 2018

The Clerk and Finance Officer had circulated copies of the financial report to all Cllrs prior to this meeting.

Cllr Cooke spoke about income and expenditure for the Parks and Open Spaces, and the need to make it clear that there is income as well as expenditure.

The Mayor explained that both income and expenditure for the Parks and Open Spaces is on the financial report but that it would be a good idea for Cllr Cooke to come into the office and to discuss it further with the Clerk and Finance Officer.

Proposed: Cllr Gent

Seconded: Cllr Springett

Resolved: That the Clerk's report of financial matters for December 2018 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be approved.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

179. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ASKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO 29

Cllr de Galleani spoke about her frustrations with the last General Purposes meeting on the 29th January being inquorate, and this meeting having to be re-arranged, she asked for Cllrs on that Committee to please attend the next General Purposes Committee meeting.

Cllr Fyson spoke asked for clarification with regards to declaring an interest and a pecuniary interest and the Clerk said she would clarify this with all members.

180. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Springett

Seconded: Cllr Gent

Resolved: That in view of the confidential nature of business about to be transacted, it was in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and that they be instructed to withdraw.

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL

181. CCTV PROPOSAL

Cllr Springett spoke about how he has been working on this for around 6 months, he asked three companies to quote and only one came back as compliant where their software met with the Police specifications, out of the other two who were asked: one was non-compliant and the other failed to quote.

It has also been noted that there are only a few companies who undertake this work.

Cllr Springett said that it's a one-off cost and then an annual maintenance cost. There is also a grant that the Council can receive back from the Police and Crime Commissions which would be around 1/3 of the total costs. There was a general discussion based around costs, locations, quality of service and functionality and Cllrs gave their views as to whether they were for or against this decision.

Proposal: Cllr Harriss

Seconded: Cllr Ballie

Resolution: To go ahead with the quote that would be compliant with the software that meets with the Police specifications.

Eight Cllrs were in favour

Two Cllrs abstained

182. ITEM 29 FROM THE PERSONNEL MINUTES - TO DISCUSS AND RESOLVE INSURANCE CLAIM FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF A TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER OF STAFF

Cllrs discussed this topic and all Cllrs attending the meeting agreed with the resolution from the Personnel Committee meeting on Tuesday 22nd January 2019.

Proposed: Cllr Thomson

Seconded: Cllr Gent

Resolved: That all Councillors agreed the resolution from the Personnel Committee meeting on Tuesday 22nd January 2019.

Cllrs voted to come out of the confidential section.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

APPENDIX A

Presentation by David Eaton, CCTV Project Manager at Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:

- Mr Eaton outlined the background to the PCC's decision to invest in CCTV by providing capital grants to help upgrade the major incident control rooms, and towns which wished to install or upgrade systems which would be connected into one of the control rooms.
 - Cornwall Fire Service had worked with 8 towns in west Cornwall to create the initial network. With the support of grants from the PCC this network had grown to 11 towns with several others intending to follow.
 - In Devon the PCC's office has worked with the existing local authority control rooms in Exeter, Torbay, Plymouth and N Devon to help them develop into CCTV monitoring hubs.
 - Over 20 towns had expressed interest in receiving site visits and quotes ahead of Council decisions on making budget provision and applying for capital funding support from the PCC.
 - The PCC had offered to pay 30% of the cost of installing CCTV systems and connecting them into a hub, up to a maximum of £15,000
 - In Cornwall the original 8 towns had identified a series of benefits for the installation of high quality, integrated CCTV systems:
 - Providing reassurance for the local community, including the public and people/officers working in those areas – especially in the Evening and Night-time Economy areas
 - Supporting police in investigations and detection
 - Deterring anti-social and criminal activity
 - Contributing to the evidence base for civil actions – such as Public Space Protection Orders, premises closure notices and other orders to prevent Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Safeguarding vulnerable people – including lost children, individuals with mental health problems, elderly people who may have gone missing, individuals who have been drinking with friends and have become detached from them.
 - The PCC's CCTV project is closely aligned with rapid developments in police digital/IT programmes which will equip officers with access to a wide range live and recorded data via their new handsets, body worn video, drones etc
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APPENDIX B

Town council meeting – 4th February 2019

Police report

Incidents of note:

The three young lads committing the Anti-Social behaviour have continued into this month. On Monday 28th January they were found on the roof of the Royal Castle Hotel, having thrown some of the light bulbs which are used to illuminate the hotel's sign, into the road.

Having arrested the boys, a further offence of intimidating behaviour was discovered. A report is being submitted to the Youth Intervention Team with a recommendation that they are to be charged with both offences.

Fraud Scam:

On 30th January an elderly couple from Thurlestone Gardens reported they had been contacted, initially by phone, to try and get them to invest in a fine art company. This led to a female attending the address in an attempt, for them to sign over approximately £2000 via a cheque.

Thankfully the police were called and the female quickly left the address.

***** Please be aware of such scam and do NOT buy anything from a 'cold caller' or anyone trying to sell you anything on the phone. If you haven't asked for anyone to come to your address – Do NOT part with any money and NEVER give your bank details to anyone who calls you on the phone UNLESS it for something you have ordered yourself. ******

Missing cats:

There has been a report of cats going missing in the Britannia Avenue area of Townstal. There has only been one incident reported as a theft. If anyone has information or is concerned about their domestic pets suddenly disappearing, please contact the Neighbourhood Team, either via the Dartmouth Police website or via '101'.

Sgt Iain Simons

APPENDIX C

S.H.D.C. Report from Cllr. Rosemary Rowe for January 2019.

At Council we have been having meetings ref. setting the budget for the next year commencing 01/04/2019. This includes setting The Council Tax as well. We have to set a balanced budget by law and that will be finalised at The Next Full Council Meeting on Thursday 21st February 2019.

We are also reviewing achievements over the past four years and looking at setting priorities for the next four years.

I attended a Town Centre Strategy Meeting Along with representatives of our four main towns organised by Tom Jones one of our Strategic Planning officer's . This followed on from a recommendation made by O/S Com. In Nov. These meetings will take place on a monthly ? Basis to look at our towns, and how we see our towns and their problems.

There is a large sum of money of approx. £ 620 mil. Across the Country that has been allocated by Central Gov. for the future funding of working with Our High Streets ,the shops and businesses on our High Streets. Two of the main problems for them are the rents, and The Business Rates.

Those towns eligible for funding / places with significant challenges. The need to work together with other organisations incl. The H of S.W. County Council, L.E.P. Those kinds of organisations.

Each Town gave a potted history of how they see themselves at present and going forward into the future. The pot of money has to be applied for before 21st March so there is not much time to put a plan together. Ivybridge seems to have a forward plan already to go. Their Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted. They have employed Lee Bray (former S.H.D.C. forward planner) who is working with them and several parishes around Ivybridge. Dartmouth Which is a tourist Area (unlike Ivy bridge) It has now been left without a bank although it does have a Post Office facility .it does not have a hospital at present(neither does Ivybridge)A New health and Wellbeing centre is in the process of being set up near The Leisure Centre.

Dartmouth is a town of two parts, it has the old Town and the newer Part around Townstal.It does not have an N.P.Group at present. The challenges to The Town are No Chamber of Trade in any form. Two main problems are Parking and Transport which are a challenge to all our towns and villages not only here in the S.H. but countrywide. There are too many cars and only One Person in it.

Dartmouth has the River Dart, Beautiful gardens and River Frontage. This is only my opinion but maybe an outside view is needed to create an environment to get more people into the town. It has historic buildings so history talks and walks and events making more use of what is already available to the town can be exploited? Would suggest this is something The Newly elected town council Can Consider after the Elections on Thursday 2nd May 2019. We discussed Kingsbridge and Totnes too. I don't need to report on their findings to you as I was mainly concerned with Dartmouth as I am your District Councillor (one of three).To access the pot of money a bid has to be submitted by 22nd march. It was thought that for those Councils not in a position to apply now .There may well be other allocated monies which will come up in the future. There is a website available with all the info on. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-high-streets-fund-call-for-proposals>

APPENDIX D

Cllr Hilary Bastone

Key messages for February 2019

1. Joint Local Plan

JLP is on track for final adoption at a Special Full Council meeting penciled in for 21st March

2. South West Mutual Bank.

The founder share offer deadline has been extended to 31st March to accommodate a number of institutional investors including 5 Councils. Most of the councils have meetings in February at which point decisions will be taken. As of today £170,000 has been confirmed, a further £80,000 of private investment awaiting confirmation and a further £250,000 - £300,000 of councils investment

awaiting confirmation. They are confident of making the £250,000 minimum to move forward with preparing a banking license.

3. Peer Review Autumn 2018 - Feedback report now received with on the whole good findings. Recognition for good work on the JLP work and waste procurement process. An action plan moving forward the recommendation made will be presented to the Executive in March.
4. New Candidates induction program is now on the website.
5. Budget consultation is now on the engagement portal. Go to SHDC website and click on "Join the Conversation"
6. Consultation on the business rates treatment of self-catering accommodation. SHDC's response on the website. Wholly opposed to rate relief being given on these properties.
7. Important Election Dates:
 - Tuesday 26th March – Deadline for publication of Notice of Election
 - Wednesday 3rd April – Deadline for receipt of nominations
 - Thursday 4th April – Publication of statements of persons nominated
 - Thursday 2nd May – Election Polling Day

Also from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Thursday 24th January

8. Car parking pay and display machines
9. Community Safety Partnership annual report
10. Safeguarding update
11. Review into the process for spending section 106 deposits for affordable housing
12. Review of procedure for dealing with Standards Complaints
13. Corporate Strategy
14. Q3 2018/19 Performance Report

APPENDIX E

Report for Full Council Meeting 4th February 2019.

Youth Genesis would like to thank the TC for letting us present at the meeting and for their continued support.

Michelle Taylor, Operations Lead and DSL.

Tim Moss, Session Leader, The Point and Youth Leisure Nights.

Hazel Smith, Director.

There are 146 young people on Youth Genesis books in Dartmouth with 80 attending regularly.

Our drop in's are a real need in the Town and in Townstal, working with some of the most challenging individuals.

The Point - Open on a Friday from 7-9pm at St Clements Church Hall, Townstal. Tim and his team have been working hard to engage with hard to reach young people. This is so

important for these young people as they do not or cannot access any other provisions in Town for example, uniformed groups, where these young people feel they would not fit in. The Point is rather more structured than the other sessions, offering organised games, cooking and targeted youth work.

Youth Leisure Nights in partnership with Dartmouth Leisure Centre - open on a Friday running along side The Point. 8-9pm. This provision is line managed by Tim and run by two of our Detached Streetbase workers. The sessions were programmed that there was a different sporting activity every week, which included, boxing, bench ball, hockey, football and basketball. It has evolved into a more relaxed session where the young people chose which activities they wish to take part in. It is most important that young people stay active.

Decks - open on a Thursday from 6.30-8.30pm at Ivy Lane.

Our focus is around sport, basketball, dodgeball, pool, table tennis and hokey but we are always led by the need.

We work with many disadvantaged young people who very often come from a home which we refer to as the toxic 3; domestic violence, substance misuse and mental health issues.

Which in turn create issues for the young person living in those environments.

This is why our targeted work is so important, this has become rather more difficult now we have lost some space in the building.

However we are still supporting those young people with complex issues as best we can with the resource we have.

It is absolutely necessary that we provide a safe environment for the young people of the Town, who do not engage in anything else.

We have a good relationship with the Academy and Michelle meets with the deputy head once a month. We will be doing assemblies in March at the Academy the theme being Respect in the Community.

Michelle Taylor

APPENDIX F

Cllr R M Lyon

Mayor to Dartmouth Town Council

The Mayor's Parlour

Guildhall

Victoria Road

Dartmouth

TQ6 9RY

Our ref: PCC_4245_LYON

16th January 2019

Dear Cllr Lyon

Thank you for your letter of 7th December but I am sorry to hear of the town council's concerns at policing of the local area.

As you will know I have supported the Chief Constable in recruiting police officers since I took office. This position bucks the national trend where many forces are seeing reductions in officer numbers. We have plans for 115 additional officers in total but this is not yet enough to solve the need for more local policing in neighbourhoods.

In the last few months the Chief Constable has taken the decision to reinforce the operational policing command for South Devon by creating a new policing structure for Teignbridge, Torbay and South Hams. The introduction of the South Devon Basic Command Unit (BCU) will allow a greater influence over priorities for the local area and a bigger voice for South Devon within the force.

The BCU is headed by Chief Superintendent Keith Perkin and supported by a senior leadership team therefore placing South Devon on equal footing with the three other BCUs in Cornwall, Plymouth and North, East and West Devon. I understand that Ch Supt Perkin's office should have been in touch with you by now.

We have been able to make investments in the important area of road safety with an increase in our roads policing officers and a newly established Rural Crime Team. Finally, we have developed a new Connectivity Framework <https://devonandcornwall.s3.amazonaws.com/Documents/Our%20information/Key%20document/Connect%20to%20Protect%20Leaflet%20compressed.pdf> and a Councillor Advocate Scheme, more information available here <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/take-part/councillor-advocate-scheme> both of which will support better links between your council, local residents and the police.

I am currently conducting a poll seeking resident's views on a small increase in the police precept in order to fund a further increase in police officer numbers. The poll is available here <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-blog/multimedia-hub/have-your-say-on-police-numbers-in-devon-and-cornwall> and I would encourage your participation.

Yours sincerely

Alison Hernandez
Police and Crime Commissioner

APPENDIX F



Devon & Cornwall Police

Cllr R M LYON

The Mayor to Dartmouth Council
The Mayor's Parlour Guildhall
Victoria Rd
DARTMOUTH TQ6 9RY
Ref: EST/944/12/2018/1A & SDEV/013/19

5th January 2019

Dear Councillor Lyon

Thank for your letter requesting additional police resources to be allocated to Dartmouth. I apologise for the delay but needed to check some points to ensure you have clarity in our answer. I would point out that we have had similar correspondence from representatives from across our area and only have finite resources. Our geography presents challenges as well, with considerations around the ability to rapidly deploy police resources safely and effectively.

We have seen an overall increase in reported crime across the country and within Devon and Cornwall. Dartmouth has seen an increase above the Force average but for some reassurance the overall numbers are low which does push the percentage up. However, any rise must be challenged by both the police and the community. I would refer to following points below:

1. Immediate Response officers have been deployed to work from Dartmouth during various periods. This presents a challenge due to the geographic location of Dartmouth if an immediate response is required to be attended outside of the town, it requires further high-speed driving and the risks that entails. Such deployments does offer increased patrolling and a deterrent. In an ideal world I would like to station officers 24/7 in each town across our area but do not have the resources to do so, so must take this approach. This will continue, and I would not want to publish periods or times as such information could be exploited by the criminal fraternity.
2. Devon and Cornwall Police remain committed to providing a police presence in Dartmouth and look forward to the completion of the work in the centre of town and a return to our former station. This will increase the presence and deterrent effect, as well as allowing us to deploy more effectively.
3. We have seen some long term sickness with our team at Dartmouth, particularly within our Police Community Support Officers. This is in conjunction with the projected reduction in PCSO's across the Force due to financial restraints. However, PCSO BARKER will be moving to a new role in the near future and we will then be able to consider how his post is replaced.

4. Dartmouth is at the forefront of innovation and has been selected as an area for a national pilot of a joint retained Firefighter/ Special Constable to be based in the town. The officer will offer broad community safety and will be a visible presence within the town. This is only one of seven such trials across Devon and the country and I hope a positive step towards increasing community safety for the town. The officer will arrive in April subject to completing the extensive training required.
5. The Police and Crime Commissioner has now had sanction from government to increase the precept after public consultation. If this is successful then the Force has committed to investing this additional funding into Neighbourhood policing across the Force area. It would be appreciated if the council could consider supporting this with a view to obtaining an investment in staff in the South Hams. It would also be useful if the Council could consider supporting a Special Constable Recruitment campaign within the town to increase our volunteer network.

In current times, we must be able to adapt and meet the challenges we face, both financially but also in wider regard to community safety together. We look forward to working together to meet such challenges in the future.

Yours Sincerely

Chief Inspector Julian PEZZANI
BCU South Devon

APPENDIX G

Mark Cooper / Harbour Master/CEO

1. Outline of trust port – how we work, non profit, no elected board members. Effective stakeholder engagement is important for Dart Harbour to understand the desires of the local community.
2. Dart Harbour is a statutory consultee for Planning on or around the river and understanding Dartmouth Town council planning principles/vision would be useful for our response to external planning requests and to guide our own capital investment plan.
3. Ideally Dartmouth TC would have a neighbourhood plan but even if the principles were included in a lower level plan they would be useful to guide us when carrying out our planning responsibilities and when seeking grant funding for facilities that bring socio economic benefit to the town.

4. The development of a neighbourhood plan for Dartmouth would be helpful for Dart Harbour to guide us when carrying out our planning responsibilities and when seeking grant funding for facilities that bring socio economic benefit to the town, in the absence of such a plan, an understanding of the core principles and planning strategy of DTC is important.
5. Examples where Dart Harbour knowledge of the Town Council planning and development principles/Strategic vision include:
 - Application for CCF grant funding for replacement of fishing pontoons
 - Response to planning applications that involve marine aspects (eg Fish hoek)
 - Considerations for improvements in disabled access and ferry landing