

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2020 | FULL COUNCIL MINUTES**

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY
ON MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2020**

PRESENT:

There were 12 Councillors present at the meeting.

Cllrs: P Allen; M Baillie; N Bodinnar; C Campos; D Case; A Edsall; G Evans; D Shepherd; G Webb (Mayor); M Webber; D Wells; G Yardy

IN ATTENDANCE:

Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Properties Administrator: K Brown; RFO; Ali McGrigor; Administrator: R Searle; Properties Manager: Richard Roberts; District Cllrs: R Rowe, J Hawkins & H Bastone; Dartmouth Chronicle Reporter; Ginny Ware; and 8 members of the public.

PART I - Open to the Public

192.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 Cllrs, and to show due respect to each other at all times.

193.TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs: R Lyon; S Hibbert and T de Galleani, it was also noted that Cllr N Bodinnar would be late to the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr G Webb

Seconded: Cllr C Campos

Resolved: To approve the apologies for absence

Majority vote carried

194.TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 204 – Cllr A Edsall

Item 204 – Cllr D Shepherd

195.TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none

**196.TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2020**

Proposed: Cllr G Webb

Seconded: Cllr D Wells

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Resolved: To approve the minutes of the virtual town council meeting held on 2nd November 2020.

Majority vote carried

197.TO NOTE THE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM:

- a. County & District Councillor - Cllr J Hawkins – Appendix A
- b. District Councillor - Cllr R Rowe – Appendix B
- c. District Councillor – Cllr H Bastone – Appendix C

All reports available on DTC website.

Cllrs were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Cllr C Campos asked Cllr J Hawkins when a decision would be made about the RHSS Funding. Cllr J Hawkins replied applicants should be informed if they were successful later this week.

Cllr N Bodinnar entered the meeting

Cllr D Shepherd asked Cllr R Rowe for the Gypsy Roma Traveller Report as she has not yet received it. Cllr R Rowe replied that the report is not ready as the working groups have not met recently due to COVID and that staff have had to be used elsewhere on processing COVID grant support and that the subject would be revisited in the new year.

Cllr D Shepherd added that a landowner had offered land for the Traveller Community and would like to set up a Zoom meeting with SHDC Officers to discuss this. Cllr R Rowe replied that this could be arranged, but that it would be next year due to it being December.

Cllr J Hawkins added that to progress the Traveller site, it would need to be submitted for Planning and approved by DTC first and that he would help in any way he could.

Cllr P Allen asked Cllr H Bastone if the bins in Mayors Avenue Car Park can be looked at, as they are constantly overflowing with recyclable material and now food waste. Cllr H Bastone replied that the problem with the bins had been intensified as refuse workers have had to self-isolate due to a COVID outbreak, causing a shortage of staff. Cllr H Bastone added that if extra recycling and food waste is being left by the bins, this is classed as fly tipping.

198.TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-2022.

(Cllr Evans)

This item has been moved to the January Full Council meeting.

199.TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-2022, IF THE TAX BASE INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM SHDC. (Cllr Evans)

This item has been moved to the January Full Council meeting.

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200.TO CONSIDER THE LETTER TO ANTHONY MANGNALL MP, REGARDING THE 2% REDUCTION IN THE TOWN COUNCIL’S TAX BASE.

There was a discussion about the draft letter that had been circulated to Cllrs and the notes that Cllrs had made regarding it.

Proposed: Cllr G Webb

Seconded: Cllr D Case

Resolved: To amend the letter with Cllrs suggestions and for it to be circulated to Cllrs to edit and agree it before it is sent to Anthony Mangnall MP if needed at a later date

Majority vote carried

201.TO CONSIDER THE NEW SCHEME OF DELEGATION AND THE AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING ORDER NO 4d(vii) (Cllr Evans)

There was a discussion about the new Scheme of Delegation and how it has been used during the COVID pandemic without any issues. Cllr Evans explained that the document had been circulated and there had been two virtual meetings for Cllrs to attend. Cllrs had suggested changes and amendments and the document was now ready for consideration.

Proposed: Cllr G Evans

Seconded: Cllr D Wells

Resolved: to accept the new scheme of delegation and the amendment to the standing order no 4d(vii)

Majority vote carried

202.TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING A LETTER TO SHDC REGARDING ADDITIONAL CAR ELECTRICITY CHARGE POINTS IN TOWN Appendix E (Cllr Yardy)

There was a short presentation by Alan Depledge (name added to the minutes with permission) (Appendix E) regarding evConsulting and the charging points that they could install.

There was a discussion about the benefits for the town if there were charging points, due to the Government banning Petrol and Diesel cars in 2030.

Proposed: Cllr G Yardy

Seconded: Cllr D Case

Resolved: To support the letter to SHDC regarding additional car electricity charge points in town

Majority vote carried

203.TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE OPEN LETTER RECEIVED REGARDING THE PETITION TO RE-OPEN THE MINOR INJURIES UNIT IN TOTNES AND OTHER LOCAL TOWNS

Appendix F (Cllr Shepherd)

Cllrs expressed their support for the open letter.

Proposed: Cllr D Shepherd

Seconded: Cllr G Evans

Resolved: To support the open letter received regarding the petition to re-open the minor injuries unit in Totnes and other local towns.

Majority vote carried

204. TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT POLICY FOR THE HIRE OF THE MARKET AND BUTTERMARKE

MARKET ON A SATURDAY (Cllr Campos & Shepherd)

Cllr D Shepherd and Cllr A Edsall declared an interest in the market, and the Clerk clarified that they could stay in the meeting and speak regarding the issue, but they shouldn't vote.

There was a discussion about the draft policy and how this would benefit the unit holders and traders on a Saturday.

Proposed: Cllr C Campos

Seconded: Cllr D Shepherd

Resolved: To approve the draft policy for the hire of the Market and Buttermarket on a Saturday

Majority vote carried

205. TO CONSIDER DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCILS SUPPORT FOR THE SLOW WAYS INITIATIVE AND AGREE A WAY FORWARD Appendix G (Cllr Campos)

Cllr C Campos explained that the Slow Ways initiative a project to create walking routes across Britain to connect up cities, towns and villages and make walking between places more feasible.

Proposed: Cllr C Campos

Seconded: Cllr A Edsall

Resolved: To support the Slow Waves initiative

Majority vote carried

Cllr D Shepherd left the meeting at 20:21

206. GRANT APPLICATIONS (Cllr Evans)

a. Dartmouth & District Indoor Pool Trust - £5,000

There was a discussion about the requested grant and several suggestions were made to subsidise the grant. It was requested that a member of the Dartmouth & District Indoor Pool Trust be present to answer Cllrs questions at the January Full Council meeting.

Proposed: Cllr G Evans

Seconded: Cllr A Edsall

Resolved: That DTC enter discussions over the next month with the trust to find a way to subsidise the £5,000 in a different way, rather than a direct grant and that a member of the trust attends the January Full Council meeting to answer any questions the Council may have.

Majority vote carried

b. Dartmouth Visitor Centre - £5,000

There was a discussion about the grant the DVC have applied for and what it would be used for.

Proposed: Cllr G Evans

Seconded: Cllr D Case

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Resolved: To defer this decision until there have been further discussions between the Council and the DVC.

Majority vote carried

207.TO NOTE THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

It was noted that the External Auditors Report had been received.

208.TO NOTE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE VIRTUAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2020 (with delegated authority)

Proposed: Cllr G Evans

Seconded: Cllr C Campos

Resolved: To note the recommendations from the virtual Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 3rd November 2020

Majority vote carried

209.TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2020 (please note minute no 7a&b to be considered in part 2 of the agenda)

Proposed: Cllr M Baillie

Seconded: Cllr G Evans

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the virtual Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 9th November 2020

Majority vote carried

210.TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CLLRS

(including representatives on public bodies and associations)

Cllr G Evans said that he wanted to thank several Cllrs for getting involved in various aspects of the Neighbourhood Planning group as it progresses.

The Mayor said seeing as this was the last meeting of 2020, he wanted to thank the office staff for all the work they had done over this last year, and said that many had gone above and beyond especially during lockdown

Cllr D Case gave an update:

- She had sent out information to go onto Facebook regarding advice/training for businesses regarding property flood resilience.
- She had applied for DTC to attend a flood awareness roadshow next year, which will give information on the impact of flooding on residential properties
- She had now raised over £11,000 for the Defibrillators for Dartmouth
- She is about to apply for Listed Buildings consent for the two phone boxes, one which DTC have already adopted, and the other DTC are about to adopt.
- She is putting in the order for the Warfleet defibrillator, which will be installed as soon as possible.

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211. ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON A FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr A Edsall said he wanted to

- review the regulations for banners around the Boatfloat
- discuss and find a final solution for the future of the Castle Car Park
- agree a policy for future fly camping at Warfleet Creek

Cllr C Campos said she had been working on the idea of having a virtual Dartmouth high street, along with the people who organise Fiver Fest.

Cllr M Baillie said that on Friday there would be a meeting in Ivy Lane with a company called Space to discuss Ivy Lane and said that she would bring back any information to the Council.

Cllr G Evans said he hoped he could bring back some final good news about CCTV in January.

212. 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

213. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE OF A CHANGE IN HOURS AND SALARY INCREASE FOR THE RECEPTIONIST

There was a discussion about the recommendations from the Personnel Committee.

Proposed: Cllr C Campos

Seconded: Cllr M Baillie

Resolved: To carry out the recommendations from the Personnel Committee to increase the hours and wages for the receptionist, backdated from November 2020

Majority vote carried

214. TO CONSIDER THE AGED DEBTORS REPORT AND DISCUSS A WAY FORWARD FOR TENANT ARREARS

There was a discussion regarding the aged debtors report and options for tenant rent arrears.

Proposed: Cllr A Edsall

Seconded: Cllr G Webb

Resolved: For the RFO and the Properties Manager to deal with the issue as they see fit and going forward, to write a policy that will enable the staff to deal with this issue if it happens again in a stated timeframe.

Majority vote carried

The meeting ended at 21:15

Appendix A – Cllr H Bastone Activity Report

November Activity Report.

- Nov. 2. Informal discussion with Dartmouth Town Council by Zoom.
Dartmouth Town Council meeting by Zoom.
3. Housing Strategy Consultation by Teams.
4. Finance update meeting by Teams.
Weekly Leader/Deputy Leader/Chief Exec/Deputy Chief Exec Briefing by Teams.
5. Executive weekly chat by Skype.
6. Fortnightly Joint Leader, Deputy Leader, Chief Exec, Deputy Exec meeting with
West Devon by Teams.

Skype meeting regarding South Brent CLT.
8. Laying of SHDC wreath at Dartmouth Memorial.
10. Meeting with Town Council regarding a boundary change by Zoom.
11. Assets update meeting by Teams.
Kingswear Parish Council meeting by Zoom.
12. Member briefing on Covid by Skype.
Executive and SLT fortnightly catch-up by Skype.
Executive weekly chat by Skype.
13. Devon Building Control Partnership meeting by Teams.
Meeting with Fusion Lifestyle and the Dartmouth Indoor Swimming Pool Trust
by Teams.
16. Dartmouth Recovery Forum by Zoom.
17. Meeting with Assets, Car Parks and Stagecoach by Teams.
18. Weekly Leader/Deputy Leader/Chief Exec/Deputy Chief Exec Briefing by Teams.
19. Overview & Scrutiny by Skype:
Agenda: Public Forum
Executive Forward Plan
Community Safety Partnership
Safeguarding Policy: Annual Review
Draft Recovery Plan - Verbal Update and Task and

Finish Group Updates:
(a) Locality Service (to follow); and
(b) Consultation and Engagement Strategy
Preparation for Livewest Attendance at Future Panel
Meeting
Annual O+S Work Programme.
- Finance update meeting by Teams.
Executive briefing by Teams.
Executive chat by Teams.
23. Teams training by Teams.
25. Assets update meeting by Teams.
Weekly Leader/Deputy Leader/Chief Exec/Deputy Chief Exec Briefing by Teams.
26. Executive and SLT fortnightly catch-up by Teams.
Member Briefing: Covid-19, Business Rates update and the Spending Review 2020
by Teams.

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Executive weekly chat by Teams.
27. Site meeting at 28, Redwalls Meadow.

Appendix B – Cllr H Bastone Parish Councils Report

Potential disruption to recycling and waste collections

South Hams District Council are advising of potential service disruption to recycling and waste collections. Due to Covid-19 guidance, a number of drivers and crew have recently had to self-isolate.

FCC Environment (UK) Limited, who carry out the collections on behalf of the authority, have managed to secure enough additional temporary staff to keep as many scheduled collections happening as possible and these have been prioritised. However, with so many replacement drivers in place who are unfamiliar with the locality, there is potential for disruption to the collection of all types of waste. There will be only a limited service available for the emptying of recycling banks and delivery of bins and sacks.

When the issue came to light, individual workers potentially affected were identified swiftly and removed from collections immediately to safeguard the public and the rest of the workforce.

Keith Baldry, the Lead Member for Environment at South Hams District Council said: “This is a big blow, just as we were getting back to normal after the round changes. However, teams are out on all waste rounds and will do their best to make sure as many collections as possible are made on the scheduled collection days. Please can I urge residents to bear with us at this time. We sincerely wish the collection crews the best of luck and if any do fall ill, a quick recovery.”

At this moment, we are unable to take any reports of missed bins or sack collections. If any collections are missed, residents are advised to bring the bins or sacks back in until the next collection cycle. If necessary residents may take their recycling to the recycling centres. We will update our website with further information as it becomes available.

Green Home Grants

We are offering Green Home Grants worth up to £10,000. The grants can be used to install either an air source heat pump heating system or solid/single wall external insulation.

To be eligible:

Your property must be rated E or below on your Home Energy Performance Certificate, and You or someone in your household must receive a means tested benefit or you must have a net household income of less than £30,000 a year.

Installations will be subject to a technical survey as not every property will be suitable. The funding is limited. You can register your interest at eco@swdevon.gov.uk, confirming what measure you would be interested in.

Devon Carbon Plan Update

On 7 December the 25 organisations who make up the Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) partnership, will be launching a consultation on their Interim Carbon Plan.

The Interim Devon Carbon Plan will be updated to a final plan after the Citizens’ Assembly which has been postponed due to Covid-19.

More information from the DCE is anticipated over the coming weeks. Before that, you may be interested in registering for the webinars that will be part of the consultation process.

Spending Review

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The 2020 Spending Review was announced on 25 November. It outlines the Government's spending plans for 2021/22 by setting budgets for each central government department. The full set of documents is available on the Treasury website.

This year's Spending Review provides more certainty for councils next year, but the long-term outlook remains unclear. Public finances will undoubtedly be under huge strain in the years ahead but investment in our local public services is critical to our national recovery next year and beyond.

The Winter Support Fund

Members will recall that the Government has made available a Winter Support Fund to support households in extreme hardship. This has been created in particular to address the gap filled by Free School Meals in term time leading to the significant issue of Holiday Hunger.

For Devon, the following actions have been agreed

A £15pw supermarket voucher will be offered for all pupils eligible for Free School Meals to cover the Christmas holidays. This can be redeemed in six supermarkets (Asda, Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Waitrose, and M&S) and each supermarket will provide a help desk. There will also be some funds/vouchers available via Social Services and ourselves for anyone who is vulnerable and may not be covered.

DCC is also developing a series of food networks to draw together organisations including foodbanks, community kitchens, holiday clubs, local business, wider charities and schools. Grant funding will be offered for programmes as appropriate. That means, looking ahead there will be a wider range of solutions for applicants to the hardship funds, and also more involvement of local businesses.

Devon Community Foundation will lead on this work and help us to understand what the needs and opportunities are in our area. They will also keep us informed about what organisations have signed up and what programmes are being supported.

BUSINESS GRANTS FOR SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Following the Government announcement of the National Lockdown, there are two types of Business Grants that the Council will now be responsible for administering. These are detailed below:-

- Main business grants for businesses mandated to close and who have a rateable value business premise (Local Restrictions Support Grant)
- A Discretionary business grant scheme for businesses who don't have a rateable value business premise and to help those businesses which, while not legally forced to close, are nonetheless severely impacted by the restrictions put in place to control the spread of Covid-19 (Additional Restrictions Grant)

Further details of each of the two types of Business Grant are below.

Main Business Grants for closed businesses (called 'The Local Restrictions Support Grant')

The Government will provide funding to local authorities in England so that grants worth up to £3,000 per month can be distributed to business premises forced to close as part of the lockdown. This funding is being provided to billing authorities (Unitary and District Councils). The Council is being allocated £3,967,542 of Government funding for these main business grants.

The Grant will come in to effect on 5th November 2020 and will be provided on a rolling 28 day basis as long as National restrictions apply.

Businesses that will be eligible for the Grant:

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- Businesses that occupy and pay Business Rates upon a property that appears in the Local Rating List and that were open as usual and providing in-person services to customers from their business premises and then mandated to close for a consecutive period of no less than 28 days as a result of regulations made under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1994

Businesses that are not eligible for the Grant:

- Businesses that do not appear on the Local Rating List (i.e. do not receive a Business Rates bill for the property)
- Businesses that were not mandated to close (whether they have closed or not)
- Businesses that are able to continue to trade because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from premises and can operate their services remotely (e.g. accountants, solicitors).
- Businesses outside the scope of the restrictions, as defined by the Government
- Businesses that have already reached the maximum levels of Grant Aid allowed by State Aid rules

Businesses required to close in England due to restrictions will be eligible for the following:

- For properties with a rateable value of £15k or under, grants to be £1,334 per four weeks;
- For properties with a rateable value of between £15k-£51k grants to be £2,000 per four weeks;
- For properties with a rateable value of £51k or over grants to be £3,000 per four weeks.

Businesses that are eligible are those that have been mandated to close by Government and include non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality businesses. All bars and pubs required to close due to national restrictions are eligible for a grant under this scheme. If they chose to operate as a takeaway, click and collect or online with delivery services they will still be counted as closed and eligible for a grant, because their substantive business has to close. If their substantive business is a takeaway, they would not be eligible for a grant.

All other conditions relevant to the Local Restrictions Support Grants apply, including insolvency, tax regulations, managing the risk of fraud, post-event assurance, monitoring and evaluation requirements and State aid conditions.

A Discretionary Business Grant Scheme (called ‘Additional Restrictions Grant’)

The Government will provide one-off funding of £1.1 billion to Councils in England, distributed on the basis of £20 per head of population, to enable Councils to support businesses over the coming months more broadly, who are a key part of the local economy. The Council has been allocated £1,740,080 of Government funding for this Discretionary Scheme. The funding is a one-off amount and is to cover the period of the financial year 2020/21 AND 2021/22.

Local authorities can use this funding for business support activities. The Government envisage this will primarily take the form of discretionary grants, but Councils could also use this funding for wider business support activities e.g. training for businesses.

The Government are encouraging Councils to develop a discretionary grant scheme to help those businesses which – while not legally forced to close – are nonetheless severely impacted by the restrictions put in place to control the spread of Covid-19. This could include – for example – businesses which supply the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors, or businesses in the events sector.

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Local Authorities can also choose to help businesses outside the business rates system, which are effectively forced to close – for example market traders. Finally, Councils could use this funding to provide additional support to larger local businesses which are important to the local economy, on top of the funding provided to those businesses via the main business grants scheme, with due reference to State Aid.

A business is able to receive both a main Business Grant and an allocation from the Discretionary Scheme. So unlike the situation in the first round of business grants in the Spring/Summer where a business could only receive one or the other, under these new Grants, a business could apply for both schemes.

In taking decisions on the appropriate level of grant, the Government has said that Councils may want to take into account the level of fixed costs faced by the business in question, the number of employees, whether they are unable to trade online and the consequent scale of coronavirus losses.

Businesses must have been trading on the first full day of national restrictions to be eligible to receive a grant support.

Frequently Asked Questions and further guidance

The Government will issue a Frequently Asked Questions document for Councils administering the Business Grants in the next few days. This will cover many of the scenarios that we are likely to come across when administering the scheme.

The FAQs will give more detail on the types of businesses that are eligible to apply.

For example, the Government will shortly issue a definitive list of all those businesses which have been mandated to close.

Timescale

As soon as we have the further Government guidance and the detail behind the schemes, we will be in a position to start administering the grants. Officers will keep Members updated as soon as we have more details.

Fraud

Councils are recommended to use fraud tools such as Spotlight in administering the grants. We will be utilising Spotlight again as a fraud tool in our administration of the grants.

Coastal Management: Beesands

Beesands has suffered historically from erosion and flooding. The current management approach is now financially unsustainable because:

Over recent years the degree of coastal change in the northern extent of the village green has occurred faster than expected, with the buffer now less than 15 metres in some locations.

The predicted rise in sea level and storm frequency will continue to increase this area's vulnerability to coastal erosion, particularly given the extent of undefended coastline further to the north.

The ability to secure further national funding for intervention works is considered unlikely. We have decided that it would be beneficial to undertake emergency works to reinstate the full coastal defence length, with the acceptance that this would signify the last piece of intervention work that could be undertaken by the Council.

An eight-week programme of works is scheduled to start on Monday 7 December. The work will provide additional time for the local community to begin to adapt to the situation. We will be supporting the adaptation process, which will include asking the local community what positive initiatives could be taken. Please see the attached document for more details on our plans.

£163m Winter Grant Scheme

Food Parcels - The Government has made additional funding available to support people enduring hardship this winter. The purpose of the grant is to help vulnerable families with children affected by the pandemic, including those who have access to Free School Meals during term time.

We are waiting for more details, but officers across the District and Borough will be meeting with County on Tuesday to hear more about their early proposal to develop a food network in each district area. Networks could co-ordinate support through community kitchens, holiday clubs, charities, local businesses etc. A range of solutions/options could be developed such as holiday clubs providing food, cooking sessions, foodbanks, community meals, offers from local cafes/businesses, community larders.

If you know of any existing arrangements in your communities please let me know.

Supporting established solutions that are already delivering good services would seem the best way forward.

Alcohol Public Space Protection Orders

South Hams District Council is inviting residents and businesses to have their say on Alcohol Public Space Protection Orders in a four-week public consultation.

A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) deals with potential anti-social behaviour in an area, which could have a harmful effect on the quality of life for those in the local community.

PSPOs last for three years before they need to be reviewed and the current orders run out in early 2021. The District Council now need to consult on the next set of Orders for the following three-year period.

Public Space Protection Orders can ban, or limit, certain behaviours. In this case, the drinking of alcohol in designated public areas. If a person continues to drink alcohol after being requested not to by an authorised officer, they can be fined, or in some cases, taken to court. The current review affects all existing alcohol PSPOs within the District. The Council would like to hear your thoughts if you live or work in these areas:

Totnes, Dartmouth, Ivybridge, Salcombe, Modbury, South Brent, Woolwell and Kingsbridge. South Hams District Council's Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing, Cllr Jonathan Hawkins, said: "This consultation aims to gather the views of the public on the Alcohol Public Spaces Protection Orders within eight areas in the South Hams. We really want to encourage a wide range of opinions, so please let us know your thoughts before the consultation ends on Friday 18 December 2020."

Once the consultation is closed, a final decision will be made at Full Council in February 2021, before the Orders come into force.

The consultation will be running for four weeks, from Wednesday 18 November to Friday 18 December 2020.

You can have your say in the consultation and find out more information online at:

www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/pspos-alcohol

Get Ready to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle this Christmas

The mince pies are in the shops and the supermarkets are beginning to stack the shelves with festive treats – so as you plan your shopping for Christmas – plan ahead and let's make this Christmas a less wasteful one.

Last year, South Hams District Council joined many other authorities around the country in declaring a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency.

With plans afoot to change the recycling service early next year, South Hams is totally committed to doing what it can to help residents be more environmentally friendly.

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Cllr Keith Baldry South Hams District Council's Executive Member for Waste and recycling said: "Our new improved recycling and waste service comes into effect early next year, but that does not stop us committing to a more environmentally friendly Christmas now.

"With the COVID, 19 restrictions we are likely to see a lot of people doing their Christmas shopping online, which will result in lots of card and boxes, all of which can be recycled.

"We saw earlier in the year that the amount of waste and recycling dramatically increased when people were spending more time at home, and this is likely to be the case of the festive period – with fewer families gathering and taking Christmas holidays.

"So we are asking all residents in advance of the festive period, as you plan your Christmas, please think ahead. There are lots of ways you can reduce what you buy and reuse what you have, which means that there will be less waste and more materials that you can recycle after Christmas.

"Take wrapping paper for instance, wrapping paper is a difficult material to recycle as it contains thin fibres, is often dyed, laminated and glittery or has tape attached. Therefore, it has to go in your grey bin and not your blue recycling sacks.

"So as you shop for Christmas, why not buy some alternatives this year? You could try brown paper or even fabric; there are some great craft ideas online. Our partners at Recycle Devon and WRAP have even more tips and advice, such as alternative gift ideas and ways to reuse everyday household items."

WRAP says that card plays an important role in preventing damage to our products but did you know that a staggering 300,000 tonnes is used in UK households during the festive season? Enough to wrap around Big Ben almost 260,000 times! Or, if we laid all the card packaging side by side, it would cover the return distance between London and Lapland over 100 times.

To help residents with their planning for Christmas, the Council has produced a handy guide to all things Christmassy - save these links to your phone, so the information is at your fingertips when you need it.

<https://www.recyclenow.com/tis-season-be-jolly-aware-recycling>

<https://www.recycledevon.org/give-christmas-cards-a-new-life>

<https://www.recycledevon.org/christmas-trees-real-vs-fake>

<https://www.recycledevon.org/wrapping-paper-alternatives>

<https://www.recycledevon.org/homemade-gift-ideas>

Hardship Fund - Welfare Support

Members during their day-to-day contact with people in their ward, no doubt will come across individuals who are really struggling to make ends meet. Both Central Government and DCC have made funding available which we are administering in the form of hardship grants.

Anyone who needs help will be able to apply for immediate funding through a simple application form on our website. We have tried to make this as prominent as possible on the very front page before a link through to the page.

The Council also has its discretionary Housing Payment Fund, Housing Benefit application and help with Council Tax through Exceptional Hardship and Council Tax Reduction – all the details are on the website. Currently the uptake on the Welfare Fund has been low, most likely because of the additional support such as Track and Trace, Furlough, mortgage holidays etc. which has allowed people some breathing space. We anticipate demand will increase over the next few months.

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While we are encouraging people to apply through our website, as ever if people are not able to do this or have no one to complete on their behalf we also have the support line: 01803 861297.

This is also the phone number for people on the clinically extremely vulnerable list who require additional support.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV's)

Over Wednesday night, people previously on the Government's Shielded list were sent an email or letter with some advice on the precautions they would need to take.

This included details of how to register for food (there will be no food parcel this time) and support. I enclose a copy of the contents of this letter for your information.

The District Council has a role to play in the ongoing support of those who need a service from us, and we will be both signposting to other voluntary services in the community who have again stood up their responses or delivering a service directly ourselves. Demand is not yet known, however nationally last time in-between 10-20% of CEV's required support of some description.

County will be distributing funding they have received from Central Government to assist with the response to CEV. This is 50% of £473k, divided among the Districts on the traditional population methodology, pending further detail of population detail based on CEV.

Severe Weather Protocol

It is a busy time of year for the Housing Team I am emailing to update you about some of our current activities.

Firstly, I would like to confirm that we will be operating the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol from 1 November 2020 until 1 March 2021.

During this time we would be grateful if you could let us know of anyone sleeping rough and advise them to contact a member of the Housing Team (on 01803 861234 during office hours or 01803 867034 outside office hours) regarding the provision of accommodation over this period. We will arrange for an outreach worker to make contact with them. This is particularly important during periods of severe weather.

Secondly, It is the time of year again when all Local Authorities are required to submit a 'snapshot' estimated figure on the number of rough sleepers in the local area during a specified night between 1 October- 30 November 2020. We will be submitting an estimate based on the number of people believed to be sleeping rough on the night of Monday the 9 of November. We will also conduct a 'snapshot' count in Totnes as our main hotspot for people sleeping rough.

We choose to submit an estimate as the most accurate way of arriving at a number because due to the large geographic area of South Hams, a full count would not be able to encompass all the areas involved. Instead we work with partnership agencies such as the Police, Rough Sleeper Drop In Centres and Park Rangers to collate a figure based on verified sighting of rough sleepers or individuals we have very strong reason to believe were rough sleeping on the specified night.

Some Rough Sleepers will never make contact with the Housing Advice Service so it would be very helpful if you let us know of anyone sleeping rough in the South Hams. If you don't know their name, the place where they are usually found and a brief description would suffice.

The definition of a rough sleeper, for the purpose of the Government's estimate is as follows:

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People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or “bashes”). The information we gather through this process helps us ensure we get the most accurate figure possible to report back to The Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) and helps us to design future services.

Finally, I would like to let you know the Devon Home Choice Policy is currently open for public consultation for I have attached the survey to this document for your information. This consultation period will run until January and the result will be collated into a report which will come to member for comment and approval. Please share the survey widely as we are interested in the views and ways we may improve.

South Hams CVS

BOOK NOW! Skillshares & Workshops - FREE for volunteers and community groups in South Hams

3rd Dec 11am – 11.40 “SHCVS Partners on Zoom” – RNID Support for People with Hearing Loss

9th Dec 10am - 12 Funding for Community Groups

15th Dec 10.30am – 12.00 5 Steps to Suicide Awareness

20th Jan 10am – 12.00 Promoting Inclusion & Challenging Discrimination

13th Jan. 10am-12.30 Supporting Volunteers

2nd Feb. 10.30am – 12.00 5 Steps to Suicide Awareness

Supporting health and social care? not for profit & statutory organisations are invited to attend:

24th Nov 10am – 12.30 Erme & Yealm Area Caring Alliance meeting; 1st Dec 10am – 12.30 Kingsbridge and District Caring Alliance meeting.

For further information and bookings email: events@southhamscvs.org.uk

Bookings are now being taken for the following Zoom

3rd December 11am – 11.40 SHCVS Partners on Zoom – RNID Support for People with Hearing Loss

RNID Information Coordinator Jason Sculthorpe.

- How to identify hearing loss
- Improved knowledge and skills
- Improved communication with people with hearing loss
- Better understanding of hearing aids and other hearing equipment
- Reduced isolation
- Better wellbeing

9th December 10am – Funding for Community Groups – Skill Share

Funding for Groups - Find out more about local funding opportunities and get top tips on funding bids. Learn what’s working for others and share your knowledge & experience.

Whether you’re new to fundraising or from an established group, you are welcome to come along and share your experience and gain new ideas.

15th December 10.30am and 2nd February - 5 Steps to Suicide Awareness – Pete’s Dragons

We are delighted to be able to offer 2 more Suicide Awareness Workshop facilitated by Alison Jordan CEO Pete’s Dragon.

Based on recent courses Alison is are going to have the first 45 mins as the information sharing with a 15 min break and then the second 45 mins as implementation which will be led

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by some FAQs and their answers with more time for participant questions and a bit more interactivity.

The session will be called “5 Steps to Suicide Awareness”. In essence it is the same course as offered previously with the same information, just a bit more focus on the participants being able to put the information into life like situations and ask all the Q’s they need to feel comfortable using it.

13th January 10am - Supporting Volunteer Training

In this practical and interactive session we will look at good practice around supporting new and existing volunteers both in general and Covid specific. We will cover policies, procedures and skills around supporting volunteers with different needs and abilities to make your volunteers and organisation thrive.

To book a place please email Events@southhamscvs.org.uk

* * * * *

Event update – Equality & Diversity Training now confirmed.

We were pleased to be able to offer Equality & Diversity Training last week with such positive feedback we are delighted to be able to repeat this training on 20th January 2021 - 10am

“This was such a great session to reflect and consider my, and others, approaches when it comes to promoting inclusion and challenging discrimination. The session provide a safe space to discuss our experiences and opinions, alongside the guidance from the tutor. The different methods of engagement provided an interactive approach, not just listening, which is particularly great, especially when on a Zoom meeting. I liked that the session had videos from speakers that were relatable and challenged our way of just accepting what is presented to us in the media. Overall, a valuable way to spend several hours on a topic that impacts all individuals from all walks of life.”

Please email to book your space, numbers limited.

Joint Local Plan news

Newsletter 1

Welcome to the first edition of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP) newsletter.

Bringing news from the JLP and our delivery across the three JLP council authorities of Plymouth City, South Hams and West Devon, as well as updates from the national planning arena.

The impact of COVID-19 has disrupted planning services across the JLP area at each respective authority, but where possible, work has continued.

Our ability to undertake our annual surveys and publish the results has been reduced, simply due to officers not being able to visit the all sites due to the associated restrictions.

The knock on effect is a delay to monitoring reports including the Housing Position Statement - informing how many homes have been delivered and how many are in the pipeline, this will now not be published until December 2020.

Additionally, the publication of the authorities monitoring report (AMR), reporting performance against the Plan indicators, will now fall into early next year.

Despite the disruptions, survey work has progressed elsewhere and earlier this year we adopted the Plymouth and South West Devon Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – further detail below.

Thoughts are now turning to recovery and transitioning into a new way of working that adheres to social distancing measures.

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The JLP continues to be the prime decision making framework for development and its policies remain firmly in place, with a vision for the future of our area, rooted in a the development of a sustainable and thriving place to live and work. Any recovery strategies can only compliment this vision and will undoubtedly strengthen the policies to achieve the JLP vision.

Councils adopt the Plymouth and South West Devon Supplementary Planning Document The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) covering the three Joint Local Plan authorities of Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon and was adopted on the 16 July 2020.

The SPD provides further detail and guidance on how the Joint Local Plan policies are implemented. It covers a wide variety of subjects and includes guidance of every development management (DEV) policy within the JLP.

The SPD is also accompanied by two companion documents; the Developer Contribution Evidence Base and Traditional Farm Buildings: Their adaptation and re-use (Barn Guide) to help support the guidance within the SPD.

All three documents were prepared jointly by the authorities following last year's public consultation and the SPD is now a 'material planning consideration' when making planning decisions across the Plan Area.

All the documents, including the final version of the SPD, Developer Contribution Evidence Base, the Barn Guide and a Consultation Response Report are available to view on our Plymouth and South West Devon Supplementary Planning Document page.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

The SCI, adopted on 9 June, is a document which sets out the minimum requirements for consultation and involvement that must be followed by the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) of Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon when preparing planning documents or consulting on planning applications.

The SCI, which also sets out how the authorities will support groups undertaking neighbourhood planning, was prepared jointly by the authorities and adopted following a public consultation which ran at the end of last year.

All the documents, including the final version of the SCI and a Consultation Response Report are available to view on our Statement of Community Involvement page.

Local Green Space Development Plan postponed due to COVID-19

We have made the decision to pause work on the Local Green Space Development Plan Document. The decision was taken in response to the impact of COVID-19 on the council's budget, however, by pausing document preparation we now have the opportunity to consider the future of the DPD in the context of the recently announced planning reforms.

No decision has been made regarding when work may resume, but everyone who has engaged with the process so far, will be notified once the DPD process re-commences.

This postponement will also include the Managing Rural Development Planning Document and The Plymouth Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) review.

View our Local Green Space Development Plan Document page for more information.

Two national planning consultations close

National planning consultations closed last month. One consultation concerned current planning policy and regulations and the second covered how the planning system could look in the future, both have the potential to have significant impacts on the JLP and how it is delivered.

From 6 August to 1 October 2020 the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consulted on proposed changes to the current planning system. View the consultation document 'Changes to the current planning system' on GOV.UK.

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From 6 August to 29 October the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government consulted on a planning White Paper 'Planning for the future'. View the consultation on GOV.UK and visit our JLP news page to read our response.

Any other business

There has been a number of amendments to planning regulations in response to COVID-19. These have the potential to have an impact on the delivery of the JLP and will need to be carefully monitored and considered going forward.

1. Permitted development rights

On 1 October 2020, the government introduced the amended permitted development rights which details what does and doesn't need planning permission. The new rights permit the construction of additional storeys on existing residential or commercial premises and the demolition and re-development of free-standing building blocks of flats without the requirement for planning permission. Visit the Planning Portal for more information.

2. Use Classes

On 1 September 2020, the government updated the Use Classes - categorising land and buildings for different uses, specifying which needs planning permission or not. The amendments introduces a new class system which provides more flexibility to change between the different classes. Visit the Planning Portal for more information.

Did you know we have an Interactive JLP website? Keep an eye on the news page for further updates on the JLP as they happen!

Appendix C – Cllr J Hawkins Activity Report

REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2020 TO DATE

FROM DEVON COUNTY AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL, CLLR JONATHAN HAWKINS

Covid

As we enter the last month of 2020, Tier 2 as we can all see and experience is having an effect on us all Let's hope that the vaccine gives us a light at the end of this tunnel

Families and vulnerable residents

Both Devon County and South Hams are there to help, with many grants and assistance These are available online In Dartmouth we are lucky to have so many helping our residents. Dartmouth Community Chest, Dartmouth Caring and Dartmouth and district Food Bank A big thank you to all those volunteers who help ensure our community gets help when they need it County will announce in the coming days a central Government scheme to help families over the Christmas holidays, February half term and next Easter Devon County has been given over £2 million to help families on free school meals and is hopefully going to extend it to all families on Universal Credit These families will be given vouchers of £15 a week and & £30 Christmas week They will be able to use them in the big 5 supermarkets, it is hoped that these will be extended to the Coop and local shops as well Details are still to be finalised

I know Mr Mayor you have first-hand experience and I do in a little way from volunteering at the Food Bank that we have many in our community that need help at this time

If you know of a anyone who needs help and is having difficulty accessing help please me know

Business

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Again County and District have a number of schemes that can help provide assistance These are available on line, having our own business the next 3 months are I fear going to be very very hard South Hams have a campaign asking customers this year to shop local, and buy your presents in the South Hams I know I am going to buy mine locally

South Hams recently launched their Covid Compliance Officer Scheme District has 3 Officers who will be visiting communities and Businesses to offer help and advice on how they can ensure their businesses are safe for their customers and staff They are there to help, but with our Environmental Officers have powers if required

With this in mind South Hams also has a grant available to towns from the Re opening High Street safety Fund With Cllr Campos we have put a bid in for £11,700 which will provide money for a campaign over December, January and February to promote a welcome to Dartmouth shopping and emphasising on we are a safe centre to shop This will provide 2 weekends of free parking in Mayors Avenue in February

Highways

Duke Street and Mayors Avenue and a section of Embankment have been resurfaced and more works in Townstal will take place over coming months

I am meeting Highway Officer Lisa Edmonds next month Swannaton Road and jawbones will be raised as well as repairs out on Castle Estate

Health and Well Being Centre

Pleased that this got planning permission last week, and work to build to start in the new year This £4.75 million pound Centre will provide much improved modern facilities all on one site The campaign for an MIU and beds continues and I will raise these whenever I can as a Governor at the NHS Trust

Leisure Centres

All South Hams Centres are open again thank fully We have had a number of meetings concerning Dartmouth's centre with Fusion and indoor Pool trustees The Pool Trustees Particularly over pricing and they may be asking the Town Council for assistance with a grant to reduce pool family charges

Recycling Centres

This will be open over Christmas

Bottle and Magazine recycling banks

If you see these are getting full please report to South Hams via the internet or phone no on them

Finally, a very Merry Christmas to you all and let's hope for a more health and prosperous 2021 Most importantly stay safe

Appendix D – Cllr R Rowe Activity Report

REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2020 TO DATE.

FROM CHAIRMAN OF SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL, CLLR ROSEMARY ROWE.

November has been a busy month at the Council as we continue to hold all our meetings via Zoom and Skype. However Skype has now been replaced by Teams so that is something else for us all to learn and how to manage

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this system. There seems to be no end in sight at present to getting back to some kind of normality .Much will depend on the up take of the vaccination Programme when it gets up and running. Let's hope that as many people as possible take up getting vaccinated to rid us of this deadly virus. The council is particularly disappointed to have been placed in Tier 2 when we came out of the last lock down on wed.2nd Dec. We had the lowest R rate in the country. We need to keep control of what we are meant to do. We all know the rules. Please stick to them as hard as that may be.

Last week, on Wednesday Planning permission was approved for The New Health & Wellbeing Centre to be built at Townstal Nr.The Leisure centre. We look forward to work commencing there in the spring of 2021.

The council has been busy working on the latest round of grants which became available after the latest Lock down on Nov.5th .At the end of last week 2268 businesses had applied for a grant and 1157 had been processed for payment .staff are working 7 days a week to get payments out to the applicants.

Three COVID 19 Compliance Officers have been appointed who will be supporting and educating businesses on the High Street .They will be working with The Police, Environmental Heath team and anyone who requests assistance.

Waste Collections are still having problems. Unfortunately a number of the team tested positive for the Virus and have had to self isolate after one member tested positive. The contacts should be able to return to work on Thursday (10th December) staff have been rescheduled and agency staff have also been employed and 93% of the collections were done last week.

Climate Change Emergency. There is an Interim Devon Carbon Plan Consultation which opens today Mon.7th December and runs for ten weeks. This can be viewed on Devon Climate Emergency Website. Review the interim plan and then indicate to what extent the viewer agrees with each action listed.

Christmas will be very different this year. As long as we ALL abide by the rules for our Tier and stay safe and well that is what matters most.

I hope you all have a pleasant time and that 2021 will see us all returning to some kind of normality.

Take Care. Stay Safe .Stay Local.

Rosemary.

Appendix E – Presentation by Alan Depledge about Electric Charging Points

**Electric Vehicle Charging Points for
Dartmouth**



The Transition



1. Government BAN petrol/diesel vehicles from 2030
2. Government emphasise need for charging infrastructure
3. All major car manufacturers investing heavily and are producing EVs
4. EV charging points are revenue generators for the owners of the sites
5. New vehicle market share by engine type:

YEAR	EV	DIESEL	PETROL
2018	1.0%	32%	62%
2019	2.0%	25%	65%
2020	6.0%	16%	56%



Dartmouth Sites

1. Health & Wellbeing Centre
2. Market Square Car Park
(Bonus to deploy DTC electric van at one of their designated spaces)
3. On street charging



Connected Kerb



Who We Are.

- Fast growth UK tech business in the EV & Smart Cities Space.
- Innovative charging system - An *'Infrastructure Backbone'* that supports IoT sensors, superfast connectivity.
- Value more broad than just EV charging and more wide than just EV owners.

Why We Exist.

- A compelling case exists for EVs...but charging infrastructure is insufficient.
- Most charging takes place at home...but 48% cant home charge (70-80% in urban areas).
- We provide a home charging experience for those who don't have a driveway.
- Our Focus - *On-street residential, workplace and long stay parking... "Slow charging is the fastest way to charge."*



Connected Kerb

The Connected Kerb System.

- **Fast Charging** - Easy to use, universal access, 3-7kwh smart charging.
- **Interchangeable Sockets** - Post, bollard and wall mounted solutions - *Ideal for crowded streets and carparks.*
- **Smart and Connected** - Dynamic load balancing, connected, secure and uniquely paired with IoT, WiFi and 5G technology.
- **Environmentally Sensitive** - Long life, 80% recycled materials and minimal visual impact.
- **Future-Proofed** - Flexible modular design with induction capability built in.
- **Safe & Secure** - Full compliance to (or above) regulations, tested and CE marked, with mid meters for accurate power records.
- **Efficient O&M** - Designed for fast, efficient installation, high (proven) reliability and rapid repairs/maintenance.



EV CP Deployment

A Bold Vision - '30 EV chargers across 2 'shared use parking' settings in Dartmouth.

- ▶ *30 charge points that would be accessible for in to 60 parking bays, supporting visitors and residents alike; providing support for the local community and for tourism*
- ▶ *'Fast' (7KW) chargers that support extended 'dwell' time*
- ▶ *Income generation for Dartmouth through the sale of power to EV drivers*
- ▶ *Future-proof infrastructure that will support future charging types*
- ▶ *Internet of things sensors that air quality, parking and congestion management*
- ▶ *Supported financially by OLEV on-street residential charge point scheme that provides 75% of all funding*



CONNECTED KERB

Scope



1. Detailed survey of both sites
2. Written report with costings
3. Details of government grants
4. Guidance for DTC and SHDC to proceed

 **EV**consulting



Questions?



Appendix

- Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders - <https://www.smmt.co.uk/category/news/registrations/>
- The [Rapid Charging Fund was announced in the March 2020 Budget](#) as part of a £500 million commitment for EV charging infrastructure. The purpose of this programme will be to ensure that there is a rapid-charging network ready to meet the long-term consumer demand for electric vehicle chargepoints ahead of need - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-vision-for-the-rapid-chargepoint-network-in-england/government-vision-for-the-rapid-chargepoint-network-in-england>
- Connected Kerb - <https://www.connectedkerb.com/>



Appendix F – Open Letter to MIU

To:
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
Cc NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group

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Date: xx November 2020

We draw your attention to the fact that Minor Injury Units (MIUs) at Totnes, Dawlish and Ilfracombe (Tyrell) hospitals have been closed since March, and there is restricted opening of the MIU at Lydford. Bideford's MIU has recently reopened after pressure from campaigners. These closures cause difficulty and distress to patients across rural Devon. Poor public transport intensifies the problem for communities in coastal areas and on Dartmoor. For some, reaching treatment ten or twenty miles away is simply impossible.

There is strong support for the use of our remaining community hospitals to provide nursing care at this time of public health crisis. It shows how desperately community beds are needed to relieve pressure on our acute hospitals and the care sector. Patients also understand the need to carefully assess the safety of sites where COVID-19 patients are being treated, and to place NHS staff where they can meet the most urgent needs.

However, there is a lack of trust that [the CCG will reopen these services as promised](#) when it is safe to do so. MIU closure has historically been the precursor to more radical cuts in services and even hospital closures, as was the case at Torrington and Teignmouth. Beyond the immediate impact, there is great anxiety that this situation may be allowed to continue once the crisis is over.

MIUs are particularly important when GP surgeries are closed. Currently, the only out-of-hours service available to patients is run by Devon Doctors, which has actually cut its GPs on call, clinicians and call centre staff. This means that patients are more likely to call SW Ambulance Service (calls up 25% at the start of the closure period) and more likely to end up at an emergency department. Other patients will delay getting the help they need or be deterred from seeking treatment at all.

The Secretary of State for Health has reiterated his support for community hospitals during the COVID-19 crisis. Where towns still have a community hospital, it has provided critical coordination for primary, community and voluntary care services. Post-acute COVID-19 patients have many ongoing health challenges that are placing even more demands on the community care sector. This is why community hospitals are being reopened in other parts of the country, and why the government has promised to build new hospitals just over the border in Dorset.

The case for community hospitals has never been so strong. We ask you to provide a public guarantee that MIU services will be restored, along with all other suspended community hospital services and clinics, as soon as the crisis begins to ease.

Signed:

Save Our Hospital Services

... (many other signatories – we hope!)

Appendix F – Slow Ways Initiative

SLOW WAYS INITIATIVE

Dear Cathy

I was wondering if anyone at the town council would be keen to take a look at the following proposal appended to this email?

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My background with the proposal: I've been volunteering behind the scenes a bit this year with the Slow Ways initiative which is the brainchild of National Geographic Explorer Daniel Raven-Ellison. It's a project to create walking routes across Britain to connect up cities, towns and villages and make walking between places more feasible. The project has got to a stage where we need support from groups and councils as well as volunteers from early next year to test, walk and record the 7,000 routes made by volunteers over lockdown. I've attached more info and a proposal below, which if you could advise on, or relay onto other councillors that would be much appreciated. It would be great to get the support of the town council to this project, the recommendations at the bottom are potential ways in which the council could support the project, the backing to all or some of those would be fantastic!

Slow Ways Initiative & Dartmouth Town Council

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the Slow Ways initiative, which is mapping and promoting walking routes nationally and in the local area, and to invite support.

Detailed information

Slow Ways is an ambitious initiative to create a comprehensive network of walking routes that connect all of Great Britain's cities and towns as well as thousands of villages.

700 volunteers completed a first draft mapping of the Slow Ways network during the Spring 2020 lockdown. The organisers are now looking for 10,000 volunteers to help walk, review, record and improve the Slow Ways routes.

Each Slow Way route connects two neighbouring settlements; routes can be combined for longer journeys. As far as possible routes are direct, off-road, safe, accessible, easily navigable and pass through settlements with services and public transport hubs. The Slow Ways network – through its unique approach to plotting, mapping and recording routes – aims to make it easier for people to see, plan, enjoy and share walks between places.

Slow Ways will be used for both recreational and functional purposes, aiming to offer reasonably direct walking options backed by trusted route information. This will include walking to visit friends and family, travelling to meetings, going to shops, pilgrimages, charity fundraisers, or travelling to school or work.

The average Slow Way route in England and Wales is 12km while in Scotland it is closer to 20km. Hundreds of routes in urban areas are under 5km.

Benefits

A large number of **potential co-benefits** have been identified by volunteers, partners and backers in developing the Slow Ways initiative.

These include, but are not limited to:

Health benefits

- improving health and wellbeing by encouraging physical activity for short trips and longer journeys
- helping to mitigate the causes and effects of Covid-19, being part of recovery plans, and offering public transport alternatives
- creating opportunities for people to connect with friends, family and colleagues

Environmental benefits

- reducing pollution and emissions through active travel options as an alternative to carbon-based transport
- contributing to the decarbonisation of local and national transport systems and helping to address the climate emergency
- connecting people to 'nearby nature', heritage, places and communities

Transport benefits

- encouraging modal shift – supporting more people to walk more of the time, for more purposes
- providing safe, direct and enjoyable routes between neighbouring towns and cities
- linking active travel to public transport hubs
- promoting greater use of existing paths, trails, networks, and the connections between them

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Economic benefits

- saving people money by encouraging an inexpensive form of travels
- spreading economic activity by inspiring visits to, and stays in, more places

Community benefits

- sharing a positive, empowering, rewarding and inclusive project at a time of national crisis and recovery
- offering a source of community engagement, focus, identity and pride
- boosting the equity of use of path networks
- increasing the use of currently under-used paths – thereby keeping them open and valued

Following the early success of the initiative, Slow Ways CIC has been established to formalise its status. It is currently being supported by Paths for All, the Pilgrim Trust, Sport England, Urban Good and the Kestrelman Trust. The initiative is working in collaboration with Ordnance Survey and ESRI.

Slow Ways routes and associated information will be made freely available through the Slow Ways website. Versions of the network's data will be published for other organisations to use, and will also be released through the OS Maps platform.

References

– **Ledbury Town Council** was the first to [officially support](#) Slow Ways. 20 July 2020 [Report](#), with Recommendation “that Ledbury Town Council promote the Slow Ways Project within Ledbury in the hope that groups and individuals will get involved with the project”.

– **The Clerk magazine** ‘for Local Council professionals’: ‘Creating a new national walking network’, November 2020, page 61.

– **BBC News, 16 Oct 2020** – Slow Ways “seeks to elevate the position of walking in our national conversation, to be seen not just as a worthy, healthy hobby but part of our national transport infrastructure” – and **ITV News**, 16 Oct 2020.

Further Information

Web – slowways.uk

FAQ – [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Newsletter – slowways.uk

Twitter – [@SlowWays](#), [#SlowWays](#)

Contact – hello@slowways.uk

Recommendation

That Dartmouth Town Council supports the Slow Ways initiative by:

- Passing a formal motion to support Slow Ways Promoting Slow Ways for local residents to walk, review and use routes
- Including Slow Ways within future planning, policies and initiatives
- Considering where new paths would strengthen the Slow Ways network
- Encouraging their representatives to sign-up personally to walk and review a Slow Way.

Andrew Mackay