

Contents

CV-19 Vaccination Programme	1
Census 2021 week beginning 21st March 2021 - reminder	1
Devon County Council elections to go ahead on 6 th May 2021	1
Two Vacancies on Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council - election 6 th May 2021	2
Newton Poppleford and Harpford Neighbourhood Plan – referendum 6 th May 2021	2
Domestic abuse survey	2
Road Safety in the High Street, Newton Poppleford - update	3
Reminder - EDDC new Local Plan – Initial consultation closes on 15 th March 2021	4
Car Parking TAFF	5
Empty Homes Week	7
Four Elms Hill	8
Local Council meetings to be allowed to continue via Zoom	9
Connaught Gardens Sidmouth can now host weddings.....	9
DCC councillor Claire Wright has started a Petition to get a new school built for Tipton St John in Tipton St John	10
Residents’ complaints.....	10
Noise from the extractor fan from new takeaway sited at La Rosetta	10
Blue police tape left around accident scenes in the village.....	11
Site being used as a rubbish dump – Hayne Hill	12
Pot holes	12

CV-19 Vaccination Programme

By the time you read this all over residents over 70 and those clinically vulnerable should have been invited for a CV-19 vaccine. If you haven't been invited you can phone 119 and ask to be booked in. You will need your NHS number which you can find on any medical letter or prescription. You can also book it by going online to the NHS website. If the site or the staff on 119 cannot book you for an appointment, you should contact your GP and ask why the system is not showing you as eligible for a vaccine. We are already into the over 65 and front line health and care workers as I write this.

Census 2021 week beginning 21st March 2021 - reminder

As mentioned last month Census weekend is the 21st March It is so important everyone takes part and it has been made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Information about this will be posted on the Parish Council Website and the Newton Poppleford Facebook Page. Support can be offered if people need help with completing the forms.

Devon County Council elections to go ahead on 6th May 2021

Despite speculation that these elections might be postponed for 6 months or so, it is planned that these are going ahead as originally scheduled. Do make sure that you are registered for vote by being on the electoral register if you are new to the village. As things stand we think it will be forbidden to post election leaflets by hand by local supporters or for doorstep canvassing. There are concerns this will disadvantage independent councillors as the major parties can afford to pay for leaflet drops via Royal Mail which is often financially prohibitive for independent councillors. At the

same time, there will be a chance to vote for the **Police and Crime Commissioner** and the following local elections too.

Two Vacancies on Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council - election 6th May 2021

There are currently two vacancies on the parish council and I think there will be a chance to put yourself forward as a councillor if you want to be involved in supporting and shaping your parish. One vacancy is for Newton Poppleford Ward and one is for the Harpford Ward which covers the north side of the A3052 from Harpford Village and right along to Burrow. If you would like an informal chat about being a parish councillor contact our parish clerk or any current parish councillor. Contact details are on the Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council website.

Newton Poppleford and Harpford Neighbourhood Plan – referendum 6th May 2021

The referendum for the above will also run on 6th May and residents will be asked whether they are for or against adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. The plan took volunteers 5 years to write and involved a whole village housing needs survey and whole village questionnaire/survey. Results of this were analysed by Devon Communities Together to ensure impartiality. A planning Inspector reviewed the plan and visited the village anonymously to ensure the plan was legal and fit for purpose.

Themes covered in the plan are:

- Education
- Employment
- Environment
- Future development
- Health and Care
- Transport
- Social, Leisure and communications

You can view the Referendum version of the plan and the supporting documents here:

[neighbourhood-plan-d6-updated-30-sept-referendum-version.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)

You can also read the documents via the Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council website. If you prefer a hard copy of the document, contact the Parish Clerk Paul Hayward via the parish council website. The steering group really need your support with this in order to shape the future of our parish. The event will be advertised via posters around the village and via the parish council.

Domestic abuse survey

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs, is currently undertaking a survey in the Devon area to find out survivors experiences of Domestic Abuse services.

The confidential survey is being run by Natcen and closes on **Friday 25**

February: <https://survey.natcen.ac.uk/DASU>

Road Safety in the High Street, Newton Poppleford - update

After the tragic death of a resident who died after an accident at the traffic lights in the High Street at Christmas, the Chairman of the parish council and Devon County Councillor Claire Wright are continuing to push for the 20 mph speed limit through the village in addition to extended the crossing time at the traffic lights. We have long been fighting for improvements to road safety throughout the village in indeed policy T2 of the referendum version of the Neighbourhood Plan which you are invited to vote on in the 6th May elections includes the following policy:

Policy T2 – Traffic Calming Proposals for new development will only be supported where they demonstrate that they will, once built and in proportion to the scale of development proposed: a) road safety will be a priority in design terms in particular taking into account satisfactory road access points and blind corners; b) take into account the pinch points on the A3052 (at Toll House, River Otter Bridge and Four Elms Hill); c) not generate new HGV movements through the village; d) not exacerbate existing parking problems in and around Newton Poppleford and the surrounding villages; e) provide safe, convenient and pleasant pedestrian and cycling routes to the village centre and to principal facilities including the school, including safe and convenient crossings, where practical and the location of the proposal makes such routes necessary.; f) minimise any adverse impact of additional traffic, such as increased volume of traffic at peak times which could lead to congestion, increased levels of pollution and noise or increased speeds which may compromise pedestrian and cyclist safety; g) take the safety of pedestrians and other road users fully into account;

Developments of 10+ houses and employment sites that will generate new traffic will only be acceptable when accompanied by a Transport Statement or Assessment, that demonstrates how the adverse impact on the transport network and infrastructure will be mitigated, including a Travel Plan designed to encourage more sustainable travel behaviour, including all up to date bus timetables and fares.

The introduction of a 20mph speed limit along the A3052 through Newton Poppleford would be supported.

We heard recently that Newton Poppleford is being considered for a 20 mph speed limit through the village, though don't get too excited as DCC wheels could not turn more slowly.. despite a 20 mph zone in a village in Sidford which is Cllr Hughes own constituency having been in place for as long as I can remember this is the news from DCC Head of Highways Cllr Stuart Hughes.

...regarding where we are with the Newton Abbot pilot 20mph Scheme.....This is still ongoing and the Scrutiny Working Group are still working up the exact perimeters where the scheme will be trialled.....We will then look at the relevant data taken during the course of the trial and this will then go to Cabinet to agree a way forward.

I did write to members advising them that any requests received from their Parish Councils for 20's to contact our team at County Hall who are compiling a list for future consideration. I have written to the team and have requested that Newton Poppleford be included on this list.

Once we have the results of Newton Abbot which I hope will prove to be successful then we can hopefully take Newton Poppleford forward as one of the first schemes in the East especially as it's on the A3052 route between the Dorset border and Clyst St Mary.

At that time we can look at length of the proposed 20 and what engineering measures would be required.

You also mention the school perhaps you can confirm whether any Wig Wags are in situ?

We are baffled why we have to wait for the Newton Abbot pilot scheme, the government has already said it is looking more favourably on 20 mph zones that make walking and cycling safer and DCC recently received £58M to improve its roads.

(Note: Parish Council Charman Chris Burhop organised a meeting with our local Highways officer in August 2019 and Cllr Claire Wright and the four of us walked the village with him and looked at the areas that needed additional safety measures put in such as the 20 mph zone, more crossing places, double yellow lines etc and requested that all of these things were put forward for consideration. We were also looking for solutions to improve safety around the school).

Reminder - EDDC new Local Plan – Initial consultation closes on 15th March 2021

East Devon District Council are consulting the public on an Issues and Options report, which forms the first stage of preparing the new East Devon Local Plan (2021-2040) and sets out differing options and approaches that the plan could take. A Local Plan shows how an area will develop in the future and provides policies which will guide decisions on whether or not planning applications are granted. You can view the main Issues and Options report on EDDCs interactive online pages

Alternatively, you can view a [PDF of the consultation document](#)

If you wish to respond to this consultation you can do so via the [online response form](#).

Alongside the Issues and Options consultation EDDC are running the following:

A [Call for Sites](#) , where members of the public can submit land for development

A [Sustainability Appraisal scoping report](#) consultation, which is intended to ensure that potential social, environmental and economic considerations are taken into account.

One area of the current plan that concerns me is strategy 27, which named some villages with Built up Area Boundaries (BUABs) as 'sustainable' and therefore suitable for more housing based on certain criteria like does the village have a shop, a school, a church, a pub, public transport etc. 53 new houses were built in Newton Poppleford in 2019 alone. However, Strategy 27 takes no account of the fact the school is at capacity, the public transport system increasingly on the decline and hugely expensive for those without a bus pass, we did not get the medical centre that Coleridge and Clinton Devon Estates promised us, walking and cycling are dangerous due to the fact the A3052 has more than 16,000 traffic movements daily.

The Parish Council are discussing their response to the initial consultation on Monday 22nd February in their monthly meeting.

There is some frustration on the part of the council by the lack of response from residents on these important matters and EDDC who are producing a press release entitled:

Why do planning applications attract so much interest when the Local Plan generates so little?

If you don't like the decisions that the council makes on planning matters then now is your chance to change things as we start work on a new Local Plan.

We want to know **your ideas** and what you think would be good for your **town centres, local businesses** and whether you like the idea of wind and solar farms, as well as much more.

What do you think of **new homes** and how can they be improved? Do you want to see more **affordable housing**? Do you want to see more **office space** for small businesses?

Where do you want new homes to be built? Do you want us to expand existing towns or do you think **another new town like Cranbrook** is a good idea, if so where would you put it?

What about your **green open spaces**? Do you want **more parks** for children to play in? **Places to walk? Outside gyms? Allotments?** We don't know what you want unless you tell us.

EDDC wants to hear from a whole range of age groups, who clearly have different needs at different stages of their life. It would be great to hear from younger people just starting out for example.

Please do respond, you only have to answer as many or as few questions as you like.

Tell us what you want for yourself, your children and your grandchildren in the new East Devon Local Plan consultation: www.eastdevon.gov.uk/newlocalplan

Car Parking TAFF

I Chaired the meeting of the above Task and Finish Forum on Thursday 11th February. The main theme of the meeting was about electric charging points. Here is an extract from the officers report:

For around 3 years now EDDC has been working with other district council partners in a collaboration lead by Devon County Council to deliver appropriate infrastructure across the region to underpin and encourage the use of electric and plug in hybrid vehicles locally. We have found that decision making has been difficult throughout this has period due to a developing and often fast moving landscape with ongoing product innovation and subsidy opportunities from both EU initially and UK sources.

2.0 DELETTI phase 1

We have already procured our first official public charge points and these are being delivered under that contract this year. The DELETTI project is currently in the statutory procurement standstill period and we will begin working with the successful contractor to install and operate fast charge points within the next few days and residents should see them "in the ground" soon. In East Devon there will be a new 22kW fast charging unit serving two adjacent charging-only parking bays in each of:

Exmouth: Imperial Road Short Stay car park

Honiton: Lace Walk short stay car park

Sidmouth: Ham East Short Stay car park

Seaton: Orchard Short Stay car park

The majority of funding for this project has come from a successful bid to the European Regional Development Fund and Council's contribution to this project has been agreed as a maximum of £4,000 per unit, amounting to £16,000 in total. Subject to the Council approving the detail contained in the final lease document, the eight car parking spaces will be leased to the operator for a peppercorn rent and the Council will then take a share of the electricity revenue that we expect to increase significantly over the ten year operating period. All other costs associated with supply, installation, repair, replacement and management are borne by the successful contractor.

3.0 DELETTI phase 2

In addition we are now engaged in the project's second phase, this time focussing on on-street residential charging as a priority. The phase 2 project is still at an early stage and EDDC has simply committed to entering into an agreement with the successful contractor following another formal procurement process to provide ten-year leases for agreed parking bays within specified car parks. At present the car parks mentioned in our letter of intent, based on officer advice and potential supplier feasibility studies are:

Broadclyst, The Green

Ottery St Mary, Brook street car park

Budleigh Salterton, Lower Station car park

At this stage it is not envisaged that the Council would need to make a financial contribution to the project.

4.0 Exeter rapid charging project

EDDC are also in discussions with a supplier as part of another limb of the Devon collaboration, focussing primarily on the needs of residents to charge vehicles:

- To supply, install and manage rapid chargers delivering 50kw.
- The cost to non-residents for rapid charging is 30p/Kwh (inclusive of VAT).
- Residents of each of the areas can receive a 10% discount (when they register with an app).
- For information, 20KWh provides approximately 50miles and would cost around £6.

The project requires units to have been **installed and be operational by early summer 2021** to enable their use to be evaluated within the life of the project.

Devon County Council and the supplier have invited interest in hosting these fully funded rapid charger units with some of our car parks where commuters and visitors are likely to find them of value. Like DELETI phase 2 there is no upfront cost to EDDC and in return for hosting units on a peppercorn rent for a contract period of up to 15 years, EDDC receive a 3% share in the increasing electricity revenue that arises over that period.

It is looking likely that 30 50kW rapid charging units would be installed and operated locally. EDDC obtained similar quotes previously and the installation of just one such similar 50kW rapid charging unit is of the order of £40,000-£50,000 so this scheme looks very financially attractive

4.0 Recommendations:

There was unanimous support from the TAFF to recommend to Cabinet that EDDC go ahead with the above projects. East Devon has been behind the curve in supplying electric charging points in public car parks but the benefit of this is learning from the mistakes of others. There was also support for ensuring there was a good spread of chargers throughout East Devon with no areas neglected and that if you are charging your car, you would not be expected to pay for parking at the same time. Anyone overstaying their charging time and hence 'hogging' the charger for free parking would be liable for a parking ticket in the usual way. There was also much enthusiasm that the council should also investigate the possibility of hiring out electric bicycles from the car parks for visitors or residents who may wish to explore the area without their car.

There was support for encouraging the use of more contactless cards and phone payment for car parks to reduce the cost of collecting cash from ticket machines and for the repair of ticket machines after thieves try to break in and steal the cash. Theft is rarely successful but the ticket machine has to be repaired. The annual cost of cash collection and machine repair costs in the region of £30,000 per year. It was recommended that there is always one machine that will take cash in each car park but a pilot should be done to close off the cash payment option in some machines as a trial before converting to cashless machines once a ticket machine needs replacement if the trial is successful and the public are comfortable paying without cash.

Finally there was support for the council to explore other ways of bringing in revenue from car parks in low peak times such as putting on evening cinemas, holding farmers markets or car boot sales. This would be dependent on suitable sites being chosen at suitable times without being detriment to existing business.

It was agreed that signage needed improving as it is very confusing in some car parks.

The next Car Parking Taff on 3rd March will be looking at Camper Van parking provision in East Devon. Members of the public are welcome to following the meeting on line and speak for up to 3 minutes at the public open session at the start of the meeting.

A meeting later in March (date yet to be agreed) will look at car parks that are allegedly costing the council money – that the free car parks to you and me, including Newton Poppleford. If you would

like to attend the meeting in support of keeping local car parks free to support local businesses, doctors surgery and church parking etc and for residents with no parking on their own premises in older houses, again you can attend and speak in support.

Empty Homes Week 15th – 21st February

Here is an extract from a letter from an EDDC Technical Housing Officer (Private Housing)

I'm writing to you to say that Environmental Health Private housing team are joining in with Empty Homes Week 15th – 21st February 2021

Empty Homes Week is a national campaign organised by Action for Empty Homes to bring empty properties back into use. Did you know that over 600,000 properties across the UK are vacant? There are 433 empty homes in East Devon. We are working with our empty home owners to bring them back into use.

During Empty Homes Week we are asking residents that are affected by the poor condition of an empty property; or may be unsecure; unsafe or verminous to report it to the Empty Homes Officer in Environmental Health Private Housing.

We must tackle the issues with empty homes in our communities. What we don't want is empty homes deteriorating and causing problems for neighbours.

Properties that are empty are wasted homes.

We want these to be homes for people in our community.

We want to encourage the homeowner to renovate the property to rent or sell or renovate and move in.

Properties often remain empty for a variety of reasons: inheritance and family disputes; lack of funding for repairs and waiting for planning. We want to raise awareness of empty properties in our communities and help bring them back into use.

Properties that have been empty for longer than 6 months are called Long Term Empty properties. This can mean that some of the properties are on the market for sale; for rent or having extensive works carried out.

Once they have been empty for 2 years, they are called Long Term Empty Premium. Their owners will pay a 200% premium on their Council Tax.

How empty homes affect residents

Problematic empty homes cause these problems to the community and local services

- *Pest and Vermin*
- *Overgrown gardens*
- *Vandalism and Crime*
- *Damage to neighbours property*
- *Possible down value of properties nearby.*

If know of an empty property that's causing a problem to residents we will be able to help. Please contact us on 01395571572 or pshousing@eastdevon.gov.uk

How we help owners of empty properties

We give advice and information on

How to rent a property and license a house of multiple occupation

Provide a letter to claim VAT back on renovation projects

Pre -planning and listed building advice

Make referrals to the Council's loan and energy efficiency companies.

Working in Partnership

Lendology is the councils loan Company. <https://www.lendology.org.uk/> They provide low interest rates on financial help to renovate empty home or carry out essential repairs.

Exeter Eco / LEAP – can sign post residents to energy efficiency measures and home improvements.
Web address: <https://www.ecoe.org.uk/>

Empty Homes Week 15 -21 February 2021

Follow us on our social media

Twitter @EDDChome_people - #privatesectorhousing

Facebook; East Devon District Council

Instagram; @eastdevondistrictcouncil

If you have any other thoughts on ways we can encourage homeowners to bring properties into use and make our communities aware of the service we provide please let me know via email pshousing@eastdevon.gov.uk

If you have questions or see a property that could be an empty homes when in the East Devon district please let me know.

Four Elms Hill

Four years after the death of a driver on the hill and weekly accidents, Jacobs have managed to erect the 40 mph speed signs on the hill, regrettably they were unable to erect the directional chevron signs correctly. Initially if travelling up the hill especially at night, the lower of these two signs appeared to show the road bending around to the right rather than the left when travelling east towards Sidmouth. You would think this would have been checked before leaving the site. After a couple of chasing emails, this was rectified by Jacobs. Our parish Clerk Paul Hayward has chased Jacobs for a date when we might see the double white lines put down and the response was Mid-March.....I hope this means 2021, but cannot count on it.



Local Council meetings to be allowed to continue via Zoom

There was great anxiety recently when it appeared that the regulations that allow local authorities to hold meetings remotely via Zoom would cease in May 2021. The National Association of Local Councils wrote to parish councils advising them how to prepare for this and transition back to only face to face meetings. So far as the district goes it would be impossible to have full council meetings (60 councillors plus the required officers) in the new cramped building, Blackdown House, in Honiton. However, it would appear that the Jackie Weaver effect and the now infamous Handforth parish council meeting has reached the government's ears and Robert Jenrick, the Local Government secretary is considering changing the law to enable remote council meetings and also hybrid meetings (a mixture of face-to-face and in person meetings) to continue indefinitely. There is no doubt that attendance at remote meeting by councillors is far higher than face to face meetings. The public too can tune in very easily and hear what goes on via the live streaming and also speak to the meeting at the start if they wish in the public speaking section. The remote meetings have allowed councillors of working age, working shifts, with caring responsibilities, disabilities (including those shielding), even those who need to get home from work for their dogs. The hope too is that a more diverse range of people would feel able to come forward and represent their communities as councillors rather than the traditional 'male, pale and stale' cohort. The arrangements would apply to both parish and District councils.

EDDC has never had a more diverse range of councillors ranging in age from one still at university and a better balance of male and female as a result of the election in 2019. There is also a spirit of collaboration with the 28 or so councillors who form the Democratic Alliance, which comprises members of the East Devon Alliance (EDA) Liberal Democrats, Green Party and Progressive Independents working for the good of the communities they serve. Naturally there are many long standing Conservative Councillors who find this difficult to cope with.

Some councillors still don't grasp that if more councillors are attending meetings they need to keep their points short when they speak to allow everyone to have a turn, as the Chair of the meeting has a responsibility to ensure the meeting runs to a reasonable time scale and that by keeping points short more people can speak. In my view a meeting should be run like a conversation, instead we are still too often faced with a 'speech' that has been written and then is painfully read out lasting for up to 5 minutes in " I've started so I'll finish style'. Often they are completely off topic and convoluted. There was a recent outburst where the Chair interrupted one of these and another councillor yelled at the Chair in a scene too close from the now infamous Handforth Parish Council meeting, some of their colleagues joining in. It was a shocking moment but fortunately an apology was received a week or so later. An apology is OK but this sort of 'out of control behaviour' is unacceptable, there are ways of dealing with grievances and one simply cannot imagine it happening say at a professional work meeting. If all 60 councillors insisting on their right to speak for 5 minutes, each item on the agenda could take 5 hours. As far as possible online meetings should be kept to as close to a maximum of 2 hours with the exception of course of planning meetings and it is the Chairs role to manage this, they should not have to put up with abuse for doing their job.

Connaught Gardens Sidmouth can now host weddings

Connaught Gardens is now licensed to host legal wedding ceremonies. Receptions can also be held in the bandstand gardens for small and large weddings alike, allowing guests to celebrate and dance the night away shaded by mature trees and surrounded by beautiful ornamental shrubbery. East Devon District Council's (EDDC) events team are now reserving dates for 2021 and 2022 to allow weddings to take place just as soon as Government restrictions allow. The formal Victorian-style gardens are divided into several areas with many spectacular options. The bandstand and spacious lawn area can serve as a scenic spot to host your reception, while your guests relax and mingle on the lawn. A wedding marquee or event tent can also be erected on the site to accommodate the occasion. Couples can hire the assistance of a wedding planner, if required. This site also benefits from water and

electricity access, and car parking is available close to the venue and there is an onsite catering concession or private catering is permitted on the premises.

Email Events@eastdevon.gov.uk for further information or visit <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/parks-gardens-and-recreation/events-filming-and-photography/weddings-on-council-land/>

DCC councillor Claire Wright has started a Petition to get a new school built for Tipton St John in Tipton St John

Petition urging the government to fund the rebuild of Tipton St John Primary School



Claire Wright

Devon, ENG, United Kingdom

17 FEB 2021

Dear all, thank you so much for taking the time to sign and share this petition. The government has unexpectedly announced the 50 schools that will be funded for a rebuild. We weren't expecting this news for a few weeks yet. Unfortunately, Tipton St John Primary School is not among them.

The list of schools appear to be mainly in Conservative marginal constituencies, which is surely unacceptable. Baroness Berridge did not respond to my email, despite it being clear in my message that there was a risk to life to children at the school, due to the flood situation. This feels callous and should be challenged.

My understanding is that Tipton St John Primary School is the only school in Devon that has been described as a 'risk to life' and so is a special case. It is clear to me that the government has a responsibility to fund a rebuild of Tipton St John Primary School, in the village.

Now is not the time to give up. We must keep up the pressure on silent ministers. It's only people power and feeling the pressure of a high profile campaign, that we will ever get ministers to listen. Please let's redouble our efforts and aim for thousands of signatures! Thank you very much

[Petition update · Petition urging the government to fund the rebuild of Tipton St John Primary School · Change.org](#)

Claire Wright

Devon County Councillor - Otter Valley Ward

Residents' complaints

Noise from the extractor fan from new takeaway sited at La Rosetta

Residents have complained that they can hear noise from the extractor fan that had to be fitted as part of the planning application conditions. The business owner has responded swiftly by changing the angle of the extractor fan so it point upwards towards the sky (to match the extractor from The Rickshaw Express) which will hopefully reduce the noise that residents are experiencing. If not an environmental health officer will put in equipment to measure the sound in residents properties in the first week of March if things don't improve

and

will work with the business owner to ensure sound stays below acceptable levels and peace returns for local residents.

EDDC Environmental Health Officers are able to investigate the following:



Blue police tape left around accident scenes in the village

A

resident complained about this to the parish clerk who in turn passed it onto the local police. He received the following response from PC Rob Clatworthy, Sidmouth Neighbour Hood Beat Manager.

- *In truth, I'm pleased that motorists are seeing the tape, and may be taking extra precautions during the awful recent weather! When we attend incidents, tape is put out for a number of different*

reasons:

- *Firstly, this will highlight any potential hazards at scene to partner agencies, road users, pedestrians, if applicable. This could include shards of glass still on the road, missing or damaged safety barriers or bollards, or sometimes a vehicle which is unsafe to touch (due to copious dangerous chemicals from fire or collision).*
- *Secondly, if tape is used, it is often to highlight to partner agencies, such as Highways or DCC workers where repair work is needed. Often a collision or incident will occur and DCC will have a much slower response time than the Police. The tape can be used as a marker for the other agencies when they attend to repair road furniture or the highway. The tape will save a large amount of time to those workers, along with keeping them safe due to negating a lengthy search along a dangerous carriageway for damage in need of repair!*
- *Thirdly, if no tape is installed at the scene of incident, we typically find that there are numerous reports, from members of the public who will call 999 in order to report an emergency whereby they suspect that a car has gone off the edge of the road and through a barrier, fence or ditch – quite legitimately. Police will always send an emergency response if this is the case. I have been on these responses, and whilst it is pleasing that there are no injuries or even a new incident- the first thing I do is to install Police tape in order to negate any more valuable emergency resources dispatched to deal with an incident which has already occurred.*
- *Penultimately, on occasion, the tape will be left by Police due to the severity of the incident, which will require further work at the scene of a collision. One example of this is if a vehicle were to crash through a barrier and down a hill off of a carriageway and due to life changing or life threatening injuries there was a requirement for the preservation of a scene. This may be in order to obtain forensic evidence, or even at a much later date (sometimes up to 1 year later, a team of traffic officers will attend and review sun positioning, road measuring's, and speed capabilities etc).*

- *Finally, if tape is cut or removed by members of the public (which it unfortunately is from time to time), please be reassured that it is biodegradable.*

This is undoubtedly the longest report I have written involving Police Tape! However, if there are any further issues which need to be raised from around the Parish, please let me know and I'll do my best to help.

I'm happy for you to pass this to any counsellors who have concerns over the use of Police Tape, including the residents who complained.

PC Rob Clatworthy, Sidmouth neighbourhood Beat Manager

NB - Residents may be interested to know that PC Rob Clatworthy was a former pupil of Newton Poppleford Primary School in the same class as my son. He was consequently a pupil at Sidmouth College. He lived in Colaton Raleigh as a child. Although Rob moved away from the area for a few years with his family after he left senior school, it is lovely to have him back serving the local community he grew up in. PC Clatworthy is totally committed to being an excellent policeman and was in the police Specials as soon as he was old enough to join. His wife PC Gemma Clatworthy, based at Middlemore police station recently made the news when she delivered a baby in the back of a car on 27th December! They are a formidable team!

Site being used as a rubbish dump – Hayne Hill

I first forwarded complaints about this site to the enforcement officer in May 2020. I chased it up recently as activity seemed much worse but unfortunately when I contacted the officer she said she had been unable to find the site.

The site can be seen very clearly when walking the railway line between Harpford and the Tipton road, as well as from Hayne Hill and is situated right opposite the Scouts field. It is a complete eyesore and clearly being used



to collect and burn rubbish, including 3 cars now left there. There was an entire pile of mattresses burned on site recently that would release toxic smoke, there are laws against this. I raised concerns again recently and these have been mirrored by residents of Tipton St John and the Town and Ward cllrs there as strictly speaking the land fall into the Tipton Ward. The land owner has now been contacted by environmental health, informed the activity must stop and given a deadline to clear the site. It is completely unacceptable in the AONB. An application to build a 3 bed bungalow in 2017 when the land last changed hands was refused.

Pot holes

A resident left a message on my phone recently but left no return number and I could not clearly hear their name. They complained they were new to the village and had their car damaged by pot holes which needed repairs costing over £200. This is just a reminder that Devon County Council is responsible for Highways, not East Devon councillors and although I am always happy to pass

messages on and back you up, it is DCC who are responsible. You can report these issues on line. You can also put in for financial reimbursement if you can prove your case. At one time they even had a policy of paying out low amounts automatically without quibbling for pot hole damage if you have photos and receipts of work done. It is certainly worth asking.

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