

County Councillor's Annual Report, 2017-18

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Community hospital beds and health in our communities. I pledged that if elected I would do all I could to save the beds in SEATON and HONITON community hospitals. Sadly, although I launched a last-minute attempt to revive the Judicial Review of the Seaton decision and then took a thoroughly-documented case to the Health Scrutiny Committee in July, that committee voted 7-6 against referring the closures to the Secretary of State for Health. The beds in both hospitals then closed in August.

Since then I have been working to maintain and expand the provision of outpatient services in the two hospitals, and have been involved in both the Seaton and Honiton 'Health Matters Conversations' launched by the RD&E. At the County Council, I raised the protection of community stakes in our hospitals with the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Communities living with traffic and speeding. One of the worst local problems is the terrible pressure of traffic on the A35 on people living near the road in WILMINGTON. I have been working closely with Widworthy Parish Council and the A35 Action Group to get Highways England to implement traffic calming measures including crossings in the village.

In COLYFORD and SEATON, I have also been working with Speedwatch teams, residents and Neil Parish MP to obtain traffic calming measures. A pedestrian refuge is being built in Seaton Down Hill and we have agreement for a crossing and a VAS sign in Colyford. I am still working for improvements in Harbour Road and Pebble Beach.

Our deteriorating roads. Government cuts to County Council funding have been felt most strongly in Highways, and the Council admits that rural roads are deteriorating. I have worked closely with our new Neighbourhood Highways Officer and we have achieved significant repairs in BRANSCOMBE, COLYTON, SOUTHLEIGH and FARWAY. I have allocated next year's Pothole Action Fund to roads in NORTHLEIGH, OFFWELL and SEATON, and further funds are now certain to be available in 2018-19.

Traffic restrictions and signage. I have worked with councils in BEER, COLYTON and SEATON to get parking restrictions and signage right.

Bus cuts. I pressed DCC to subsidise the old X52 from COLYFORD, SEATON and BEER to Exeter. Although they refused at the time, they later supported Axe Valley's new 52 service.

Stop Line Way cycle and walking route. I have been working with local people in SEATON and COLYFORD to get the missing section through the Wetlands completed and to explore the possibilities of completing the section from Colyford to Axminster.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In the 11 months since my election,

- I have got to know our 9 parish councils, their members and clerks, and I have attended 55 town and parish meetings out of a possible 74.
- I have established new traffic groups, for Seaton, Beer and Branscombe and for the Coly Valley, which meet regularly in the Marshlands Centre and Colyton Town Hall respectively.
- I have met and corresponded with over a hundred local residents about individual or local problems.

At the County Council, I have attended almost all meetings of

Council: I proposed or spoke on motions on the NHS, 20 MPH speed limits, devolution, Brexit, service cuts and council tax increases, and asked questions about the X52 bus service and social care.

Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee: I contributed on Highways, broadband and mobile coverage, congestion and air quality, policing, libraries, Brexit, etc.

Health Scrutiny Committee: I spoke several times, and proposed items for the agenda on community hospitals and the Accountable/Integrated Care System.

East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee

I also spoke on some of the above issues at **Cabinet** meetings.

Locality Budget: I have distributed the £10,000 budget for 2017-18 among the following beneficiaries:

Seaton: The Gateway Theatre (new seating); Friends of Seaton Library (garden project); Seaton Town Council (tourism signage).

Colyton: Promote Colyton Group (Civil War event); Colyton AFC (new mower); Reece Strawbridge Centre (film equipment).

Colyford: Vehicle-Activated Sign on the A3052 near Gully Shoot (to be erected).

Offwell: Parish Council (housing survey); Offwell Playground.

I also made small grants to the South West Youth Games and the Transport for Your Community Spring Conference. A small amount has been carried over to 2018-19, and applications in the pipeline include: Beer signage, Beer FC playground, Colyton Memory Cafe, Living Memories, Colyton Library, Colyton Peace Memorial Playing Fields, and Southleigh defibrillator. Details of the budget and application form (to be returned direct to me) are at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-nav/locality-budgets/>

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