

Dog Poo

I talked to Street Scene and Environmental Health about the continuing issue of this in Newton Poppleford. EDDC officers work on an 'educate before enforcement' approach. If you know there is a specific problem in your road or area, contact the parish council or EDDC directly. EDDC suggest education via temporary pavement stencils reminding owners of their responsibility and highlighting the fact there is a known problem. They can, if required follow this up with enforcement and send targeted letters to residents in a 'hotspot'. The intention is to raise awareness and encourage good behaviour from owners and their dogs.



Temporary Closure of Farthings Lane and Footpath 1 due to the construction of new houses on Land South of King Alfred Way.

Concern was raised by residents in August over the closure of Farthings Lane, the footpath which runs behind the Toll House to King Alfred Way and Footpath 1 which runs from King Alfred Way to School Lane. Both paths provide a safer off-road route through the village than walking along the High Street particularly where they are no pavements. The timing of this was particularly unfortunate during the school holidays and children had to negotiate the road around the Toll House to get to the playing field and so on. I spoke to the construction site manager who explained the closure was necessary as two walls



were being constructed at the entrance to the site, and the huge attenuation tank for management of surface water run-off was also being installed. Both necessitated deep foundations being dug and thus it was not possible to keep the paths open. There was also a rumour that Footpath 1 was blocked by a tree. I walked the entire path and this is not the case. I spoke to the site manager about villagers' concerns and he confirmed DCC's approval of the footpath closures and promised to complete the work and re-open the paths as soon as possible. By 12th September both footpaths were open again. Thanks to residents for keeping me informed of these developments.

The East Devon AONB Partnership Review.

The local East Devon AONB Partnership is an independent non-political organisation. They held a consultation over the summer asking residents for views on their work. They are a small and dedicated team based at Kennaway House in Sidmouth. I understand they are also very enthusiastic about a proposal to create a new national park along the Jurassic coast. I put in a response to this survey both to register my support for their work but also raising concerns about the lack of protection of our AONB area, the pressures from developers and planners impacting on the countryside, the state of some parts of the East Devon Way despite its promotion, impact of heavy traffic through our village etc. I also support their work towards the East Devon and Dorset National Park which aims to give greater protection to our area than we currently have. It brings additional funding and opportunities that are well worth considering.

The Designated Landscapes (AONB and National Parks) Review 2018.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the creation of National Parks and AONBs, and a national review begins this autumn. This review will look at whether enough protection is being given to AONBs and whether these and National Parks should be extended and given greater powers of protection.

I talked to Chris Woodruff, manager of the East Devon AONB Partnership to ask him if the results of the local review would be fed into the Designated Landscapes Review. First Chris explained to me how AONB areas came about (by being put forward by the local authority at the time) which explains why one beautiful area around us IS in the AONB whilst a neighbouring area is not.

He went on to explain the ED AONB Partnership have been working for some time on a proposal for a new East Devon and Dorset National Park which would cover the area from Exmouth to Poole along the Jurassic Coast. It aims to give greater protection to our area and to look at the opportunities and advantages for communities, the economy, farming, truly affordable housing for local people and so on. This is not a completely new idea. In East Devon and Dorset, as far back as 1945 a campaign group has been carrying out studies to convince local authorities that the Jurassic Coast, already a world heritage site, should become a National Park. Dorset authorities now welcome this proposal. EDDC has not supported this so far and Devon County Council are debating the matter this autumn. Therefore you will see more reference to the Dorset National Park than the East Devon and Dorset National Park (as named in the original proposal) as to date East Devon authorities have resisted any engagement in this. I support any measures which given greater protection to this area and ensure we don't lose our beautiful landscapes for the benefit of current and future generations. I believe our area is under threat from the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan and that we are likely to see thousands of new houses built east of Exeter which will impact massively on traffic, pollution, the countryside and the very essence of things we value about this area, unless greater protection is given.

<https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/>

You can sign up for their newsletter and information about the new proposed Dorset National Park and contact East Devon AONB Partnership for more information about the proposed East Devon and Dorset National Park which would cover the Jurassic coast.

Universal Credit Claimants

EDDC benefits team would like to remind any residents who are struggling with the recent changes to Universal Credit to get in touch with them for support. The contact telephone number is 01395 571770; email benefits@eastdevon.gov.uk. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with them if you are struggling as a result of the changes.

Car parking and motor cycles in East Devon

At Cabinet on 5th September 2018 it was confirmed that motor bikes can be parked free in all car parks in East Devon. There is one car park (Mill Street, Sidmouth) that has a sign saying No Motorbikes but I understand this is an exception. Car drivers may be interested to know that parking fines are ring fenced in the budget for car parking but in excess of £2m from pre-paid parking tickets and permits in East Devon goes into the general EDDC budget.

Gas Safety Week

I received a message from WWUtilities about Gas Safety Week:

“Today is the start of Gas Safety Week, and the gas industry takes this opportunity to raise awareness of gas safety and the importance of taking care of gas appliances. After the long hot summer this year we're now focusing on preparing for winter – and we're urging everyone in the communities we serve to take just five simple steps to make sure winter doesn't catch them out:

1. Get gas appliances safety checked by a Gas Safe Registered Engineer – this should be done every year.

2. Keep your eye on your appliances: Flames on your cooker and boiler should be crisp and blue, and no sooty black marks on or around any gas appliances.
3. Make sure you have an audible carbon monoxide (CO) alarm: it might save your life and save you from the debilitating side effects of CO poisoning.
4. Know the signs of CO poisoning: a headache is the most common but also dizziness, feeling sick, tiredness & confusion, stomach pain and shortness of breath. The symptoms are flu-like without the high temperature – but very high levels can kill almost instantly.
5. Save the National Gas Emergency Number 0800 111 999 in your phone so you can call it immediately if you smell gas or suspect the presence of CO”.

Val Ranger
Ward Cllr - Newton Poppleford and Harpford
September 2018

Already happening - Council housing Sell 4 right to buy to buy one house