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New Devon County Councillor

Our new DCC councillor is Cllr Jess Bailey, congratulations to her and thanks to her predecessor Cllr Claire Wright whose life is taking a new direction. DCC are responsible for roads and health issues which are often raised as concerns in the village. Jess's contact details are: Phone: 01404 814056
Email: Jessica.Bailey@devon.gov.uk.

Cllr Bailey met with the parish council on 23rd June to go over the issues that are of concern within the parish and the two principle items were road safety and the aspiration to have a 20 mph speed

limit through the village along with more crossings such as Zebra crossings, the lack of medical facilities in the village and concern over whether the Coleridge Medical Centre will again run a medical surgery in the village once lockdown eases.

New Parish Councillor

Welcome to Joy Morgan as the new parish councillor for Harpford. An election was called and Joy won this, uncontested.

EDDC Annual Meeting

As I wrote last month it is a legal requirement that EDDC hold an Annual Meeting. The government also refused to allow remote (Zoom) meetings to continue from early May so on 25th May Westpoint exhibition centre was hired in order to be able to have all councillors at the Annual Meeting, socially distanced.

Independent councillor Ian Thomas was voted in as the new Chair, taking over from Cllr Cathy Gardner who had faced a very difficult year previously as Zoom meetings were introduced. Zoom meetings meant more councillors attended each meeting and there was a lack of understanding from some councillors about appropriate behaviour at these. Cllr Gardner faced a very difficult time trying to instill some discipline into the meetings so they didn't drag on for hours. Cllr Gardner did a great job but stood down from the role this year to be able to focus on taking the government to task over the death of her father in a care home due to CV-19, she has launched a formal legal action case over this on behalf of all bereaved families which has received a lot of publicity. This legal case is ongoing.

Cllr Paul Arnott of the Democratic Alliance was re-elected as Leader. This was a good outcome to enable the current administration to complete the work they had begun last May. I was re-elected as Vice-Chairman for the third year running, the civic role was reduced over the past year due to Covid-19. The meeting ran well although it caused a huge amount of work for the officers organizing it and it will not be viable for the council to continue to hire outside venues for larger meetings. The current situation is that council meetings are now held at Blackdown House but only those directly appointed to committees can attend in person. Others can attend remotely including both councillors and the public. Only councillors physically present in the room can vote.

Government Consultation on whether to change the law to allow councils to hold remote meetings

EDDC has formulated a response to this consultation, arguing for the benefits of councils being able to determine whether meetings are held in person or via Zoom to suit their individual circumstances. I personally found them hugely beneficial.

Residents may be interested in these statistics during the time of remote meetings held via Zoom:

Member expenses

1 May – 31 Dec 2019 claims totalled £14, 918.40

1 May – 31 Dec 2020 claims totalled £83.25 (a saving of £14,835.15 from remote meetings)

1 Jan – 31 May 2021 claims totalled (awaiting figure from payroll)

Public engagement

- a) May – June 2020 youtube channel got 6.7K views with an additional 111 subscribers; top meetings:
- Extraordinary Council (May) **peak concurrent viewers (PCV)** 80; total views in that period 1,048
 - Strategic Planning PCV 50; total views in that period 765
 - Development Management PCV 50; total views in that period 468
- b) Aug – Oct 2020 youtube channel got 5.9K views with additional 56 subscribers; top meetings:
- Cabinet PCV 24, total views in that period 1,241
 - Council PCV 46, total views in that period 445
 - Council PCV 18, total views in that period 213
- c) Nov 2020 – Jan 2021 youtube channel got 7.5K views with additional 70 subscribers; top meetings:
- Planning PCV 55, total views for that period 883
 - Planning PCV 100, total views for that period 393
 - Council PCV 35, total views for that period 198
- d) Feb – Apr 2021 youtube channel got 8.9K views with additional 74 subscribers; top meetings:
- i. Standards Hearing PCV 60, total views in that period 917;
 - ii. Car parking TaFF PCV 6, total views in that period 498
 - iii. Planning PCV 28, total views in that period 130.

PCV is the highest number of viewers during the meeting, but that clearly fluctuates during a meeting in terms of different viewers joining and leaving as the meeting progresses.

Member attendance

Comparing May 2019 – Dec 2019 to the same period the following year, the following has been approximated:

- May – Dec 2019 - approximately 79% attendance of meetings by Councillors to the meetings they are expected to attend as members of that committee/group/panel etc.
- May – Dec 2020 - approximately 87% attendance of meetings by Councillors to the meetings they are expected to attend
- Attending meetings where the Councillor is not a member of that committee/group/panel has **doubled** from the same period in 2019 to that in 2020



Recycling and Waste: JARS and LIDS

When recycling your glass jars in your green recycling box, please be a super-recycler and take the lids off, then drop them into your green recycling sack.

EDDC can then recover the lids too. The lids are made from aluminium which is a really valuable metal.

Please visit their website for further information relating to [recycling and disposals](#).

Green bin Waste collection service

EDDC green waste collections are proving to be ever popular with 16,000 users of the service and more joining every day. They are able to hold the price to £48/year again in 2021, to give residents value for money. Make your gardening easier and save trips to the recycling centre, by having your green waste collected at the kerb-side.

All the green waste EDDC collect from households is composted in East Devon and used as a natural soil conditioner by East Devon farms; part of our local green economy. For further information regarding our green waste collection service, please visit the EDDC website or phone them on 01404 515616.

All you need to know about the restart grant:

Restart Grants for non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses **close on 30 June**. Please check the [guidance](#) carefully before applying to make sure you are eligible.

As food and drink exports to the EU have dropped sharply, businesses should check the **UK transition support** on the [Growth Hub](#) which gives details of the £20m SME Brexit Support Fund and the Movement Assistance Scheme.

Join the national #ThankYouDay

Join EDDC on Sunday 4 July for Thank You Day as we celebrate people in our communities who have gone above and beyond over the last eighteen months. Organised by the Together Coalition, Thank You Day is supported by hundreds of organisations across the country, ranging from the Scouts and Guides to Rotary and the Royal Voluntary Service, The Mirror and the Sun, the Football Association and the Church of England.

You can [host your own event](#) or get involved with the exciting activities planned, including the biggest ever



BBQ led by Levi Roots and a national cheers for volunteers at 5pm. There are lots of resources to help you plan for the big day.

Seaton Wetlands – Summer Holiday Club

Adventurous outdoor holiday club for 7-11 year olds, based at Seaton Wetlands. Led by experienced education ranger Penny, each day will be different: learn about wetlands wildlife, make natural crafts, use tools, cook on campfires and play. Morning fruit snack and campfire cooked afternoon snack provided.

- Week 1: 02/08-06/08; Week 2: 16/08-20/08
- Drop off 10am; pick up 4pm.
- £35 per child, per day. £150 for all 5 days of one week (discount of £25). No sibling discount.
- 12 children per day

Find more information on the [Summer Holiday Club](#) as well as events listings on our website.

To book your child's place call 01395 517557.

Do you rent a property? Don't get caught out paying more than you should!

Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service is urging renters in Devon to make sure they know what landlords and letting agents are allowed to charge when beginning, ending or changing tenancy contracts.

Changes in the law mean that many common tenancy fees have now been banned and renters can no longer be asked to pay for things like professional cleaning, having pets, and certain administration fees, such as extra charges for references and credit checks.

Find out more about the limited number of fees now allowed, and how to report any concerns you have, on the [Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service website](#).

It is National Picnic Week!

Grab your blankets and baskets out of the cupboards and get out to the great outdoors for a good old fashioned picnic. East Devon has a number of [lovely gardens and parks](#) which make ideal picnic spots.

So pack a hamper and enjoy a socially-distanced sunny day outside with friends and family surrounded by sea views, wooded walks and sandy beaches. The National Trust also has a number of [recommended picnic spots for you to enjoy in Devon](#)



More than 1.3m CV-19 doses have been given in Devon

As the largest ever NHS vaccination programme enters its last lap Devon's Primary Care Medical Director Alex Degan has encouraged local residents to come forward for their first jab and remember to get their second vital and lifesaving dose.

The plea comes as people aged 40 and over are now able to book in their second jab on the national booking system from eight weeks after their first dose.

With everyone over the age of 18 now able to book in for the lifesaving vaccine, eligible people are being urged to get their first or second jab as soon as possible.

[Book here](#)

More information on East Devon's Public Toilet Review will be coming soon

I wrote last month about the public toilet review. A consultation on East Devon's public toilets is set to start at the end of July.

Keep an eye out for the latest news and information which will be posted via social media and on the [East Devon District Council website](#)

Do you know someone who would like to work for EDDC?

If you know anyone who would be interested in driving or working outside and helping to keep East Devon looking beautiful, please contact EDDC via email HR@eastdevon.gov.uk.

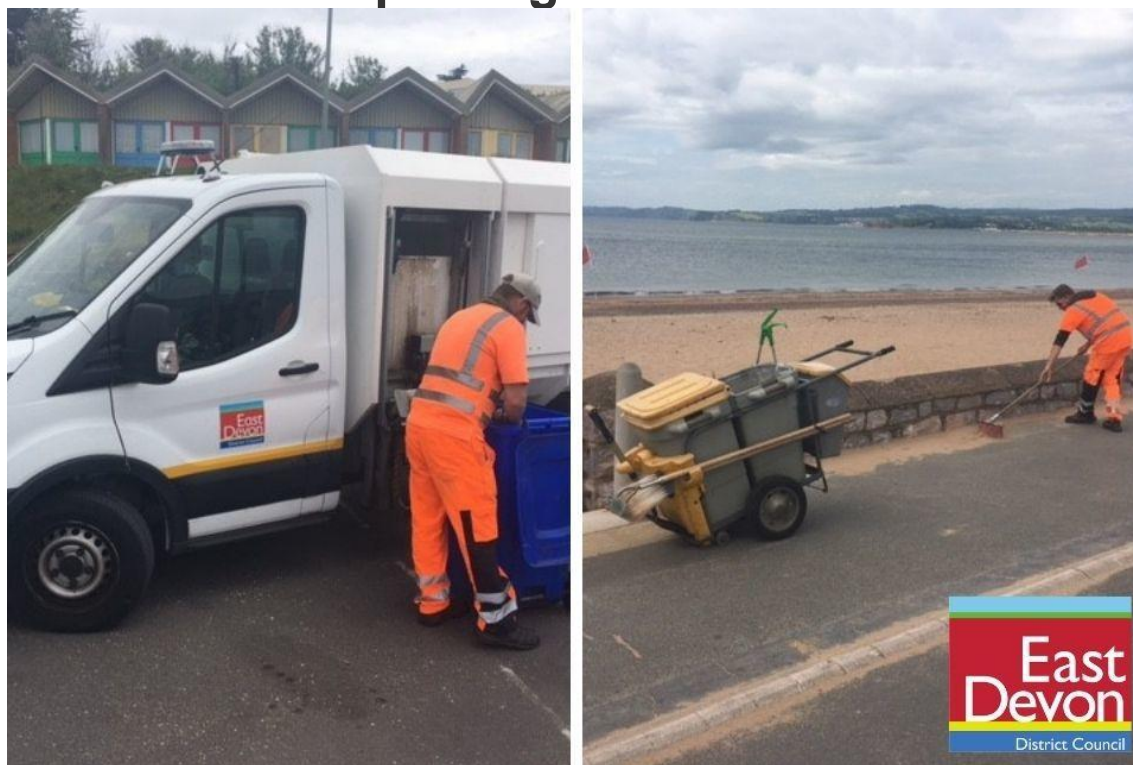
We have vacancies for HGV drivers, street cleansing operatives and grounds maintenance.

The council is interested in anyone who is willing to muck in and work with us, irrespective of background or experience, get in touch if that is you!

Our Recycling and Waste contractors Suez are also looking for experienced LGV Drivers to join their team. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact **James Gatter** at **Suez** on **01395 234500**



Please bear with us: Staffing shortages and high demand are impacting EDDC frontline services



Residents may already be aware of problems with refuse and recycling collections. EDDC are currently experiencing very high demand on services as residents and visitors enjoy our beautiful public areas, beaches and green spaces. With all the extra people visiting our teams are very stretched, and they are doing their best to keep up with our street cleansing, litter bin emptying and grass cutting. Please bear with us in this difficult time and help us by reporting issues through our [EDDC App](#) or [website](#) and we'll get to them as soon as we can.

Unfortunately due to the same staffing pressures our recycling and waste contractor Suez is also experiencing service issues. The result is that we are not managing to make all collections on the scheduled day, and these are sometimes spilling over to the following day.

If your collection is not made, please leave this out for the following day.

[Click here for more on Recycling and Waste.](#)

Drop-in second dose Oxford AstraZeneca appointments at Greendale Vaccination Centre

The Vaccination Centre at Greendale in Exeter will be offering 'drop-in' appointments between 8:30am and 7pm this Saturday and Sunday.

These are specifically for anyone who:

- Is aged **40 or over**, Clinically Vulnerable or Extremely Clinically Vulnerable
- Received your first dose of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine at least 8 weeks ago

- Has yet to make an appointment for your second dose, or missed your original appointment

If you would like to attend, please be aware:

- We do have booked appointments during this period so please expect a wait!
- Please continue to check social media for further information, in particular whether we need to close early due to demand!

Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather, and it's a good idea to bring a drink along with you! Please note this is for **second doses of Oxford AstraZeneca only**

Road Closures

Four Elms Hill

The latest update is that the hill will be closed overnight from 5-9th July with a diversion along the A30 to allow for the double white lining to take place. Diversion is given as via the A30. The road closure is 6.30 pm to 6.00 am.

Halfway Inn to Goosemoor

Friday 9th July, Saturday 10th July, Monday 12th July and Tuesday 13th July – overnight 7.00 pm to 7.00 am for resurfacing works.

Neighbourhood Plan referendum

This went to EDDC Cabinet on 9th June to be formally 'made' along with two other Neighbourhood Plans for Farringdon and Otterton. The document will be used to determine planning decisions. By the time you read this the decision should be fully ratified. This is the formal statement released by EDDC:

Newton Poppleford & Harpford Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan') to be formally 'made'

The Newton Poppleford & Harpford Neighbourhood Plan had now successfully passed referendum and must be formally 'made' (adopted) by East Devon District Council in order to form part of the development plan.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

1. 'make' the Newton Poppleford & Harpford Neighbourhood Plan, Cabinet 9 June 2021
2. noted that once made the Plan will carry full weight in the planning decision making process as part of the statutory development plan for the Newton Poppleford & Harpford Neighbourhood Plan Area, the parish of Newton Poppleford & Harpford, and
3. congratulated the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and all involved in developing the Plan and all their hard work.

REASON: *The Plan received a majority 'yes' vote in the neighbourhood area referendum, as required by the Regulations and there is no substantive reason not to make the Plan. In addition, to recognise*

the significant work over a number of years by Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Council and dedicated volunteers to prepare the Plan.

Newton Poppleford Doctors Surgery Consultation update

A number of residents contacted me wishing to have a form to respond to the consultation about the permanent closure of the Newton Poppleford site but were not given the opportunity. I emailed the surgery manager about this saying I felt all residents should be able to have a voice but did not receive a response. Cllr Jess Bailey contacted Coleridge to say she felt the consultation time was too short. The response from Ross Jago, Public Affairs Manager of the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group was that this wasn't a formal consultation but an 'engagement process'. He stated, in bold, '*the results of that engagement will be carefully considered before any formal process begins*'. He also stated that all residents did have a chance to respond because they could collect a form from Ottery St Mary or Newton Poppleford surgery where they were available outside the branch. How were people that weren't directly contacted expected to know they could visit a closed branch of the surgery to collect a form or get themselves to Ottery to pick one up? Not everyone is online.

He also stated: '*You may not be aware that patients are able to choose which GP service they wish to use*'. This again I felt was very misleading as when you click on the link he then provided it explains that you can **approach** any surgery you like to apply to become a patient, but the practice can choose not to take you. This is the case with the Sidmouth Beacon Medical Practice who currently do not take on new Newton Poppleford residents generally.

Complaints and Concerns

Streetlight in Turner Close

Two streetlights failed since November 2020 and a resident tried hard to get this resolved only to get batted back and forth from DCC to EDDC over whose responsibility it was to fix it. Parish Council Chairman Cllr Chris Burhop chased EDDC over this several times over the past months since it was brought to his notice but to no avail. Finally our Highways officer Mike Brown was able to confirm that responsibility did not lie with DCC as the lights were too far away from the highway and thus the matter lay with EDDC. I am hopeful the repair will be completed by the time you read this.

Barbecues

I wrote last month about the nuisance bonfires can cause for neighbours, but a resident contacted me asking if I could raise the issue of barbecues. These can cause much the same nuisance as bonfires with fumes that get into any washing that is hanging out to dry and if they are sited right by the fence of your neighbours and the wind is in the wrong direction they can be quite anti-social. So the request is to please check your close neighbour's garden for washing and check if your barbecue is sited as thoughtfully as possible so the smell and smoke does not disturb your neighbours.

Parking of camper vans

Complaints again about camper vans being parked in Otter Reach. Unfortunately if the vehicle is taxed and insured, they are permitted to park on the public highway. There is a particularly large van there at the moment and residents complain it makes the highway single traffic only. If it became apparent that the camper van is being lived in on a particular

road, the local authority may choose to take action. There is also a history of campervan theft from this road as it is away from housing so easy pickings for those intent on theft.

Webbers Meadow

There have been various comments made about the length of the grass and cutting in the meadow. This is going to be debated at the parish council on Monday evening. The myth still remains that Webbers Meadow is the 'dog walking field'. This is in fact not correct. Webbers Meadow is a community amenity; it is not meant only for dog walkers but is a shared space. The confusion arose because at the same time as dogs were banned from the sports/recreation ground, the parish council bought Webbers Meadow (2004) and decided not to ban dogs there initially. Some residents have complained they cant pick up the dog poo because the grass is too long, which makes one wonder what they do when walking in farmers fields? Presumably not pick up? Webbers Meadow is a wildlife meadow, not a park, and the parish council are keen to make it a very sustainable wildlife area, encouraging a wider range of wild flowers, insects and trees. The Climate Change Action group of the parish council have some excellent ideas for planting more wild flowers and grasses to encourage a greater biodiversity.

Shortage of rental properties

A local resident is struggling to find a 3 bedroom property for rent with access to local primary schools. The rental market is extremely difficult at the moment, with properties no sooner on the market than they are snapped up. If you know of any properties that might be suitable coming up for rent in the near future please do let me know.

With grateful thanks as always to residents for helping to raise local issues so they can be addressed.

Val Ranger , Ward Councillor, Newton Poppleford and Harpford
Tel 07475 201 340 or email vranger@btinternet.com..