

All EDDC and Parish Council meetings are now able to be attended remotely by members of the public.

This is just a reminder that all the parish council meetings and EDDC meetings are streamed live on line so members of the public can attend and speak in the public session at the start of each meeting. Residents need to register in advance to speak at EDDC meetings but this is not the case for parish council meetings where you can raise any issues you like at the public speaking session at the start of the meeting. I think the ability to attend online meetings from home has been one of the unexpected benefits of the bad situation we find ourselves in due to CV-19. Don't worry, you don't have to be seen or heard unless you want to be!

Test & Trace Support Paymentscheme is now being administered through EDDC

The Government has [announced](#) a new payment to support people who face financial difficulty as a result of an instruction to self-isolate. Only people told to isolate **on or after Monday 28th September** will be eligible for this help. The scheme ends on 31 January 2021.

People will be required by law to self-isolate from 28 September, supported by payment of £500 for those on lower incomes who cannot work from home and have lost income as a result. New fines for those breaching self-isolation rules will start at £1,000 – bringing this in line with the penalty for breaking quarantine after international travel - but could increase to up to £10,000 for repeat offences and for the most egregious breaches, including for those preventing others from self-isolating.

For example, this could include business owners who threaten self-isolating staff with redundancy if they do not come to work, sending a clear message that this will not be tolerated.

A number of steps will be taken to make sure that people are complying with the rules, these include:

- NHS Test and Trace call handlers making regular contact with those self-isolating, with the ability to escalate any suspicion of non-compliance to Local Authorities and local police;
- Using police resources to check compliance in highest incidence areas and in high-risk groups, based on local intelligence;
- Investigating and prosecuting high-profile and egregious cases of non-compliance; and
- Acting on instances where third parties have identified others who have tested positive, but are not self-isolating.

Recognising that self-isolation is one of the most powerful tools for controlling the transmission of Covid-19, this new Test and Trace Support payment of £500 will ensure that those on low incomes are able to self-isolate without worry about their finances.

Just under 4 million people who are in receipt of benefits in England will be eligible for this payment, which will be available to those who are required to self-isolate from 28 September.

EDDC has already set up the self-isolation support scheme. Those who start to self-isolate from 28 September will receive backdated payments.

Do I qualify?

The support will take the form of a single payment of £500 for people aged 16 or over who:

- Have been told to isolate by NHS Test & Trace **and**
- Are employed or self-employed **and**
- Are unable to work from home **and**
- Will lose income as a result of being instructed to isolate **and**
- Are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits:
 - Universal Credit
 - Working Tax Credits
 - Income related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Income based Jobseekers Allowance
 - Income Support
 - Pension Credit

You must agree to self-isolate in line with the instructions from NHS Test & Trace.

If you are not in receipt of one of the above benefits, are on a low income and will be affected financially from having been told to self-isolate by NHS Track and Trace, you may be eligible for a payment under the [Test and Trace discretionary scheme](#).

Discretionary payments may be considered if you:

- Normally work or carry out self-employed work for at least 16 hours each week and
- Normally earn less than £372 per week before deductions or normal average weekly income from self-employment is less than £372 after expenses and
- Are not in full time education and
- Do not have access to £6,000 or more capital or savings
- If you do not meet the above criteria you may still be entitled to a discretionary payment if you have exceptional circumstances that mean you will face financial hardship as a result of having to self-isolate.

How do I claim?

To receive the support you will need to make a claim and provide evidence to confirm your eligibility. Claims will not be accepted without a valid Test & Trace reference number.

- Before you start, you will need the following documents:
- Screen shot of your NHS Test and Trace notification email or SMS text (this will have your 8 character Test and Trace Account Id)
- Latest bank statement (this will need to be for the same bank account where you will want us to make any payment)
- Latest payslip (if employed)
- Latest self employed accounts/self assessment form (if self employed)
- Evidence of your current benefit entitlement, such as: screen shot of your Universal Credit award, your benefit award letter or your bank statement showing the benefit being paid into your bank account

These will need to be uploaded as images or PDFs. There is an online self service registration available

https://eddc-self.achieveservice.com/service/Claim_your_Test_and_Trace_Support_Payment

If you are suffering financial hardship there is other help and support available. Contact EDDC directly.

National Green Homes Grant

The Green Homes Grant has officially launched, meaning homeowners can now apply for vouchers up to £5,000 to make energy-efficient home improvements.

[The Green Homes Grant](#) is a £2bn government scheme to help cut carbon emissions in England. Eligible improvements under the scheme include the installation of [insulation](#), double glazing and [heat pumps](#). The Treasury claims that utilising these vouchers could help families make an average annual saving of £200 on their energy bills.

The vouchers cover two-thirds of the cost of energy-efficient home improvements up to the value of £5,000 per household. This rises to £10,000 for low-income households, and these homeowners will not have to contribute anything to the cost.

The measures are split into two categories: primary and secondary.

The primary category comprises insulation (such as loft, cavity wall or floor insulation), and low carbon heating (such as heat pumps or solar thermal).

The secondary measures include double/triple glazing, energy efficient doors, draught proofing, and heating controls.

You must install at least one measure from the primary category in order to qualify for the vouchers.

Vouchers for secondary measures will be capped at the same amount provided in relation to the primary measures. For example, if you claim £1,500 for insulation, then you will receive a maximum of £1,500 for double glazing.

It is recommended to check your eligibility before applying, which you can do on the [Simple Energy Advice \(SEA\)](#) service.

You can use this site to check which energy efficiency or low-carbon heat improvements can be made to your home, and you'll also be able to find TrustMark-registered tradespeople for the work you want.

Then, you can make an online application using the [government website](#) to obtain a voucher, detailing the energy efficiency measures you wish to carry out.

To apply, you'll need:

- the name and date of birth of the property owner or owners
- the name and date of birth of anyone living in the property who is receiving benefits
- a quote for the work from a TrustMark-registered tradesperson
- the TrustMark licence number of your chosen tradesperson
-

You can apply for the government vouchers until 31 March 2021, and must ensure that your scheduled work is completed, and the voucher redeemed by this date.

Newton Poppleford and Harpford Neighbourhood Plan ready for referendum

This has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and approved. It has also been to EDDC Cabinet and approved as ready for referendum. Before agreeing the plan, the Inspector came and walked around the parish to see the whole context of the policies drafted. It was made very clear that on no account was the inspector to be approached or lobbied. The exact date of the visit was not made available so the inspector could see the reality of the situation in the parish. Before reaching this stage the plan went out to public consultation a number of times and also had to be sent to nearly 50 statutory bodies for their comments. It included a whole parish housing needs survey in 2016/7 projected for 5 years.

As part of the process of public consultation the Inspector received some robust challenges to the plan which all had to be fully responded to. The full history of this is available on the EDDC website and the plan is available on the Parish Council website. It has taken over 5 years to reach this stage and it is frustrating that it cannot go to referendum until May 2021 as the government has barred all referendums until then due to the difficulties and restrictions of CV-19.

It was particularly pleasing to see the Inspector acknowledge the thorny issue of parking within the village and the heavy reliance on cars. It is hard to believe a bus journey to Sidmouth costs £7.50 return for an adult and when this comes to multiples of adults and children, adds up to a significant amount. The difficulties of acknowledging medical services is acknowledged for the same reasons though costing even more. It was clear the Inspector also recognised some very poor planning decisions in recent times, allowing an estate road to be built where cars rule the pavements and children learn they have to walk in the road as cars take precedence such as in King Alfred Way and the older roads which just cannot accommodate the number of cars belonging to households, Capper Close is a particular example of this. There was also support in principle for introducing a 20 mph speed limit through the village. The parish council and EDDC will be promoting the referendum as we approach next May so residents have a final vote on it. In the meantime EDDC have acknowledged that the plan carries significant weight in planning decisions even though not fully 'made' (owing to the referendum delay).

Solar Together Devon – its not too late to register

Residents will have received a letter through the post from Solar Together Devon asking for anyone interested in buying Solar Panels or Battery Storage to sign up before 6th October to register their interest and get a no obligation quote. The scheme was designed to allow residents to get more competitively priced quotes for renewable energy. A total of 27943 residents have signed up so far. I have spoken to one or two people who meant to sign up but didn't. I contacted Solar Together on 23rd October and there is still capacity left so if anyone is still interested in getting a quote for either solar panels or battery storage you can still sign up by going to:

<https://www.solartogether.co.uk/eastdevon/home>

East Devon New Local Plan

Following its withdrawal from GESP, the current administration are now keen to drive forward the new Local Plan. Had we continued down the GESP route, this would have been kicked into touch for many years to come as officers time was diverted away from this. This is good news for our area,

despite the fact we still have to face the governments drive to push up housing numbers with their ridiculous Logarithm.

Highways Matters

DCC seem incapable of giving a simple answer to a simple question with regard to when the work on Four Elms Hill will be done. Another car over-turned on Friday later afternoon/evening 23rd October causing more misery and chaos. I have sent emails to Cllr Stuart Hughes who simply dismisses the suggestion this work is overdue, clearly it does not hold enough political clout as it is outside of his voter catchment. He has made ludicrous comments such as it would be wrong to close Four Elms Hill at a time when shops in Sidmouth need the business. However, the work was scheduled to be done overnight so this argument carries no weight at all in my opinion. The local DCC Highways officer has been unable to answer the question, Cllr Claire Wright has been unable to elicit a response from highways officers to date so I feel an email to Head of Highways to ask if there is anyone at all at DCC Highways who knows what is going on. Perhaps another Change petition is required?

DCC also seem unable to finish the double yellow lining (parking prohibition orders) started before lockdown. Thus the problems caused by drivers parking on side roads directly off the High Street and Station Road right up to the junction with the A3052 continue. One of these problems this week was that the recycling was unable to be collected from Millmoor Lane because the Suez vehicle could not make the turn into the road.

Parish Council Climate Change Working Party

Elsewhere in this magazine you will see reference to the activities of the working party, it is hoped that residents will get behind these very local initiatives so we can all do our bit for the environment.

Red Bridge

The work to make repairs to the river bank where it was undermining the bridge have now been completed and I am grateful to the huge number of those who supported the petition, around 2,800 signatures were received. I would also like to thank Nigel Laws and his team at DCC for getting this work done at 'short notice' (although we have been asking for it for years). This at least secures the bridge for the next winter and hopefully beyond. As I write this the river is really high after a night of rainfall and the new protection is being fully tested.



DCC have made it clear that it is their intention to walk away from the bridge as they have ambitious plans for a new bridge spanning from Webbers Meadow to private farmland. I understand this will piggy back off some essential gas line work that will need to run under fields. I am not sure of the full details although I know the initial intention is for a joint bridlepath, cycleway and footpath. I have no idea of the timespan but I will keep you posted as soon as I hear anything.

Complaints received

More complaints this month about missed collections of recycling in Millmoor Lane.

More complaints about development taking place without planning permission in place. This does not go un-noticed as residents walk/cycle/drive around the village and will always be reported to EDDC for investigation.

Numerous complaints about parking and lack of finish on King Alfred Way.

Complaints about speeding through the village.

Thank you for your continued support and for raising the issues that are important to you within our parish.

If you would like to receive email updates from me, drop me an email at vranger@btinternet.com.

Best wishes

Val Ranger

Parish Magazine, Ward Cllrs report for November 2020

Ward Councillor
Newton Popleford and Harpford