

County Councillor's report, July 2018

The County Council's Cabinet backs Wilmington

I spoke at Devon's Cabinet on 13th June in support of my request that the County Council support Wilmington's campaign for crossings and traffic calming measures on the A35 through the village. The Cabinet agreed 'that the County Council engages as a consultee with Highways England on their proposals for the A35 route corridor, and requests that the proposals are brought forward and implemented as soon as practicable.' This will now go back to the full Council on 19th July. The Leader, Cllr John Hart, was very supportive and said that the Council had already written to HE, but not received a reply, and they would now write again.

Cabinet agrees a comprehensive policy on single-use plastics

Following a resolution introduced by my fellow Independent, Cllr Frank Biederman, some months ago, the Council's officers have now drawn up a comprehensive policy to eliminate single-use plastics from the Council by 2020. I spoke at Cabinet in support of this policy.

I have a number of 'Refill' stickers for shops and offices to put in their windows if they are willing to allow people to fill their water bottles, so contributing to reducing plastic pollution. Please email me if you know somewhere that could join this scheme.

Libraries: Scrutiny committee will look at performance, mobile libraries threatened

The Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee, of which I am a member, will be looking in detail at Libraries in September following a verbal presentation at the June meeting.

Meanwhile the Council is reviewing the future of rural library services, including the option of ending the mobile library service. Offwell currently receives visits from the mobile library, and I would welcome feedback from local people and the Parish Council on this option.

Safety on the road between Colyford and Seaton

A pedestrian was knocked over on 21st June by a car travelling from Seaton. Traffic on this winding country road has grown rapidly and I shall propose reducing the speed limit between Seaton and Colyford from the national limit to 40 mph.

I already have had agreement from Highways for a new sign pointing cyclists and pedestrians from Colyford into the Stop Line Way multi-user trail, and I have pressed again for this to be erected quickly.

As I reported last month, I am also pressing the County Council for action to ensure the missing link in Stop Line Way through the Wetlands is completed. I have had helpful new assurances from officers on the way forward.

Jurassic Coast Trust presentation at Seaton Jurassic

I attended a presentation by Chief Executive, Dr Simon Ross, on 22nd June about the work of the Trust, which is playing an invaluable role in promoting our World Heritage Site. Dr Harry Barton of the Devon Wildlife Trust, which runs Seaton Jurassic, also provided an encouraging briefing on the progress of the centre.

Beer sign to divert Beer Head traffic from the village

I have finally signed off on this sign, which I am paying for from the Locality Fund.

40 mph speed limit at the junction of the A3052 and Seaton Down Hill

Funding from Seaton Town Council and my Invest in Devon fund is now in place to enable a change which would extend the 40 mph zone on the A3052 west of the junction, avoiding the problem of drivers coming over the brow of Harepath Hill speeding up as they approach the junction.

This proposal will also have the effect of reducing the limit on Seaton Down Hill to 40, as pressed for by the Community Speedwatch Team and the Town Council. The proposal will have to go to the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee and I am trying to ensure this happens as soon as practicable, before being publicly advertised.

Seaton & Area Health Matters

I attended a committee meeting and a meeting with the existing Seaton Health Forum. A way forward has been agreed with the Forum merging with the new Health Matters group. Individuals will now be able to join the new group as well as organisations, and all existing participants in the Forum are invited to attend the next meeting which will be on Thursday 12th July at 2pm in Marshlands.

The Project in Seaton

One good result of the Health Matters process has been that I have had a meeting with Emma Curtis of The Project, which provides a service for young people in Axminster and is now expanding to other East Devon towns. The Health Matters chair Cllr Jack Rowland, of Seaton Town Council, is making a proposal to help bring The Project to Seaton at the next meeting of the Town Council.