

REPORT FOR NEWTON POPPLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MARCH 2022

CLLR JESS BAILEY, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (OTTER VALLEY)

ROAD SAFETY IN NEWTON POPPLEFORD

My focus since the last Parish Council meeting has been on trying to improve road safety in Newton Poppleford. I know this is an absolute key priority for the community as highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan. You will recall that in January this year I organised for DCC highways officers to meet with representatives from the Parish Council and several members of the public to discuss road safety issues. In February I called for a report on the tragic death of Ken Cooper to be on the East Devon Highways Committee meeting at Devon County Council (HATOC). At that meeting on 14th February I proposed that Newton Poppleford should be the first community in the new tranche of 20 mph zones, that there should be two additional pedestrian crossings and that consideration should be given to a zebra crossing as part of the safety review of the existing crossing. However, I was voted down.

Now in March, I have been supporting Beverley Raw with her petition to deliver road safety as part of her campaign following the tragic death of her father who was killed crossing the road at the 'Puffin' crossing in December 2020. I was not convinced that Beverley's concerns and those of the wider community with regards the crossings and other road safety issues were fully taken on board at the HATOC in February. Please spread the word about the petition. It should now be available for signature in hardcopy in Newton Poppleford in the shop and other locations as well as online here: [Petition · DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL MUST BRING URGENTLY NEEDED ROAD SAFETY MEASURES TO NEWTON POPPLEFORD · Change.org](https://www.change.org/p/devon-county-council-must-bring-urgently-needed-road-safety-measures-to-newton-poppleford).

BBC Spotlight interviewed Beverley for its programme on Friday 25th March and I was briefly interviewed for the programme as was Cllr Burhop. The programme can be found on my facebook page and blog together with further comments from me. [Jess Bailey - Otter Valley Devon County Councillor | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/jess.bailey.otter.valley). This programme was broadcast across our region and will really highlight Beverley's campaign and our collective highways safety concerns. We will now need to see what action Devon County Council is going to take to improve matters.

Also, I am very pleased that Newton Poppleford has resubmitted its application for 20mph (originally submitted in 2019) to DCC as I think it essential for everyone's safety that the speed limit is reduced going through the village. The deadline for submissions of expressions of interest by communities is 31st March. I do not know how quickly after 31st March, Devon County Council will decide which communities are eligible. However as there has been a budget set for 2022-3, I would hope and expect the decision to be made reasonably quickly in order that the projects can be rolled out in the financial year 2022-3.

The next East Devon Highways Committee at Devon County Council where I would expect there to be a report on the crossing and Newton Poppleford road safety issues is 22nd July at 10.30 am.

VENN OTTERY REPAIRS

I have been advised by the Neighbourhood Highways Officer that an order for the repair of the collapsed road edge near Coly Head Farm has already been placed with the contractor and it shouldn't be too long before it is completed. The culvert under the road here I am told is clear and its outlet should be incorporated into the new concrete wall.

The potholes just below this area should have been repaired on 8th March and the NHO have chased up our Reactive Works Team regarding this.

The NHO has reported the edge pothole east of the Church entrance near Campions. The grip draining water into the ditch behind here was last cleaned on 20th May 2021 and is routinely cleaned on an annual basis.