



NEWTON POPPLEFORD & HARPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2014

Available on the website: www.newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk

Collect your own from boxes on Parish Council Noticeboards.

Emailed quarterly by sending a request to: newtonpopplefordcouncilnews@gmail.com



Results of Speed Laser in Newton Poppleford July 2014 (Police)

The following text has been copied and slightly edited from the police report:

"Speeding

A speed laser and traffic counter was set up in the village during July on a street light close to the King Alfred Way junction (agreed at previous meeting with Police, Devon Highways and local residents who were present). The laser was in place for 7 days and nights and measured speed and volume of traffic in both directions. **The results of the speeds recorded by time are laid out in the graphs available on the website** (as insufficient space to include here).

The first column is the time of day at hourly intervals; the 2nd is the 85th percentile.

"The 85th percentile is often used to determine speed limits for roads. The theory assumes that most drivers are reasonable and do not want to get in an accident, but do want to get to their destination as quickly as possible. Therefore, a speed at which 85 percent of people drive is figured to be the highest safe speed for that road".

It means 85% of people drove at this speed. The third column is the mean speed (average) of all traffic through the village.

The final column is the suggested outcome as a result of these figures. It should also be noted that a similar report was commissioned a few years ago with the laser set up near Station Road which produced a very similar result.

The conclusion from this was that in the main, during the day, the speed limits are obeyed with issues at night when the roads are quieter. Newton Poppleford is a focus for the police particularly at the main entrances to the village and will continue to be.

Accidents

We also looked at the accident statistics for the last 5 years which confirmed that there had been 25 reported accidents, none categorised as fatal or serious. The definitions of the categories were discussed, but in essence this meant that 56% were damage only accidents and therefore Newton Poppleford had a good record in this regard, probably due to the relative speeds being low.

The day and times of the accidents were recorded but there was no discernible pattern with accidents recorded evenly through the week and at various times.

Volume

Lastly we looked at the volume count of traffic through the village. Although we all know the A3052 is a busy road the average traffic flow through the

village in both directions was 13,140 vehicles in a 24hr period. The vast majority 12,682 of these passed through the village between 6.00am and 10.00pm. Again this was a 7 day average.

Recommendations

Although traffic speeds appear OK on paper, I would suggest that most people would say that the perception is that people do speed, particularly at the entrance and exits from the village. I suggest that we investigate illuminated speed sign costs and concurrently look to see if we can utilise the Parishes Together Fund to share cost and sign with, for instance, Colaton Raleigh or another village.

We should also look at warnings for motorists during school hours around the School Lane area of the A3052. Many pupils utilise the crossing and school signage is very poor.

Consider another pelican crossing at the island near the King Alfred Way junction.

Unfortunately, I don't think we can do anything about the volume of traffic although it may be worth investigating if it is possible to try and divert HGVs onto the A30 as a better route."

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OTTERY HELP SCHEME

There is a new telephone number to use when booking a lift from the Help Scheme. From now onwards please use:

01404 813041

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NHS Changes in Eastern Devon

The Transforming Community Services Commissioning Intentions document was published on 17th September (available on website). Since then the 8 drop-in sessions and 7 public meetings have taken place, where residents had the opportunity to hear the details and question members of the Clinical Commissioning Group.

There have been some other developments affecting us locally:

- * The Minor Injuries Unit at Ottery Hospital has closed, so if you need attention please go to either Honiton MIU or a Walk-In Centre (at RD&E or in Sidwell Street, Exeter).
- * Stroke patients have been moved from Crediton to Ottery Hospital.

Other changes are undoubtedly on the way. The following text has been copied from documents issued by the NEW (North, East & West) Devon CCG:

"The CCG has already begun to implement a series

of measures designed to improve efficiency in the system and encourage patients to contribute to improving their own health outcomes.

This includes the following:

- * Requiring morbidly obese patients to lose weight prior to routine surgery
- * Requiring smokers to quit for at least six weeks prior to routine surgery
- * Introduce criteria-based approval for routine procedures such as hernias, botox injections and cataracts
- * Reduce unnecessary consultant to consultant referrals
- * Suspend treatments where there is little or poor evidence of outcomes.

These measures bring the CCG into line with similar organisations in the NHS. However, they are not enough."

"Throughout the implementation of our 'in-year' plan we will be prioritising those services and requirements laid out in the NHS Constitution.

They include (but are not limited to):

- * Consultant-led treatment within a maximum of 18-weeks from referral for non-urgent conditions
- * Maximum four-hour wait in A&E from arrival to admission
- * Maximum seven day wait for follow-up after discharge from psychiatric in-patient care
- * Being seen by a cancer specialist within a maximum of two weeks from GP referral where cancer is suspected
- * Maximum 62-day wait from referral from an NHS cancer screening service to first treatment
- * Patients waiting for a diagnostic test should have been waiting less than six weeks from referral
- * Ambulance trusts to respond to 95 per cent of category A calls within 19 minutes of a request being made.

The current set of measures is being worked up for decisions to be taken in late November, for implementation from the beginning of December. We anticipate that there will be further measures identified during November and December for implementation from January.

Other measures will be evaluated during November for a full or partial suspension. Although the evaluation is still in progress we wish to be open with you at this stage about what we are considering. The services we are reviewing and currently considering are in the following areas:

- Ultrasound guided steroid injections, compared with steroid injections without ultrasound
- Shockwave therapy for some tendon problems
- Removal of ear wax done by hospitals
- Certain types of shoulder surgery
- The drugs we are choosing to use to treat Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (Wet AMD)
- The range of tests we use to diagnose Wet AMD
- The number of different drugs that are tried on the same patient to treat Wet AMD

- The necessity and timing of hospital follow-up appointments
- The number of medicines we prescribe which are actually available to buy over-the-counter
- Being more consistent in the way patients are followed up after a cataract operation.
- Fertility Treatments
- Planned caesarean births where there is not a medical reason for it
- The numbers and types of joint injections
- Do we make best use of the range of treatments available for prostate cancer
- Aspects of the fibromyalgia services
- Aspects of the chronic fatigue services
- When does smoking increase people's surgical risk or give them worse outcomes?
- When does being very overweight increase people's surgical risk or give them worse outcomes?
- Various uses of botulinum toxin (botox) in medicine.
- Hernias require an operation
- When should hospitals treat haemorrhoids and which treatment should be used.
- When is the right time to treat cataracts and when is the right time to treat the second eye?
- When is the right time to treat bunions with surgery
- What is the right order of other treatments to try before undertaking a hysterectomy?

We can also clarify an earlier decision that has been widely reported. It has been agreed that patients with a Body Mass Index of 35 will be supported to lose weight before undergoing elective hip or knee surgery. This is being implemented with immediate effect for patients who have not yet had a commitment to surgery. A BMI of 35 will not be a threshold for allowing surgery but it is a trigger to indicate that a person's weight may complicate surgery and/or worsen the outcomes for the patient compared with being a healthier weight. We are working on the basis of 5% weight loss over six months."

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NEWTON POP PANTO!

It's (nearly) that time of year . . .

Panto time will be in February, when The Riverside Players will present:

Robin Hood

by Alan P Frayn

at Newton Poppleford Village Hall

11th - 14th February 2015 7.30pm,

and Saturday matinee 2.30pm

Tickets £8 (£4 - under 16 at the Matinee)

Ring 01395 568897

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NEXT BLOOD DONOR SESSIONS

Next sessions will be held as follows:

Ottery Football Club	9/12/14
Sidmouth, Stowford Centre.	12/12/14
Bud Salt'n Public Hall	21/01/15

Book your appointment on-line, or by telephone:
0300 123 23 23

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

New rules in the **Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014** mean that if homeowners fail to eradicate or control invasive Japanese Knotweed on their property (when they can reasonably be expected to do so) can be charged up to **£2500**; businesses can be fined up to **£20,000**. Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed are similarly classified. The government can also issue ASBOs to those who fail to control these invasive species.

In the UK the knotweed reproduces by rhizome (root) spread and small pieces can quickly generate more large plants. **Do not send knotweed waste to a green recycling centre; this is a 'controlled waste' item!** Burning is one of the surest methods of disposal.

Note that if you are trying to sell your property, having knotweed on site - or even nearby - might result in devaluation of your property and problems for a buyer getting a mortgage.

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WHY USE TECHNOLOGY?

Probably everyone is aware that computers and communications technology have changed dramatically in the last 20 years or so (not to mention the previous 40+ years), for example with personal computing evolving from desktops to laptops, and the introduction of sophisticated mobile hardware such as tablets and smart-phones.

It is very significant that the internet has become a primary channel of communication between government (both local and national) and members of the public, hence it is increasingly important for all citizens to become familiar with using the hardware and software involved.

Examples of communicating with various levels of government include:

- completing and submitting tax returns
- paying for your road fund licence
- electoral registration
- writing to your MP
- watching webcasts of council meetings
- participating in council public consultations

At a domestic level, shopping on-line for products and services is now a standard way of finding the things most appropriate to your needs, in terms of availability and price. Keeping in touch on-line with friends and family members in the UK and overseas can be very simple and cost-effective, using email and Skype to write or see/speak using your computer.

You might not wish to possess your own laptop or tablet, but libraries in the area have computer facilities available to the public. If you would like some instruction in how to use a personal computer, the internet etc. there are introduction/training courses available, and some volunteers within the parish who are willing to help you.

Exeter College (01392 400500) runs some **FREE** courses in 2015, e.g.

'**Introduction to Computers**' course runs for 4 weeks in the evening (1 evening p.w.) starting on 15/1/15 and 5/2/15, or daytime starting on 16/1/15 and 6/2/15. This course is for complete beginners or for those who have learnt a little but lack confidence.

A 4-week course (1 session p.w.) '**Introduction to Email and the Internet**' starts on 12/1/15 and 2/2/15 (early evening). This course is for those who have basic computer, mouse and keyboard skills.

Some local training courses are run from time to time by a volunteer at **Tipton St John Community Hall**. For more info please contact Martin Dace on 07909 602 0907. A small charge is made for sessions at TSJ to cover the costs of the hall and equipment.

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The autumn has been very busy! We have enjoyed lively discussions at Parish Council meetings on the subjects of public speaking at East Devon District Council and speculation on how district councils might be managing their affairs in 10 years' time.

I am now 80 years of age and, for a great deal of that time, I have enjoyed the privilege of serving on many committees and councils. I have always endeavoured to make a contribution, including proposing motions at National Conferences of the National Federation of Subpostmasters. I guess not many have taken much notice of me but that isn't the point! In all cases there have been rules which apply to all in order to manage meetings efficiently. Meetings at East Devon were becoming inefficient because they were taking up so much time that, by the end of the day, reaching conclusions was a strain on the decision makers. There are some good people who think that the new arrangements weaken the democratic process. I don't agree, as arrangements are in place for everyone to make a contribution, although, of course, not all verbal.

There have also been very interesting discussions at Parish Council meetings on the future of local government. I reported that I had attended a Local Government Association meeting, where one of the top table presenters had offered his opinion that in 10 years' time there would not be any 'stand-alone' district councils and that sharing services was the way forward. Some people present thought this meant that there would be no district councils in 10 years' time. I most sincerely hope there will be! As a good example of sharing services, East Devon, Exeter and Teignbridge have created a joint ICT venture, which will be of huge benefit to all 3 authorities and the people they serve.

Please accept my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Ken Potter - District Councillor



And Finally:

A bit of fun for a change . . . Some of you might remember the buzzword and buzzphrase generators produced in the early 1970s (e.g. by Honeywell, and intended to amuse bored computer programmers). Taking some words from substantial documents produced by our own district council I've drafted a short buzzphrase generator that might be applied if you decide to write to the council yourself. Use a verb, adjective and noun to generate your own council-speak phrases! (In that old saying: "B***** Baffles Brains".)

VERB	(Optional superlative)	ADJECTIVE	NOUN
Implement	ultimately	virtual	imitative
Innovate	minimally	enterprising	environment
Optimised	outstanding	interactive	community
Visualise	earliest	scalable	methodology
Enhance	fairest	policy	interface
Deliver	optimised	sustainable	supply chain
Balance	best	efficient	assessment
Functional	likeliest	vernacular	infrastructure
Mitigate	groundbreaking	co-ordinated	consultation
Diversifying	laudable	detrimental	framework
Clarify	pioneering	enhanced	strategy
Representing	world class	clear	control
Develop	spurious	world-class	economic activity
Withstand	insidious	provocative	appraisal



COUNCILLORS AS AT DECEMBER 2014

Name	Tel.	Address	Ward
PARISH COUNCILLORS			
Jean Clarke	01395 568815	Thornlea, Exeter Rd, Newton Pop EX10 0BJ	N Pop
Maureen Cook	01395 568348	24 Littledown Orchard, Newton Pop EX10 0BQ	N Pop
Dave Jeffery	01395 568897	Old Orchard, Burrow EX10 0BP	N Pop
George Pearce	01395 568571	25 Turner Close, Newton Pop EX10 0EN	N Pop
Graham Salter	01395 519399	Little Shule, Farthings Lane, High Street EX10 0BU	N Pop
Ed Slattery	01395 567111	7 Down Close, Newton Pop, EX10 0JD	N Pop
Hazel Jeffery - Chairman	01395 567821	The Stables, Hoppins, Southerton, EX11 1SD	Harpford
Bill Phillips	01395 567786	7 Chestnut Way, Newton Poppleford EX10	Harpford
Val Ranger	01395 568460	Coombe Down, Lower Way, Harpford EX10 0NQ	Harpford
Makala Tillotson	01395 567961	Badger Close Newton Pop EX10	Harpford
Chris Cole - Vice Chair	01395 567621	Court Barn, Southerton EX11 1SE	Venn Ottery
County Cllr Christine Channon	01395 442927	12 Cricket Field Court, Cricket Field Lane, Budleigh Salterton	N/A
District Cllr Ken Potter	01395 567147	Bayford Lodge, Exmouth Road, Newton Pop	N/A
Clerk to Council David Atkins	01395 264003	Potters, Lympstone Hill, Exmouth EX8 5AF parishclerk@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk	N/A
Local Police Officers PC Dave Wallace PCSOs Chris Bolsover & Steve Blanchford-Cox	101	Our beat Officers can be contacted by email on sidmouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	N/A
Website & Newsletter Shân Merritt	01404 812733	Venn Ottery Barton, Venn Ottery, EX11 1RZ webmaint@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk	N/A
Village Hall booking	01395 568571	Janey Drake	N/A
Pavilion - David Zirker	01395 567430	Brookfields, Venn Ottery Rd.	N/A

**The Parish Council meets monthly, with additional or interim meetings as necessary.
The monthly meetings are held on the last Monday of each month - check noticeboards/website for
details and agendas. Correspondence should normally be addressed to the Clerk to the Council.**