

Report from Cllr Jess Bailey

Newton Poppleford Parish Council

27th June 2022

20mph update

We are waiting to find out which communities are going to be put forward for the 20mph zones. This should be announced on 7th July with the publication of the cabinet papers. From questions I have previously asked Cllr Stuart Hughes Cabinet Member for highways, I understand 100 communities have asked to have 20mph with only 4 or 5 being selected for this year. If progress continues at that rate it will take 20 years for 20mph to be delivered to the communities that want this reduced speed. This is far too slow, and so I have seconded a motion to try and get DCC to increase its roll out rate.

Ambulance Spotlight Review

You will recall that I initiated a spotlight review by the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee on 11th November 2021. The report was brought to the committee on Tuesday 22nd June.

NHS figures show that over the winter South West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST) had slower average response times and longer wait times at acute hospitals than the national average.

Even in May 2022 the figures are slower than average. For category 1, the most urgent and serious cases the average response time across the country is 8 minutes 36 seconds whereas in the South West it is 10 minutes 44 seconds.

As part of the Spotlight Review leaders in the Integrated Care System, which includes Devon County Council, the NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and SWAST, were invited to share their knowledge and expertise.

The Spotlight Review concluded that an urgent 'systemwide' commitment to improve average response times was needed, and that all of Devon's acute hospitals should adopt the Rapid Patient Assessment and Triage model used by the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

Another recommendation suggested a new campaign to inform people how and where to access urgent and non-urgent medical support and mental health support was needed.

The report also highlights the importance of Minor Injury Units (MIU) and recommended that MIUs with regular service hours and minimum standards should be available across Devon.

I agreed with all of the recommendations, but I felt that a further recommendation should be added. I strongly believe that in-patient beds should be re-instated in community hospitals as the key problem is the handover delays due to insufficient capacity. For

example the report highlighted the fact that the RDE had 99 patients waiting to be released to an appropriate care home or domiciliary care provider.

Unfortunately, my proposal was voted down by the Conservative controlled committee only being supported by my Lib Dem colleagues on the committee.

John Humphreys

John Humphreys a former Conservative District Councillor, Mayor of Exmouth and Exmouth Town Councillor was convicted of sexually abusing two boys and sentenced to prison for 21 years in August 2021.

Devon County Council has safeguarding obligations to manage allegations made against adults who work with or volunteer with children. I formally asked Cllr Leadbetter portfolio holder for children's services in advance of the Annual Council Meeting on 26th May to advise when concerns had first been raised with Devon County Council about John Humphreys and what Devon County Council had done to keep children safe.

Very concerningly, I was advised by Cllr Leadbetter on 16th June that there was a referral in 2014 by the NSPCC to Devon County Council but Devon County Council made an error and did not hold a multi agency meeting. DCC are now going to be carrying out an independent review of its actions.

This has been reported in the national press (the I Newspaper) as well as in the local press.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/paedophile-tory-councillor-allowed-mix-children-nspcc-1694718>

<https://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/news/council-admits-mistake-over-john-humphreys-warning-9050840>