

**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

**Report to Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council**

**Cllr Jess Bailey, Devon County Councillor, Otter Valley**

**Road safety in Newton Poppleford**

Cllr Chris Burhop and I attended a meeting with Cllr Stuart Hughes Cabinet Member for Highways on 29<sup>th</sup> September in the Pavilion at Newton Poppleford. Also attending were members of the DCC highways team including Nigel Flower (road safety officer) Tom Vaughan (neighbourhood highways manager) and Alex Crump (Network Operations Manager). Important points for consideration:

1. One suggestion was the introduction of ‘wigwags’ on the A3052. Below is an example of a wigwag. These are flashing lights that are time controlled and are set to flash during school drop off in the morning and after school (exact times TBC). The sign would say “20 mph when flashing” or similar. The cost would be c £2000 for one at either end of the A3052. This is in my view a really cost-effective intervention and if the Parish Council agrees then I would certainly be happy to support this and make a significant contribution through my locality budget. **Does the Parish Council wish, in principle, to proceed with this?**



2. As you know, the 20mph schemes are hugely oversubscribed in Devon and at the current rate of roll out (4 per year) it will take a very long time for the scheme in Newton Poppleford to be rolled out. Given that a 20mph scheme is so important to the community, as is reflected in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan, does the Parish Council wish to consider meeting some or all of the cost itself (total cost est £10-15,000) in order to try to obtain the 20mph zone sooner?
3. DCC have commissioned a “pedestrian crossing demand” survey in Newton Poppeleford the results are awaited. This will help with identifying the best place for an additional crossing. It is important that the Parish Council also express its view on the most suitable location(s).
4. To help with speed reduction, alterations can be made to road markings but this will need to be done as part of the re-lining programme. Tom Vaughan is going to confirm when that is scheduled for.
5. We were advised that it would simply not be possible to improve the lighting at the puffin crossing without increasing the illumination to equivalent motorway lighting.
6. We were also advised that there are only a very limited number of puffin crossings in Devon that are set at more than 16 seconds (Newton Poppleford’s current crossing time) with four

crossings set at 17 seconds and four at 18 seconds. This needs to be considered in view of Cllr Chris Burhop crossing with an elderly resident and the video footage.

### **Water leak on road to Hunger Hill**

I arranged a meeting with Cllr Chris Burhop and Mike Brown about the water cascading down the road leading to Hunger Hill. Mike Brown agrees now that given the ground levels it seems unlikely to be as a result of springs on adjacent land and more likely after all to be a leak from SWW, particularly in view of the water mains which I understand passes under the road. Mike Brown is pursuing this with SWW and will update further.

### **South West Water – Notice of Motion, 6<sup>th</sup> October**

I was disappointed that at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October Devon County Council did not agree with my proposal to write to the CEO of South West Water Susan Davy asking her to consider a reduction in her vast annual salary/bonus of c£1.6 million until there is a significant reduction in the sewage discharge situation. What is also disappointing is that South West Water have breached the FOI rules by failing to provide me with the details of the sewage discharges into the River Otter so far this year in 2022. I submitted a request on 5<sup>th</sup> September and was entitled to the information within 20 working days. Regrettably they have advised I will not be provided with the information until 5<sup>th</sup> November. I have written to SWW and expressed my dissatisfaction with the delay.