

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL  
MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020 | FULL COUNCIL MINUTES**

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY ON  
MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

**PRESENT:**

There were 12 Councillors present at the meeting.

CLRs: P Allen; N Bodinnar; C Campos; D Case; T de Galleani; A Edsall; G Evans; R Lyon: D Shepherd; G Webb (Mayor) D Wells; G Yardy

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Properties Administrator: K Brown; Administrator: R Searle; Properties Manager: Richard Roberts; Town Sergeant: R Lambden; District Cllr: R Rowe; Dartmouth Chronicle Reporter: Emily Baker; and one member of the public

**PART I - Open to the Public**

**129. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reminded both Councillors and the public that this meeting was being audibly recorded. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. asking questions) should be aware that they were being recorded or reported on and by entering the virtual meeting room, they were consenting to being recorded.

The Mayor also reminded members to conduct themselves in a manner befitting their position as elected CLRs, and to show due respect to each other at all times.

**130. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr M Baillie

**Proposed:** Cllr G Webb

**Seconded:** Cllr A Edsall

**Resolved:** To approve the apologies for absence

**Majority vote carried**

Apologies were also noted from: District Cllr H Bastone and County and District Cllr J Hawkins

**131. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr D Shepherd and Cllr G Webb declared an interest in item 146b

Cllr T de Galleani and Cllr R Lyon declared an interest in item 137c

**132. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were none

**133. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Proposed:** Cllr G Webb

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**Seconded:** Cllr G Evans

**Resolved:** To approve the minutes of the virtual town council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

**Majority vote carried**

**134. TO NOTE THE REPORTS FROM:**

- a. County & District Councillor - Cllr Hawkins (**Appendix A**)
- b. District Councillor - Cllr Rowe (**Appendix B**)
- c. District Councillor - Cllr Bastone (**Appendix C**)

Cllr P Allen asked if residents had been informed about the changes to waste collection days by SHDC as some residents have not received a letter and Cllr G Webb said that the officer at the last Council meeting had said that only residents affected would receive a letter from SHDC.

There was a discussion about the lack of letters being sent out to residents and Cllr R Rowe said that she could not answer the question about correspondence going out but added that she would investigate this problem.

Cllr C Campos said that she approved the response from SHDC regarding the new planning regulations that the government are imposing on the country and Cllr G Evans seconded that.

**135. TO CONSIDER JOINING THE DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC) PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3) SCHEME – (Cllr Case)**

Cllr D Case explained that through joining the scheme DTC would receive £30 per mile for the 6 miles of public footpaths that are within the parish of Dartmouth upon submission of a basic annual survey to highlight issues to DCC. DTC would have no legal responsibilities for the footpaths (other than where DTC is the landowner) as the responsibility for public rights of way would still lie with DCC. Cllr Case confirmed she had invited councillors and staff and representatives of DALAG, Walk and Talk and Dartmouth Neighbourhood Planning group to meet with her and the DCC Public Rights of Way co-ordinator prior to the proposal being brought to Full Council.  
P3 scheme proposal - Appendix D

Cllr A Edsall added that he thought the best way to implement this scheme would be to link into DALAG or to create a volunteer group who could report back to DTC who would then pass the findings on to DCC.

*At the Full Council meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 Cllr D Case said that this suggestion of a volunteer group was not part of the proposal and asked that the minutes be updated.*

Cllr Allen asked if the County Cllr J Hawkins would be involved in this and Cllr D Case said that the overall coordinator of the scheme would be the main contact.

**Proposed:** Cllr G Evans

**Seconded:** Cllr G Yardy

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**Resolved:** To approve joining the Devon County Council Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme

**Majority vote carried**

**136. TO DISCUSS RECOMMENDING THAT SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFER FREE PARKING AT JAWBONES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE (Cllr Wells)**

Cllr D Wells stated that Jawbones was a SHDC run car park which was being used by people selling cars and running businesses from it. Cllr D Wells added that the car park was a large space that could be used by locals or for campervans to park.

Cllr C Campos added that a glamping company had expressed an interest in the site to SHDC.

Cllr D Wells confirmed that he would send an email to SHDC to explore this matter further.

**137. GRANTS**

**a. Dartmouth pre-school - £250**

**Proposed:** Cllr D Shepherd

**Seconded:** Cllr G Evans

**Resolved:** To approve the total amount needed of £450 to Dartmouth pre-school

**Majority vote carried**

**b. Dartmouth Community Defibrillator Fund - £300**

**Proposed:** Cllr G Evans

**Seconded:** Cllr D Shepherd

**Resolved:** To approve

**All Cllrs were in agreement, majority vote carried**

*Cllr T de Galleani & Cllr R Lyon declared an interest in the next item and were moved into the waiting room, leaving 10 Cllrs in the meeting.*

**c. Dartmouth Green Partnerships - £500**

**Proposed:** Cllr C Campos

**Seconded:** Cllr D Wells

**Resolved:** To decline the grant of £500 to Dartmouth Green Partnerships. The Cllrs invited DGP to provide more information as to what the grant would be used for and then the application could then be looked at once again.

**Majority vote carried**

*Cllr T de Galleani & Cllr R Lyon were moved back into the meeting.*

**d. Samaritans of South Devon - £500**

**Proposed:** Cllr C Campos

**Seconded:** Cllr G Webb

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**Resolved:** To approve a grant of £500 to the Samaritans of South Devon  
All Cllrs voted in favour  
**Majority vote carried**

**138. TO CONSIDER:**

- a. Leasing the ATC hut in Townstal from SHDC
- b. Leasing the ATC hut in Townstal to Dartmouth Community Chest

*This item was moved to the confidential section of the meeting*

**139. TO APPROVE THE LICENSE TO THE DARTMOUTH VISITOR CENTRE FOR THE BUILDING KNOWN AS THE NEWCOMEN ENGINE HOUSE, CONTAINING THE NEWCOMEN ENGINE (Cllr Yardy)**

*This item was moved to the confidential section of the meeting*

**140. TO CONSIDER THE PLACEMENT OF A NEW PAY ON ENTRY SYSTEM AND REPLACEMENT OF SHUTTER DOORS FOR THE TOILETS AT ROYAL AVENUE GARDENS**

Cllrs discussed the benefits of upgrading the pay on entry system at the toilets in Royal Avenue Gardens.

Cllr C Campos and Cllr G Yardy asked that the new pay on entry system should include a contactless card payment system.

The Properties Manager explained how the changes would increase revenue and that the costs would be recuperated during the first year.

All Cllrs were in favour of these changes

**Proposed:** Cllr G Evans

**Seconded:** Cllr G Webb

**Resolved:** To approve the placement of a new pay on entry system and replacement of shutter doors for the toilets at Royal Avenue Gardens

**All Cllrs were in agreement, majority vote carried**

**141. TO NOTE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING VIRTUAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (with delegated authority):**

- a. Virtual Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

**Proposed:** Cllr G Evans

**Seconded:** Cllr N Bodinnar

**Resolved:** To approve the recommendations from the virtual Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

**Majority vote carried**

**142. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CLLRS**

(INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES ON PUBLIC BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS)

There were no reports

**143. ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

Cllr G Evans asked for the Chairs of committees to begin thinking about the budget provisions for the next financial year

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**144. PART 2 – Confidential**

**Proposed:** Cllr G Webb

**Seconded:** Cllr G Evans

**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.

**Majority vote carried**

*Cllr G Webb & Cllr D Shepherd declared an interest in the next item and were moved into the waiting room, leaving 10 Cllrs in the meeting.*

*The Clerk asked for nominations for a temporary chair for the following section.*

**145. NOMINATION OF TEMPORARY CHAIR**

Due to the Mayor declaring an interest in the following item and being moved into the waiting room the Council was asked to nominate a temporary Chairman.

**Proposed:** Cllr C Campos

**Seconded:** Cllr D Wells

**Resolved:** To appoint Cllr G Evans as the temporary Chairman for the following item

**Majority vote carried**

**146. TO CONSIDER:**

- a. Leasing the ATC hut in Townstal from SHDC
- b. Leasing the ATC hut in Townstal to Dartmouth Community Chest

The Properties Manager went through the Heads of Terms from SHDC regarding the leasing of the ATC hut, which would last for five years. He explained that the full self-repairing lease would then be sub-let to Dartmouth Community Chest and this then meant there was no risk to DTC.

Due to the standard of the hut and the work needing to be carried out to bring it up to standard, SHDC had agreed that the first year would be free. After this first year there would be a 6-month break clause in the lease, so any risk was minimum.

There was a short discussion between Cllrs regarding the lease.

**Proposed:** Cllr C Campos

**Seconded:** Cllr D Wells

**Resolved:** To approve DTC taking on the lease of the ATC Hut with SHDC and to immediately sub-let it to Dartmouth Community Chest

**Majority vote carried**

*Cllr G Webb & Cllr D Shepherd were moved back into the meeting and Cllr G Webb took back the seat as Chairman.*

*Cllrs C Campos and D Shepherd then left the meeting at 20:26, leaving 10 Cllrs in the meeting.*

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**147. TO APPROVE THE LICENSE TO THE DARTMOUTH VISITOR CENTRE FOR THE BUILDING KNOWN AS THE NEWCOMEN ENGINE HOUSE, CONTAINING THE NEWCOMEN ENGINE (Cllr Yardy)**

There was a discussion about the proposed license and Cllr G Yardy answered questions from Cllrs

**Proposed:** Cllr G Webb

**Seconded:** Cllr R Lyon

**Resolved:** To approve the license to the Dartmouth Visitor Centre for the building known as the Newcomen Engine House, containing the Newcomen Engine

**Majority vote carried**

**148. TO CONSIDER APPROVING AN EXTENSION TO THE RECEPTIONIST'S ADDITIONAL HOURS**

There was a short discussion regarding an extension to the Receptionists additional hours

**Proposed:** Cllr G Evans

**Seconded:** Cllr G Yardy

**Resolved:** To approve an extension to the receptionist's additional hours for a further two months

**Majority vote carried**

*Cllr T de Galleani left the meeting at 21:03*

**149. TO CONSIDER APPROVING AN EXTENSION TO THE SEASONAL WORKERS SHORT TERM CONTRACT**

There was a short discussion regarding an extension to the seasonal workers short term contract

**Proposed:** Cllr G Webb

**Seconded:** Cllr D Wells

**Resolved:** To approve an extension to the seasonal workers short term contract for a further three months

**Majority vote carried**

**150. TO CONSIDER REPLACING THE BOATFLOAT LIGHTS**

There was a short discussion about the safety of the current Boatfloat lights and the cost to replace them

**Proposed:** Cllr A Edsall

**Seconded:** Cllr G Evans

**Resolved:** To approve replacing The Boatfloat lights

**Majority vote carried**

*The meeting ended at 21:12*

**Appendix A – Report from Cllr J Hawkins**

Andy Bates

Both Hilary and I met the new Chief Exe in Town last Friday

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We walked along from Bayard's Cove along the Embankment, Where we met a number of business owners concerning this years and hopefully next years outside seating areas

Continued up to the proposed public Slipway site

Visited Townstal, the Leisure Centre and pool, Park and Ride, site of Health and wellbeing Centre and the new housing at West Dart

Some of the Issues raised were cost of entry to leisure Centre and Pool, improvements to Park

And Ride for next season and a site for a new industrial estate

You will also have seen in the press that Hilary and Cllr Helen Reeve visited Little Cotton Farm last month

The first homes will be available next spring

A new nursing home is also being discussed for the site nearest the Health and Well-being Centre

I am meeting Lisa Edmonds from Devon

county Highways in Dartmouth and Cornworthy on 5/10

Meeting Cornworthy Parish Councillors, please let us know if there is anything you would like me to raise with her

Embankment Outside seating

This I believe has been well received and we are hoping to extend this seasons trial and look how this can become permanent for coming year

Drainage

Meeting Cllr Case this week to discuss concerns over capacity of drainage in Victoria Rd and Charles street

County are in talks with other agencies to come forward with a plan for implementation next year

Swannaton

Again with the changing climate this road has been affected by the heavy rain

This has again been raised with Highways and emailing Meg Booth, head of County

Highways asking for the scheme that is being discussed to be brought forward with urgency

Park and Ride

A double deck bus will be on this service until the end of the season

A single deck bus should not have been used in September and this was replaced as soon as it could be

Exe Member Cllr Baldry leader of the Lib Dem's had reduced the service with out consultation with us the ward members

Helicopter Tower

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You may have seen that the wood is being painted and it is hoped that a long term tenant for this can be found soon

**College Way**

South Hams have cut the grass along here following town Councils withdrawal of looking after this this summer, being paid for out of my County Fund  
Spraying of the speed islands should have now taken place

**Leisure Centre**

It was agreed at the last Full District Meeting to put £243,000 into reopening all the 4 District Leisure Centres

This money will help pay wages costs etc up til next March

In Dartmouth alone it will safeguard 10 jobs

GP referrals will start again soon as will swimming lessons for our schools

It is hoped that money will be forthcoming to enable to reduce swimming prices

**Covid**

Can I thank again all the volunteers who have helped during this crisis, particularly Dartmouth Community Chest, Dartmouth Caring and TQ6

Also all the NHS workers and carers who are doing such an amazing job in protecting our residents

Hopefully all Cllrs have put the NHS App on their phones, it is an important way we can control Covid

County has a Covid Notification line

[Devon.cc/connect me](https://devon.cc/connectme)

This gives a regular update on all Covid related issues

Team Devon

This continues working with all 8 Districts on Covid issues and the economic recovery

A report will go to County Cabinet on a £6 million plan and officers are working Hard to ensure Central Government grants come Devon's way

It is likely that County and District will be holding Team, Skype or Zoom meetings well into 2021

Virtual meetings and officers working from home does raise the question are large headquarters still required ?

**Unitary Devon**

County and the 8 Districts have told the Government that they do not support this

With the likes of Team Devon this is proving how well local Government is working and such a large upheaval at this time is unnecessary

It is felt that any such change is unlikely in the current parliament



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Planning Consultation

The Government consultation on planning regulations have been clearly told that South Hams are not supportive of some of the changes

The two main concerns is that the District would have to provide twice as many houses as planned and that the raising of the threshold of 10 to 40 for an affordable contribution% South Hams have clearly said we do not support these in an Area such as ours with AONBs and small communities

Domiciliary Care

Shortage of staffing is still a concern, all packages are being achieved but some are being filled by an outside contractor

Care Homes

With the slow increase in Covid Cases and infections, plans are in position and visiting of families and friends may have to be limited in future

Adult Social Care

Winter packages were published recently Devon County has been given an extra grant of £9 million to help

All care workers are provided with free PPE

Care workers are often forgotten and as we all know they provide a vitally important front line service

Schools

On average 90% of children are attending

County have put on over 70 extra buses/ coaches to provide safe Covid transport

County have also put out a call for Foster parents

Over 109 children are looking for safe caring homes

Climate Change

We can all see How changes are taking place

It's not a when it is actually happening and we all need to do something seriously to try to help

South Hams have £400,000 set aside for this issue

I believe it is the most a District have put aside

A working Group has been meeting and a new Officer been put in place to come forward with plans on how best to spend this money

Working with County it is essential that this money is spent wisely and to the achieve the best results

If the Town Council have any ideas please let us know

It is now Well overdue and we must all act for future generations and the planet

Finally

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If you feel a virtual informal meeting would be helpful, please let us know and we can set it up  
Perhaps before your next meeting in 2 weeks ?

**Appendix B – Report from Cllr Rowe**

The last two months have been busy months for us at S.H.D.C. We have been having many meetings via Skype, Zoom etc.

We have been working on an amended Budget to see the Council through until the end of this financial year to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 there is at present a shortfall of £1,313,000 .We have been through all the possibilities to produce an amended revenue Budget for the rest of this Financial Year. This was on the agenda for the Full Council Meeting which was held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 with recommendations to Council from The Executive. The joint meeting of the Over view and Scrutiny Panel and The D.M.Committee had met previously to consider the best options to proceed. The main debate was whether to take monies from unearmarked reserves which currently stand at £ 1.9 million. It was at that meeting decided not to use all the monies from unearmarked reserves to prop up the shortfall. We may need to take up £200,000 from this reserve Pot will not do so unless absolutely necessary.

There are Changes coming from the 5<sup>th</sup> October for refuse collection Days. Every household has been sent a letter telling them when their new collection day will be...The next recycling collection day here in Stoke Gabriel will be week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> October. The New recycling system to be known as The Super Recycler Service which will allow for much more kerbside recycling will commence in early spring of next year

Other matters which occur seemingly in every parish and town are the never ending problems of rubbish, overflowing bins and skips, dog poo bins etc. over hanging trees, bushes and the general state of some areas.

We have met with Fusion representatives and it was an agenda item for the Full Council Meeting which was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed to reopen all our Leisure Centres as soon as was possible during the month of October Dartmouth is scheduled to open on the 14<sup>th</sup> October. There will be a cost to the Council and so the plea to the residents is please use it or lose your local Centre. Leisure centres are part of the council's responsibilities to health & well being which is one of our priorities to our residents.

Covid 19 has presented us with many problems but we have managed to keep fairly safe with low number of cases in the South Hams considering the numbers of tourists that we have had visiting us.

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I have attended meetings of The Torbay & South Devon Healthcare Trust .The DAY Surgery unit at the Hospital reopened on the 1<sup>st</sup> September and will be working at full capacity by October. This was the area which was set aside to deal with Covid19 urgent cases and treatment of patients.

The Nightingale Hospital on the outskirts of Exeter is up and running well. So far it has dealt with 900 patients, including cancer patients.

It is the season for The Flu vaccine vaccinations, please be sure to get yours and hopefully stay safe.

**Appendix C – Report from Cllr H Bastone**

**September Activity Report.**

Sept. 2. Assets update meeting by Skype.

Weekly Leader/Deputy Leader/Chief Exec/Deputy Chief Exec Skype Briefing.

3. Joint overview and Scrutiny Panel and DM Committee by Skype:

Executive Forward Plan.

Draft Amended Budget 2020/21.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Recovery and Renewal Plan Development Update.

Executive Briefing by Skype.

Executive weekly chat by Skype.

4. Executive/SLT meeting with Sir Gary Streeter MP by Zoom.

7. LEP/Annual District – South Hams District meeting by Zoom.

Dartmouth Town Council meeting by Zoom.

9. Discussion with Head of Assets re: Priorities by Skype.

Finance update meeting by Skype.

Weekly Leader/Deputy Leader/Chief Exec/Deputy Chief Exec Skype Briefing.

Kingswear Parish Council meeting by Zoom.

10. Member Briefing: Planning White Paper by Skype.

Member Briefing: New Recycling Service – Update by Skype.

Executive weekly chat by Skype.

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11. Prep Briefing regarding the Housing Strategy Member Workshop by Skype.
14. Executive Briefing by Skype.  
Dartmouth Recovery Forum by Zoom.
15. Visit to West Dart development.
16. Discretionary Panel meeting by Skype  
Assets update meeting by Skype.  
Community Housing Delivery Programme: Progress Report and Capital Requirements pre-Executive briefing.  
Weekly Leader/Deputy Leader/Chief Exec/Deputy Chief Exec Skype Briefing.  
Executive catch-up by Skype.
17. Executive meeting by Skype:  
Executive Forward Plan.  
Reports of Other Bodies:
  - (a) Overview & Scrutiny Panel - 16 July 2020.
  - (b) Joint Development Management Committee and O&S Panel.Recovery Plan to the Covid-19 Crisis.  
Amended Draft Budget 2020/22.  
Signing up to the Coastal Concordat.  
Ivybridge Regeneration Project – Update.  
Community Housing Delivery Programme: Progress Report and Capital Requirements.  
Member Workshop: Housing Strategy by Skype  
Executive weekly chat by Skype.
21. Member Briefing: Fusion update by Skype.  
JLP Board meeting by Teams.  
Dartmouth Town Council meeting by Zoom.
22. Green Jobs/Kickstart Partnership by Zoom.

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Meeting regarding EV Charing in Dartmouth by Zoom.

23. Finance update meeting by Skype.

Weekly Leader/Deputy Leader/Chief Exec/Deputy Chief Exec Skype Briefing.

Council Chair's Briefing by Skype.

24. Council:

Business Brought Forward by the Chairman to consider business (if any) brought forward by the Chairman in accordance with agenda item 2;

(a) Motion brought by Cllrs Pearce and Bastone

'This Council RESOLVES to delete paragraph 3.3(a) (as set out below) from its adopted Remote Meeting Procedure

Rules:

3.3 Business

(a) In keeping with the rationale for holding meetings only where they are required, agendas for any such meetings required to be held shall not include any items for Questions or Motions on Notice from Councillors.

As a result, provision for Questions and Motions on Notice will be reinstated with effect from the next scheduled Council Meeting to be held on 17 December 2020.'

Amended 2020/21 Budget: Draft Proposals.

Appointment of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.

Fusion Update.

Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Update.

Ivybridge Regeneration.

Designation of Monitoring Officer.

Reports of Bodies:

Joint Development Management Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

Development Management Committee.

Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

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Audit Committee.

Executive.

Audit Committee.

Joint Development Management Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

Executive.

25. Fortnightly Joint Leader, Deputy Leader, Chief Exec, Deputy Exec meeting with  
West Devon by Skype.

28. Business Engagement with Totnes by Zoom.

30. Weekly Leader/Deputy Leader/Chief Exec/Deputy Chief Exec Skype Briefing.

**All South Hams Leisure Centres will Open.**

Thanks to a one off cash injection of £243,000, approved by Councillors at South Hams District Council, all of the Districts Leisure Centres will be fully opened in October.

When the lockdown restrictions began to be lifted this summer, South Hams District Council were determined to do what they could to reinstate some leisure facilities in the District.

Previously South Hams and their leisure provider, Fusion Lifestyle were unable to open all facilities, due to the additional costs of creating COVID secure facilities and with a reduced footfall. The Kingsbridge pool and the Dartmouth Leisure Centre were unable to be opened.

COVID has hit the leisure industry hard, with operators covering the cost of maintaining centres with no income coming in, and this additional funding is required to allow centres to open at significantly reduced capacities. It will also support all the new safety measures required to open within government guidelines, including meticulous cleaning regimes, staff training and new booking systems

South Hams District Council recognises the huge health and well-being benefits that these facilities can provide, but had to balance the decision to open all of the centres with the additional cost, which could only be provided by dipping into their reserves

However, Councillors decided that this was a cost they felt must be spent, for the health and wellbeing of the whole District.

Cllr Judy Pearce, Leader of South Hams District Council said: "I am pleased that we have made this difficult decision today. There are significant financial implications for the Council as we have taken this money out of our reserves. However, we have now reinstated much loved and greatly needed facilities across the District, not least to teach our children to swim and for medical referrals.

"So I say to all residents, we will get the centres open, so now it is up to you, we are asking our residents to use the leisure centres or risk losing them. The only thing that will keep these centres open now is if we can get the footfall up, and bring in much needed income.

"We do not know what will happen in the future, we all know that we are facing a potential second wave of COVID-19, so there is a chance that we may need to revisit this decision, but I believe we must remain optimistic and get these centres open even at great cost to the

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Council's finances, to benefit the wellbeing of residents. It is especially important in a coastal area that children are able to go to swimming classes again."

"This must be the best result in exceptionally difficult circumstances".

Cllr Hawkins South Hams Executive for Health and Wellbeing said: "I am delighted that the Council today supported opening all our Leisure Centres. They are an important part of our communities and the facilities they provide are important to our residents, families and children. I recently meet Peter King from Fusion and was impressed with the COVID related safety measures that are to be put in place. This is a vote of confidence in our centres as well as protecting jobs".

Anthony Cawley, Director of Operations at Fusion said "We are delighted that all our centres are now able to re-open during October, as we know how important our facilities are to the local community. Many leisure centres have not been eligible for government funding during the pandemic. We hope that industry-wide campaigns like #saveleisure raise awareness of the desperate need to keep our centres open and financially viable for the future of the nation's health and wellbeing"

**DARTMOUTH LEISURE CENTRE WILL OPEN ON 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.**

### **Track and Trace Hardship Payment Scheme**

You will be aware that the Government has launched its Track and Trace Hardship Payment Scheme. This is when people who have been advised they need to isolate for 14 days and are unable to work are eligible for a £500 payment. This launched on the 28 September and the Council needs to have its scheme up and running by the 12 October (with backdating to the 28 September where required). This date is mandated by Central Government. The Council's work will include designing the application form and process, including how to get the money to the people who need it most. We are confident that we can deliver this in time.

Whilst the criteria is clear as to who is eligible for the scheme, there is an additional discretionary scheme which allows local authorities to make payments for people who are not in receipt of benefits, but are unable to work from home, if their employer is not able to pay them sick pay and self-isolation will cause them hardship. We are working with our colleagues in the other Devon authorities to ensure our scheme is joined up, robust and will help those that need it the most without creating a postcode lottery.

You will of course know that any local discretionary policy would ordinarily need formal adoption by the Executive. However, because of the time scale involved and the need to have a policy in place by 12 October, to avoid causing any hardship to any of our residents who are required to self-isolate, it is Andy Bates's intention, as Chief Executive, to use his emergency powers provision to enable us to commence the scheme, and to report this to the next Executive Meeting in order to be able to note that the Emergency Powers have been used.

### **Council Prepares for New Recycling Service.**

**PLEASE NOTE: CHANGES BEGIN FROM 5 OCTOBER - THIS MAY INCLUDE A CHANGE OF COLLECTION DAY - CHECK YOUR COLLECTION DAY ONLINE**

In Spring, 2021, South Hams District Council will be introducing an all new 'Super Recycler' service, so that every household can recycle more.

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The planned changes will add glass and a wider range of plastics to the list of items collected at the kerbside.

In preparation for the new service, a full review of the collection rounds has taken place and new routes will come in to effect from 5 October 2020. From this date, it is possible that crews will collect at a different time of the day for every household so it's important that all waste is out by 7 a.m. For about two thirds of residents, actual collection days will change. Reviewing the days and weeks we collect recycling and waste is a common part of delivering the service. These reviews are needed periodically to take account of new properties, and this round review is long overdue in South Hams.

With the incoming new service, now is the perfect time to implement a full review of the rounds. This will ensure that the rounds have been amended to take into account the changes that are needed for the new service to work effectively in 2021.

The new recycling service was originally planned to come into effect in September 2020 but has been delayed due to the impact of lockdown on vital supply chains and preparations.

Residents in the South Hams are already very good at recycling all of the items currently collected. With the introduction of the new service, South Hams District Council wants to help residents become Super Recyclers and recycle even more every single week.

Recycling more and throwing away less reduces the impact on the environment because less energy is used producing new materials and we can make the best use of our resources. In 2019, South Hams District Council joined many other councils and Central Government, in declaring a climate change and biodiversity emergency. While tackling the global issues seems an overwhelming task, recycling is one of the easiest way for every household to do their bit.

The new service will introduce a new weekly separate food waste collection and weekly recycling collection. It will allow residents to recycling glass and plastic packaging, such as yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, meat trays and fruit punnets, at the kerbside. Garden waste and refuse collections will remain fortnightly.

All properties impacted by the day changes will receive a letter this week, 14 – 18 September, informing them of their new collection day. If residents have not received a letter and want to check if they have been affected they can use the 'find my collection day' feature on our website, [www.southhams.gov.uk/recyclingwaste](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/recyclingwaste). Households not affected by the day change may notice that the time of day their collection is completed may change. Residents are reminded that collections can happen any time after 7 a.m. on their collection day.

Cllr Keith Baldry, South Hams District Council's Executive Member for Environment, said:

"We are delighted to be bringing this improved service to our residents in Spring, 2021.

Many of them have been telling us that they want to recycle more materials, because they know how important recycling is.

"The collection route changes are a necessary step in the preparation for the new service. Residents may experience low levels of disruption while our hard working collection crews adjust to the new routes. If missed collections do occur they can be reported on our website the following day."

Cllr Baldry added: "While we've unfortunately had to delay the new service until 2021, we hope the delay will mean that we have more time to talk to more people about the new service as lockdown restrictions ease."



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Residents will receive further information on the new service through their door in early 2021.

Collection calendars issued with council tax statements in March finish in September. This was in preparation for the original new service date. A downloadable copy of the calendar for the rest of 20/21 is available at [www.southhams.gov.uk/recyclingwaste](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/recyclingwaste).

### **South Hams CVS**

Tuesday 13th October Introduction to Wellbeing Listening - Inner Compass Guide, this is the 4th time we are offering this popular training - spaces available.

Thursday 22nd October 5 Steps to suicide Awareness – Pete’s Dragons NOW FULL – we have opened a waiting list and to see if there is demand to repeat in future

Wednesday 4th November Equality & Diversity – Zebra Training NOW FULL - – we have opened a waiting list and to see if there is demand to repeat in future

Wednesday 9th December – Funding for Community Groups Skill Share – spaces available

And a special message from South Hams CVS:

Dear CVS Local Supporters

We hope you are well in these difficult times. It has never felt so important that we are connecting and working together in the best ways we can for the individuals and communities we are helping. South Hams CVS staff are still working from home to support South Hams organisations and communities. We have a number of exciting new projects and want to be sustainable to enable these and to support all our groups adapting to these new times. South Hams CVS are always thankful for your membership to support our core learning programme, information and advice services. Your annual membership subscriptions are really needed to keep our foundations solid so we can continue delivering our local activities and ongoing support to South Hams Communities. This year our annual membership rate (which will run from 1 October – 31 September) is still £50, with a concessionary rate of £25 for smaller organisations. If you would like to be a member but really don't have the funds to make a payment, please let us know and we will consider each request individually. Details of benefits and an application form are attached.

If you are renewing your membership, THANK YOU and we have tried to make it simple, please fill in the details below and return by reply.

### **Test and Trace QR Code**

NHS Track and Trace QR Code poster

Across the South Hams and West Devon, pubs, restaurants, hairdressers and cinemas are being encouraged to have NHS QR code posters displayed on entry to their businesses so customers can use their smartphones to easily check-in.

The move comes ahead of a national launch of the NHS COVID-19 app across England and Wales on Thursday 24 September.

The government will be supporting businesses and venues to display the QR codes, which can be downloaded via a website to display as posters in premises.

Following the launch of the new app, customers and visitors will be able to check-in on entry with their phone instead of filling out a check-in book specific to a business. This will allow NHS Test and Trace to contact customers with public health advice should there be a COVID-19 outbreak.

### **Help Kickstart Young People Into Work**

#### **Kickstart Scheme**

Have you applied for Kickstart funding? Kickstart is a scheme to help get young people into work and to help revive the economy.

Businesses can sign up to the Kickstart scheme, giving unemployed young people, aged 16-24, the opportunity to work through government-subsidised jobs.

You can use the Kickstart Scheme to create new six-month job placements for young people who are currently on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment.

The government will fully fund each 'Kickstart' job - paying 100% of the age-relevant National Minimum Wage, National Insurance and pension contributions for 25 hours a week.

You must make sure the roles are eligible for the scheme before submitting your application online.

### **Business Rates Review - Call for Evidence**

Report it - 5 W's The Treasury announced a Call for Evidence on a Business Rates Review and the consultation is in two parts.

The first part is focused on questions on the current business rates reliefs and the multiplier. A copy of the Council's response is attached.

A joint collective response with all of the Devon Business Rates Pooling partners has been compiled (eight Devon Districts, Plymouth, DCC and Torbay). The response urges the Government to close the current Business Rates Tax loophole which allows second home owners to avoid paying any Council Tax or Business Rates on their properties.

The second part of the consultation will be focused on valuation and transitional relief; appeals; maintaining the accuracy of rating lists; the billing process and exploring alternatives to business rates. The deadline will be the end of October.

### **Appeal to Parents of Young Adults**

Face Coverings - I wear mine to protect you

We are appealing to parents and families of our younger residents, who are late teens and early twenties, to help us to remind them of how important it is to follow the Covid-19 guidance - Hands, Face, Space.

This follows a rise in cases in younger adults which may spread into the community and put older relatives at risk. With your help, we can make sure that everybody follows these important but simple rules:

Hands. Wash your hands, regularly and for 20 seconds.

Face. Wear a face covering over your mouth and nose if you are in an enclosed space and in close contact with people you don't normally meet.

Space. Always stay 2 metres away from people you don't live with. Or 1 metre with extra precautions, like extra ventilation, screens or face coverings.

And of course, if you have Covid symptoms, get a test and self-isolate for ten days to protect others.

### **The Rule of 6**

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To make Covid restrictions easier to understand and to keep control of the virus, the government is using new restrictions for how many people we can legally meet. Remember, you can now only socialise in groups of up to 6, both indoors and outdoors, with people you don't live with. The rule does not apply to schools and workplaces, people living together or in the same support bubble, or to weddings, funerals and organised team sports.

**Travelling Abroad?**

Holiday

If you're planning to leave the beautiful South Hams and travel abroad for a late summer break, then you'll need to be up-to-date on the latest travel advice.

This advice can include the need to self-isolate, quarantine or undergo testing for coronavirus, or even restrictions on entry to a country.

Before and while you are travelling, check:

FCDO coronavirus advice

FCDO travel advice for the countries you are travelling to

Please remember to make sure you have appropriate travel insurance in case you have unexpected costs. You don't want to get stuck abroad with invalid insurance.

**Local authorities and building safety**

Please see the email from the LABC, below, advising of the documents and briefings to senior managers and members of Local Authorities explaining the radical changes brought about by the Building Safety Bill. It emphasises the importance of the changes and their significant impact on local Authorities.

Please note the National Webinar on the 13th October. Click on the link for details and to register.

I have also attached the downloaded September Briefing for Local Authorities.

Over the coming weeks LABC will be briefing local authority leaders and senior managers. We are providing a range of documents and events explaining the radical changes outlined by the draft Building Safety Bill which sets up the Building Safety Regulator. In doing so we will be highlighting:

The scope is far wider than high rise towers – starting at 18m/six storey buildings and is likely to widen over time.

Both local authorities and individual senior managers will be liable in the event of failures. The inclusion of existing buildings will bring a large volume of additional work for building control.

Even though local council budgets are under great pressure, building control will need investment in resourcing, competency, resilience and succession planning.

The new regulator will monitor local authorities and has the power to intervene if an individual authority is not able to deliver its duties and responsibilities.

On 13 October there is an important national webinar for local authority senior managers which LABC is promoting on behalf of the HSE, LGS, NFCC and MHCLG – please encourage your head of service, Chief Executive and political leadership to attend. We will also provide briefings to those directing housing, environmental health, asset management, building

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control and fire and rescue services. After this we will be running a series of digital events focussing on the implementation of changes in building control.

We have also set up two dedicated pages on our website with briefings, documents and other resources – one public and one for members.

It is vital your senior management know how your authority will be affected by these changes (we have already contacted them directly with the briefing document "Local Authorities and Building Safety") So please download and share it with them again as soon as you can, You can download it here.

Thank you for your help – and please email me at [buildingsafety@labc.co.uk](mailto:buildingsafety@labc.co.uk) if you have any questions or need any further information.

### **Connecting Devon and Somerset**

Please find below, a broadband programme updates for South Hams from the Connecting Devon and Somerset team.

The briefings include:

- an overview of CDS and commercial coverage – the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport says CDS has “delivered connectivity to more premises than any other English programme”.

- progress with the CDS Fibre Extension Programme – thousands of homes and businesses will benefit from new full fibre access.

- Rural Gigabit Vouchers – vouchers worth over £1 million are helping to pay for broadband connections to hundreds of homes and businesses across the County.

- Mobile Boost – a new scheme to help rural homes and businesses struggling with poor indoor mobile phone coverage.

- an update on the Government’s national fibre “outside-in” programme.

### Connecting Devon and Somerset

#### Programme Update

#### Introduction

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) is a central and local government partnership that subsidises the construction of broadband infrastructure mainly in rural areas, bridging gaps in commercially funded networks.

“Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) has achieved genuine success during their management of broadband delivery in the region. CDS has directly provided superfast access to more than 300,000 homes and businesses, often in rural and sparsely populated areas. They have also delivered connectivity to more premises than any other English programme, and this is being further complemented by the live contract they have with Airband. The contracts with Airband will have delivered connectivity to c.21,000 premises across (North West) Devon and West Somerset by the end of Summer (2020)” – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, May 2020.

The CDS programme is the largest and one of the most cost-effective in England with costs per premise in the lowest quartile nationally\*. CDS covers the local authority areas of Devon and Somerset County Councils, North Somerset, and Bath and North East Somerset Councils.

Coverage across the whole area is around 90% at nearly 1 million premises †.

\*Source: Building Digital UK (BDUK). † Total coverage = CDS funded + commercially funded.

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Summary for South Hams District

- Total premises: 50,165
- o i.e. the number of homes or businesses in the area
- CDS superfast achieved: 24,549
- CDS superfast planned: 275\*
- Commercial superfast achieved: 14,348
- Commercial planned: 784
- Total delivered or planned: 39,956
- Remaining: 10,209†

Notes

\*CDS superfast premises planned includes:

- 10 homes and businesses will be provided with full fibre to the premise by Airband under the CDS Fibre Extension Programme
- Rural Gigabit Vouchers for 148 premises (total value £282,520) in Tigley, Totnes, Halwell, Moreleigh, Moorhaven, Ivybridge, South Brent, Dartmouth, Modbury, Kingsbridge, Sparkwell and Blackawton.
- A further 107 premises in Bickleigh, Wotter & Shaugh Prior will receive full fibre access delivered by Openreach under the CDS Fibre Extension Programme.

† CDS is seeking to cover as many remaining premises as possible through a new £38 million programme and supported by £18.7 million of Government funding

NB Premise numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred reflecting the accuracy of returns from commercial operators. Total broadband delivered or planned includes premises served by more than one operator. See also Commercial coverage analysis.

Take-up of CDS funded broadband services is nearly 70% compared with a national average of 61.4%, an increase of circa 5% over the last quarter. Source: Building Digital UK (BDUK).

As a result, CDS has more live customers than the next largest local body has potential connections. The CDS programmes are expected to deliver an £800 million boost to the region's economic productivity. Source: UK Broadband Impact Study, SQW

CDS's current and future interventions are contributing to the Government's commitment of nationwide gigabit-capable coverage. One gigabit is the same as 1,000 megabits – so it's a big leap forward in connection speeds. Gigabit-capable broadband also supports symmetrical connections – meaning upload and download speeds can be the same.

Funding for the programme comes from a variety of sources; UK Government and the European Union via Whitehall departments and Local Enterprise Partnerships, local authorities and the private sector including monies for reinvestment under the Government's "gainshare" agreement with Openreach.

Current activity

CDS has launched its Fibre Extension Programme, comprising two new initiatives with Openreach and Airband that will, between them, deliver full fibre to more than 8,000 additional homes and businesses across the CDS area by the end of 2021. Surveying and engineering will follow Government Covid-19 social distancing rules.

The new collaboration with Openreach is a £6 million expansion of fibre broadband coverage helping villages, hamlets and isolated homes and businesses in particularly hard to reach or deprived rural areas. Survey teams for Openreach have already begun working in

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communities, planning the best routes for these new fibre connections. This work will help shape the design of the local networks and ensure roll-out can happen as rapidly as possible.

Around 2,000 homes and businesses in more than 20 communities\* will benefit. In your district, these include 107 premises in Bickleigh, Wotter & Shaugh Prior. \* See Notes for communities.

Funding is a reinvestment of monies returned to CDS under the Government's "gainshare" agreement with Openreach, effectively a dividend on the high take-up of broadband services by the public and businesses.

CDS' contract with Airband will deliver full fibre connections to over 6,000 premises in Devon. This represents both an upgrading of premises, originally intended for fixed wireless coverage, as well as additional coverage, made possible through the switch to fibre.

Engineering began in early July in North Devon. In total, some 57 communities\* in Central Devon, Torridge and West Devon, and South West Devon are set to benefit from the roll-out. \* See Notes for list of communities

These schemes will complement a big £38 million CDS programme supported by £18.7 million of Government funding to extend gigabit-capable broadband to tens of thousands of homes and businesses in six lots. These cover all parts of the region not presently addressed by the live Airband contract in Lot 4, with all premises not currently at superfast or in credible commercial plans eligible for coverage. Initial Tenders arrived in June and a process of negotiation seeking to optimise proposals has taken place. Final Tenders were submitted prior to August 25th and contracts are due to be awarded in December 2020. We would anticipate providing a further detailed update in early October.

It is anticipated that work on the new programme will begin in early 2021 and take up to three years to complete.

In parallel with these initiatives, CDS is working closely with BDUK to expand take-up of the Government's Rural Gigabit Voucher programme. CDS is offering support to communities who wish to contract with telecoms providers to design and shape bespoke broadband solutions for their areas. To date, 4231 vouchers have been issued in the region with a value of nearly £5 million pounds, representing nearly 25% of all vouchers issued nationally. CDS will provide additional financial support where appropriate through its Community Challenge Programme to help bridge any local funding gaps.

In your district, 148 vouchers have been issued, with a value of £282,520. These are funding build in the following communities, with the Community Challenge Programme providing support; Tigley, Totnes, Halwell, Moreleigh, Moorhaven, Ivybridge, South Brent, Dartmouth, Modbury, Kingsbridge, Sparkwell and Blackawton.

#### Mobile Boost

CDS is also shortly to announce details of its new Mobile Boost scheme to some of the most rural areas of our region. Funded through the recent HotSW LEP Digital Call, the scheme is aimed at small businesses and households who currently have inadequate indoor mobile phone coverage from their existing provider and who are currently struggling with connectivity due to their rural location. The scheme will offer vouchers with a value of £800 for eligible business and residential premises to acquire a mobile signal booster which will improve internal coverage using OFCOM approved equipment. Whilst the project is predicated on ensuring the ability to make voice calls, the equipment will also improve

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indoor 4G coverage. The scheme will be promoted through District Council economic development networks and will run alongside current CDS and commercial provision as a further contribution to enhancing digital connectivity within the region. All installers will observe COVID-19 social distancing and safe working practices, in line with evolving industry standards.

#### National Fibre Programme / Outside In programme

In a recent letter to the leaders of County Councils and Unitary Authorities across England, the Minister of State for Regional and Local Government and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Digital Infrastructure outlined the Government's commitment to supporting the deployment of gigabit broadband across the country, ensuring that every home and business in the UK can access gigabit broadband services as soon as possible. They note that next-generation fixed-line infrastructure brings fast and reliable connectivity, and will drive faster local economic growth and greater social inclusion, especially critical to the levelling-up agenda and helping the economy recover following the COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve its gigabit commitments, the Government is investing £5 billion through the 'Outside-In' programme to deliver gigabit speeds to the hardest-to-reach communities in the UK. In addition to this financial investment, the Government is working with local government to remove the barriers that slow or prevent deployment of infrastructure, through measures including legislative and regulatory reform, and the provision of new digital services, such as Street Manager.

Whilst not referenced specifically, Local Bodies anticipate a significant role in local engagement and communications, though we remain less clear on how the procurement and contractual management elements will work. Our understanding is that contracts will be offered in "bundles" of ca. 3000 – 5000 premises and will be procured and contracted centrally. This raises obvious concerns about CDS' ability to influence coverage and supplier behaviour and we would value considerably more clarity on these points at the earliest opportunity.

#### Notes about the Fibre Extension Programme

Initial survey work for the CDS Fibre Extension Programme has begun in Oakford, near Bampton, and Combeinteignhead, near Teignmouth. Survey teams working for Openreach will then continue their work across a broader cluster to the north of Tiverton and south of Dulverton, spanning the Devon and Somerset border and a second cluster to the east of Plymouth centred on Bickleigh, Wotter and Shaugh Prior. Once this survey work is completed, precise details on which premises will be connected can be announced and a programme of engineering works will begin.

Additional communities set to benefit from new Openreach fibre connections over the next two years are:

- Blue Anchor
- Brayford and North Molton,
- Brompton Ralph
- Exe Valley
- Hacombe, Rocombe and the Teign Estuary
- Lane End
- Satterleigh & Warkleigh

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- South Kentisbury Ford
- South Zeal & Throwleigh,
- Teign Valley
- Twitchen
- Watermouth
- Widecombe Parish
- Yettington

Additional communities set to benefit from Airband fibre connections over the next two years are:

- Berrynarbor
- Kentisbury
- Ilfracombe outskirts
- Lee
- Woolacombe East
- Barnstaple
- Woolacombe West
- Barnstaple East
- Bratton Fleming
- Goodleigh
- Braunton
- Croyde
- Bishop's Tawton
- South Molton
- Landkey
- Abbotsham
- Meshaw
- Bideford
- East Anstey
- Molland
- Weare Giffard
- Fairy Cross
- Instow
- Great Torrington
- Clovelly
- Putford
- Clawton
- Langtree
- Hartland
- Milton Damerel
- Bradworthy
- Shebbear
- St Giles on the Heath
- Halwill Junction
- Tavistock
- Lewtrenchard
- Milton Abbot



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- Crapstone
- Lifton
- Bere Alston
- Milton Combe
- North Tawton
- Jacobstowe
- Okehampton outskirts
- Taw Green
- Colebrook
- Hatherleigh
- Northlew
- Cheriton Bishop
- Nomansland
- Riddlecombe
- Dolton
- Kings Nympton
- Chulmleigh
- Dolton West
- Umberleigh
- Beaford

#### A Note about Coverage

Calculations about an area's actual and future broadband coverage are derived from a combination of public sector contracts, part-funded by public subsidy, with private sector suppliers, and wholly commercially funded provision both current and planned.

Although Government does not set percentage targets for individual local areas, local broadband programmes work with BDUK to analyse and evaluate coverage across their geography to monitor commercial roll-out plans, ensure public-funded contract coverage numbers are being met and to target where future public intervention will be required.

Industry analysts, thinkbroadband.com, assess current superfast coverage across Devon and Somerset as being 92.7% whereas CDS puts coverage more conservatively at around 90% at present.

Different factors affect coverage analysis. The inability of Gigaclear to deliver its contracts had a clear impact on the CDS area. The company was under contract to connect 47,000 premises which, if successful, would have increased coverage to around 96%.

The construction of new housing without broadband and changes in commercial roll-out plans also affect coverage in the CDS area. An improvement in the quantity and quality of data from the private sector is also a factor. For example, suppliers are now providing CDS with better data about both their current and planned provision.

For these reasons, CDS is taking a cautious assessment, supported by BDUK, and believes the delivery of gigabit-capable broadband to around a further 69,000 homes and businesses currently across the region requires public subsidy through the ongoing procurement, the Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme and the forthcoming National Fibre Programme.

For further information see the CDS website [www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk](http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk) or email [enquiries@connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk).

## **Appendix D – Cllr D Case**

### **Proposal for DTC to consider joining DCC’s Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme** **Cllr Diana Case, October 2020**

Further to my email to all councillors and Town Clerk, I would like to formally bring the above scheme to the attention of DTC and propose that we consider joining.

**Background:** To better understand the scheme, I approached Ros Davies, Parish Paths Liaison Officer responsible for Public Rights of Way (within Highways and Traffic Management at DCC). After initial conversations, we arranged to meet in Dartmouth, extending an invitation to learn more about the scheme to all councillors and (via Town Clerk) council staff, plus representatives of relevant local groups. Ros and I were ultimately joined for short briefing sessions by Cllr Webb and Cllr de Galleani, two members of the Green Environment topic group of the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Planning group and a member of the Dart Area Landscape Access Group (DALAG). In considering the scheme, I also spoke to another town council who wholeheartedly recommended it – whilst they have considerably more paths than us, they are similar in that they too have a mix of grounds staff and volunteers. The P3 team have had no contact or discussions with DTC for many years yet, of ~420 Devon parishes, 180 have joined the scheme - including all our immediate neighbouring parishes on this side of the river. I believe we should consider joining as this scheme links to, and reinforces, some of the things I personally think should be priorities for the Council.

***Aim of scheme** as stated on P3 website: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/prow/>*

*The Parish Paths Partnerships Scheme (also known as the P3 scheme) is an initiative to ensure that the rights of way network is properly maintained and well publicised. It has the support of the National Association of Local Councils and is Devon County Council funded. The County Council was one of the first 15 Highway Authorities to participate in this scheme, which encourages community involvement and enjoyment of public rights of way. Devon County Council is working in partnership with parish/town councils, landowners and local voluntary groups. The main aim is to improve the condition of the local rights of way and keep them open and used properly.*

#### **Annual grant**

*Parish/town councils in the scheme receive a grant to undertake rights of way work. The grant, paid by Devon County Council, covers:*

- 1. The mileage, based on the length of rights of way in your parish.*
- 2. Special projects.*

#### **Path condition survey and inspection**

*Each year before the parish/town council receives its annual grant it organises a survey:*

- 1. This is an assessment of the condition of the rights of way, in order to find out what work needs to be done.*
- 2. The survey provides the information necessary for calculation of the grant payment.*

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3. *Developments and improvements – upgrading and re-opening paths by undertaking practical work such as vegetation clearance, repairing stiles and waymarking, in consultation with farmers and landowners.*
4. *Events – helping people to feel confident about using the network by organising, for example, guided walks and rights of way days.*

As mentioned above, I feel that this scheme will link to, and reinforce, some of the things I personally think should be priorities for our Council. These include, but are not limited to:

1. **Actively demonstrate our committed custodianship of Dartmouth’s green spaces.** For many of us, lockdown has reinforced the enduring importance of our green spaces, and our public paths are key to enabling us to get out and enjoy our countryside. It is a collective responsibility of both council and community to protect and enhance these spaces for now and for the future. Whilst the green environment will be reflected in our future Neighbourhood Plan, there is no need or reason for DTC to delay considering joining P3 until such time as an approved NP is in place. Indeed, joining now would give more of a joined-up approach by enabling closer links between the NP group, DALAG, DTC and the P3 team at DCC. It is also remembering that only parish councils are eligible to join the P3 scheme; community groups cannot join.
2. **Clarity on our public footpaths and bridleways,** with detailed maps. We (as a community) can then fully understand our landscape and potentially explore with DCC those paths that currently sit outside of the scheme yet may be of interest to our community. Whilst securing legal designation as a public right of way is a long-term process, this should not deter our community from considering this and accurate data is an essential starting point.
3. **Funding** which DTC are currently missing out, especially if we (our grounds team, any sub-contractors or volunteers) currently do any of the eligible work. Under the scheme, DTC can claim an annual allowance of £30 per mile of public pathways. Within the parish boundaries for Dartmouth, we have just over 6 miles of eligible pathways, so are entitled to a grant of £180-200pa. Whilst a nominal amount, the grant application process is not arduous.
4. **Enhancing community spirit and engagement.** This will give us an opportunity to recognise the work of, and partner with, interested volunteers and groups within our community.
5. **Clear reporting of issues.** Whilst DTC will need to undertake an annual survey on behalf of, we are not responsible for the safety and maintenance of public rights of way within the parish - these remain the statutory responsibility of Devon County Council. Through the scheme, we will establish relationships with DCC and gain access to their help and support should more significant works be needed within our parish, potentially through specific special projects funding completed by their contractors.

**Next steps:**

- I will inform DCC, DALAG and the Neighbourhood Planning team of the outcome of our vote.
- If we vote to join, I am willing to coordinate getting our membership of the scheme in place, including our initial annual survey of paths. I propose this then be managed on an ongoing basis by our DTC grounds team, reporting back to Full Council.

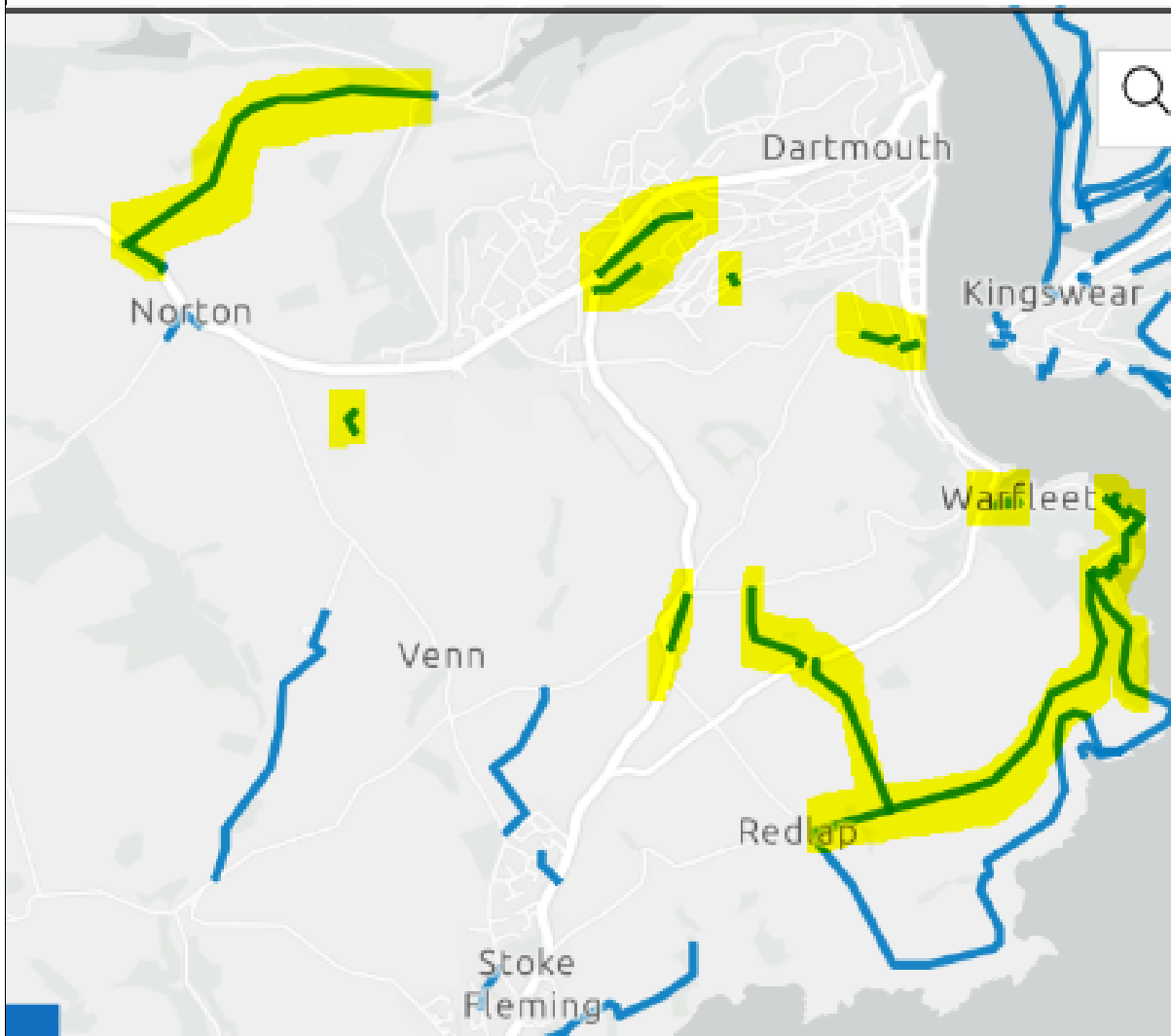
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- Irrespective of the vote, I propose we create a webpage to raise awareness of our public rights of way and green spaces, encouraging usage for health and wellness benefits, and confirming details of how they can get involved and how to report any problems with our green spaces. The appendix below shows an initial impression of what this webpage might include.

**Appendix: Proposed Green Spaces webpage for DTC website** (incomplete, work in progress)

**Maps of Dartmouth parish**, including green spaces and public rights of way incorporated into one map.

For info only, the publicly available PROW map for Dartmouth is as follows (note: I have highlighted those which I believe would currently come under the P3 scheme).



**Find a walk...**

Dartmouth offers stunning walks for all abilities. Here are some of the most popular (with links to maps)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ South West Coast Path (details)</li> <li>▪ Diamond Jubilee Way (map)</li> <li>▪ Dartmouth Mayflower Heritage Trails - Town Trail (map, plus accompanying Children’s Quiz and Activity Booklet)</li> <li>▪ Dartmouth Mayflower Heritage Trails - Packhorse Trail (map)</li> <li>▪ Dartmouth Mayflower Heritage Trails - Castle Trail (map)</li> <li>▪ Dart Valley Trail (map)</li> <li>▪ Dartmouth Community Orchard - circular</li> <li>▪ Sandquay Woods – circular</li> </ul> <p>South Devon AONB walks (they also have several starting in Kingswear here)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Dartmouth Castle, Gallants Bower and Compass Cove (map)</u></b></li> <li>▪ Dartmouth Greenway circular (part of Dart Valley Trail (map)</li> <li>▪ Dartmouth Town Trail (map)</li> <li>▪ Little Dartmouth and Dartmouth Castle (map)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Admire a view...</b></p>	<p>Dartmouth is full of fabulous views but here are some favourite vantage points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Manor Gardens, South Town – for a panoramic view of the River Dart</li> <li>▪ Gallants Bower – to look down over the river and out to the sea</li> <li>▪ <b>Beacon Hill Park (Jawbones)</b> – this 15-hectare site above Dartmouth is at the end of the 6km Jubilee Walk. There are spectacular view of the town and, especially, Britannia Royal Naval College (BNRC). Car park.</li> <li>▪ Dartmouth Castle – for fabulous views at the mouth of the River Dart.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Eat a picnic...</b></p>	<p>Picnic tables can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sugary Green</li> <li>▪ Beacon Hill Park (Jawbones)</li> </ul> <p>There are plenty of benches in Royal Avenue Gardens</p> <p>Please take all litter home with you for recycling.</p>
<p><b>Amuse the children...</b></p>	<p>Children’s play areas can be found at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coronation Park</li> <li>▪ Victoria Road</li> <li>▪ Collingwood Road</li> </ul> <p>There is a Children’s Quiz and Activity Booklet for the Town Trail, one of the Dartmouth Mayflower 400 Heritage Trails.</p>

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<b>Play sports...</b>	The best open spaces for recreation are the rugby / football pitch at the rear of Dartmouth Leisure Centre and Coronation Park. There is also a skate park at the rear of Dartmouth Leisure Centre.
<b>Join a group walk...</b>	Part of the ‘Walking for Health’ scheme, a Walk and Talk group meets twice weekly for walks in and around Dartmouth. Free of charge (unless bus and ferry required) and all welcome. More details and an online calendar can be found here.
<b>Get involved in caring for our green spaces...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dartmouth Green Partnerships</li> <li>▪ Dart Area Landscape Access Group (DALAG)</li> <li>▪ Friends of Dartmouth Community Orchard</li> <li>▪ South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</li> <li>▪ Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan (Green Environment Topic Group)</li> </ul>
<b>Report a problem...</b>	<p>For any emergency on land or sea, contact 999.</p> <p>However, if you spot an issue with our green spaces (for example, overgrown, broken trees, etc.) then please report to the relevant authority, as follows, with a description and photo(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For public rights of way (Devon County Council): report problem here</li> <li>▪ For South West Coast Path: report problem here</li> <li>▪ For Community Orchard, Dartmouth Castle estates, Royal Avenue Gardens</li> </ul> <p>Please do report problems to the relevant authority not just to Dartmouth Town Council, as we cannot escalate them on your behalf – your cooperation and understanding is appreciated.</p>
<b>Find out more about public rights of way in Dartmouth...</b>	<p>Like many of our neighbouring parishes, Dartmouth is a member of the Devon County Council’s Public Paths Partnership scheme. Whilst Dartmouth’s 6 miles of public rights of way remain the responsibility of Devon County Council, local volunteers act as the ‘eyes on the ground’, completing an annual survey of these public footpaths and bridlepaths as required for our membership of the scheme. We greatly appreciate the help of local volunteers as their findings help to ensure that our public rights of way are preserved for current and future enjoyment.</p> <p><i>[Include annual survey of our public rights of way]</i></p>
<p>Author: <a href="mailto:cllradianacase@dartmouthtowncouncil.gov.uk">cllradianacase@dartmouthtowncouncil.gov.uk</a>      October 2020      Page 30 of 30</p>	