

Jess Bailey Devon County Councillor

Report to Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council

Election News

I am thrilled and delighted to have been elected as the new Devon County Councillor for the Otter Valley on 6th May 2021. I was elected with 3,224 votes (65% of the votes), the Conservatives received 1,281 votes, Labour 134 votes, Green Party 204 votes and Liberal Democrats 80. The Otter Valley ward had one of the highest voter turn outs in Devon at 43.5%

I am honoured that the people of Newton Poppleford and Harpford have put their trust in me to be their representative for the next four years. I would like to thank Claire Wright for all her hard work as the previous Devon County Councillor and I will certainly be continuing where she left off, in putting the interests of residents at the forefront of all that I do.

Congratulations on the Neighbourhood Plan

I would like to congratulate Newton Poppleford and Harpford on the success of their neighbourhood plan at the referendum on 6th May which achieved resounding support from the community, with 87% residents voting it in favour of it. Having been involved in the preparation of a neighbourhood plan, I know how much work it takes and I would like to thank all those who worked on the plan.

In the fortnight since election.

It has been a busy fortnight since the election. I have attended County Hall to sign my councillor declaration, attended multiple virtual training sessions and most importantly started work on the issues that residents raised with me during the election period. During the election I spoke to very many people in Newton Poppleford and this will help inform and guide me in my new role.

Highways issues and road safety at Newton Poppleford and Harpford.

I sought an update from highways officers about the lining works at 4 Elms Hills. A date has been set for these works for 5th July 2021 – 9th July 2021. I am advised that the reasons for delay include the programmed works for the A30 (as it was the diversion route), and the Devon County Show.

I have also sought an update on the 20mph proposal which is supported by the Parish Council. I am informed that the introduction of new 20mph is currently on hold pending the work of the Devon County Council Speed Management Working Group (established December 2019) and a trial at Newton Abbot being to inform future policy. However, as a Devon County Councillor with multiple parishes seeking 20mph speed limits I would like to see DCC enabling communities to fulfil their aspirations for slower and safer streets and roads as soon as possible. In the coming weeks and months I will be pressing for urgent action.

Wider Otter Valley issues

Aggregate Industries have now asked for their long running planning application for a 100-acre quarry at Straitgate (between Daisymount and Ottery St Mary) to be determined.

My objection can be read on my blog at www.jessicabailey.home.blog. My concerns include ecological impact, the lack of sustainability (all materials having to be taken by HGV for processing 23 miles away), the impact on water supplies and the flood risk as well as road safety.

Full details of the application can be found on Devon County Council's website. [Search and comment on applications | Planning \(devon.gov.uk\)](#).

Climate emergency – Citizens' Assembly

The Devon Climate Emergency Partnership (DCEP) (which includes all Devon local authorities) is holding a citizens' assembly which is taking place over three weekends in June and July. Seventy people, drawn from across Devon will come together to discuss how to tackle climate change. This is an important part of producing the Devon Carbon Plan and the DCEP will respond to recommendations which come forward from the assembly.

Please get in touch

If Parish Councillors or residents have any comments or concerns please do get in touch by phone 01404 814056 or by email at jessica.bailey@devon.gov.uk or via my county councillor page on facebook. I look forward to working with the Parish Council for the residents of Newton Poppleford and Harpford in the weeks and months ahead.

Best wishes
Cllr Jess Bailey
24th May 2021