

County Councillor's Report, October 2018

Leisure East Devon use of Colyton Leisure Centre

I was contacted by a number of people who attend morning LED classes at the centre, which Colyton Grammar School wish to end. The users, 170 of whom have signed a petition to the school, are rightly concerned that this change has been under discussion between the school and LED for 9 months without their being consulted, yet it could be implemented as early as Christmas. On 13 September I met with the Headteacher, Mr Tim Harris, and Chair of the school's Trustees, Mr Barry Sindall, to present the users' concerns. They reassured me that they remain committed to community use of the centre, that evening, weekend and holiday activities are not affected, and that there will be no early move to change the dance studio into a fitness centre. However I remain very concerned that the morning classes, which are highly valued by local people and make a contribution to local wellbeing resources, could be ended precipitately. I have urged the school, LED and EDDC to find a way in which the daytime classes under threat can be maintained.

Services in Seaton Hospital

After 6 months, the RD&E has finally given me an answer to my queries about two services which appeared to have ended. The ENT clinic has resumed, but the Dermatology clinic is not being reinstated. However it could form part of the general review of local services which will be discussed by a Seaton Area Health Matters team (of which I will be a part, along with Cllrs Rowland and Pook and Dr Welland) with the RD&E a meeting now delayed to November.

Proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park

The Government have set up a review of national parks and AONBs. I asked Devon County Council to look again at the proposal for a Dorset and East Devon National Park in the light of this review. On 12 September DCC's Cabinet decided to invite the review panel to Devon, but has not committed itself to the proposal. The matter comes to Council on 4 October.

Farway ford

I took the Parish Council's case to replace the original stone blocks in the ford, rather than concrete over it, to the Director of Highways, but was turned down, and so have offered to fund the extra costs from the Locality Budget.

Beer signs divert heavier traffic for campsite away from the village

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council's campaign for new signs in The Causeway and Mare Street, which I am paying for from my Locality Budget, finally bore fruit this month.

Parking in New Cut, Beer

I have been approached to ask for a restriction on parking outside Pioneer Cottages and will be discussing this with the Parish Council.

Colyford crossing update

Highways officers visited Colyford on 19 September to continue work on the crossing.

Parking in Sidmouth Road, Colyton

Together with a representative of the Parish Council, on 12 September I met with the Headteacher of Colyton Primary School. She said she will not object to the PC's proposal to extend double yellow lines on Sidmouth Road, but also raised concerns about traffic in The Butts, which I will discuss with the PC. We agreed that it would be better for parents who are dropping off and picking up children to use the Car Park, and I have contacted EDDC to discuss whether they can facilitate this.

Seaton Down Hill speed limit change

The proposal to extend the 40 limit on Harepath Hill west of the junction with Seaton Down Hill, applying the 40 limit to Seaton Down Hill, should be published in October.

Stop Line Way in Seaton Wetlands

Following my earlier representations, I have now been informed that the County Council has agreed a new approach to securing the missing section of this route.

Road repairs: Northleigh, Offwell and Seaton

The main Highways contractor, Skanska, have stated that their Pothole Action Fund jobs, which include the Northleigh Cross-Offwell Brook road, will be completed by Christmas. The other roads I have put forward, at Drummerstone Cross, Offwell, and Beer Road, Seaton, are being funded from the Resilience Fund and may involve other contractors. However these, and the delayed resurfacing of Townsend Avenue, Seaton, are still due in 2018-19.

Locality Budget and Invest in Devon fund

I would like to remind parishes and community groups that I have a total of £10,000 in each of these budgets for the current financial year, and much remains uncommitted. The Invest in Devon fund can only be used towards capital expenditure, while the Locality Budget is more flexible. Details of both are available on the DCC website but it is best to contact me first to discuss your project.