

## **County Councillor's Report, June 2018**

### **Taking Wilmington's case to the County Council**

At the County Council on 24th May, I proposed a motion urging the Council to press Highways England to devote extra resources to bringing forward proposals for traffic-calming measures, including pedestrian crossings, as soon as possible. I told the Council that the village has had to wait too long. Dr Philip Webber of the A35 Action Group also addressed the Council. My motion will now go to the County's Cabinet on 13th June. County Councillor Sarah Randall Johnson, who formerly represented the village, indicated her support.

### **Stop Line Way Cycle and Walking Route**

On 22nd May, I met with Dave Black, Head of Transportation at the County Council, and another member of his department to discuss the way forward for the route, and I am waiting for further clarification from them. On May 31st I am meeting James Cleeton of the cycling charity Sustrans, who promote the National Cycling Network of which the Stop Line Way is a part. I hope to report further on the situation next month.

### **Colyford traffic-calming measures**

A post has been erected for the Vehicle-Activated Sign at Gully Shoot, paid for jointly by my locality budget and the Colyford Village Residents' Association; electricity should be connected in early June and I hope the sign itself will be erected soon after.

I am told that a location for the pedestrian crossing, near the Memorial Hall, has been agreed but I am still waiting to see detailed plans.

### **Dermatology and ENT clinics in Seaton Hospital**

7 weeks after I first wrote, and despite several reminders, I am still waiting for a reply from the RD&E about whether the Dermatology and Ear, Nose and Throat clinics will be restored.

### **Reported comments of CCG chair on the future of Seaton and Honiton hospitals**

I have commented to the press on the remarks attributed to Dr Simon Kerr, Chair of the Eastern Locality of the NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, that Seaton and Honiton hospitals are 'at risk' in the CCG's Local Estates Strategy, due around July. Dr Kerr has not denied saying this and it seems likely that his comments indicate a real danger to the hospitals.

The CCG has however said that it has no plans to close the hospitals and that both are currently 'thriving'. I hope that they stick to this line when their Estates Strategy is published.

I am arguing with colleagues on the County Council and at EDDC that we need to keep all the hospitals in East Devon as health hubs, with the large number of services and clinics in each hospital (there are over 50 in Seaton alone) maintained or increased.

I have written to Cllr Ian Thomas, the new Conservative leader of EDDC, to ask him to cooperate in this approach, and to avoid a situation where any hospital without beds - whether Honiton, Seaton, Axminster or Ottery St Mary - is targeted for closure.

### **Seaton & Area Health Matters**

The second meeting was held on 24th May, and a full report will be circulated soon. We had a useful talk from Richard Anderson, manager of the Seaton, Axminster and Sidmouth community team based at Seaton Hospital. The general discussion led to agreement on pursuing the project of a health hub based on Seaton and Axminster hospitals. A steering committee was elected, including myself, and will meet on 31st May to agree the next steps.