

# Southern Link

Notes of the meeting held on **Thursday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Peter Tavy Village Hall, Peter Tavy at 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Town & Parish Councils

Bere Ferres – Cllr M Page Bailey, Cllr H Boot-Handford  
Brentor – Cllr T Pearce & WDBC  
Buckland Monachorum – Cllr D Butland, Cllr S Wollacott  
Burrator Grouped – Cllr T Aves (Southern Links Chairman)  
Dartmoor Forest – *not represented*  
Gulworthy – *not represented*  
Horrabridge – Cllr S Roache  
Kelly – *not represented*  
Lamerton – Cllr J Edgar  
Lewdown Grouped – Cllr A Harrop  
Lifton – Cllr C Edmonds & WDBC  
Lydford – *not represented*  
Mary Tavy – Cllr G Hill  
Milton Abbot Grouped – *not represented*  
Peter Tavy – Cllr J Jeffery, Cllr B Lane  
Plasterdown Grouped - *not represented*  
Stowford – *not represented*  
Sydenham Damerel – *not represented*  
Tavistock – Cllr M Ewings

Jane Savage, Helen Dobby (WDBC)  
Cllr P Sanders (WDBC & DCC)  
Simon Kitchen (DCC)  
Insp Mark Sloman (Devon & Cornwall Police)

Mrs J Gillard (Links Administrator)

1. **Apologies**  
Apologies were received from Cllr J Evans (Lamerton), Cllr A Roberts
2. **Agreement of Notes of Last Meeting**  
The notes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 were agreed.
3. **Matters Arising** – there were no matters arising.
4. **Policing issues** – [mark.sloman@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mark.sloman@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)  
Statistics distributed prior to meeting. Breakdowns at a more local level distributed at meeting.  
An overall increase in crime in this area for the past 12 month period of 10.4%, this links to the national trend and back to a spike of crime last autumn. The most recent

3 months are looking much better, a reduction of 31% compared to the same time last year. Tavistock Town incidents reduction of 26% in last 3 months.

June and July were particularly busy, an increase in violent crimes and domestic crime, again this is in line with the national trend and probably down to the good weather and World Cup which encourages an increase in the consumption of alcohol.

Possession of drugs – major concern in the area with 3 young lives being lost recently. Police have been working with the schools/parents/college, giving advice including use of the internet to obtain drugs. Drugs are more easily obtained than alcohol unfortunately.

County lines – this is where groups of organised criminals are coming out of cities targeting rural areas. West Devon is not as badly hit by this as North and South Devon.

Proposed merger with Dorset Police – currently in alliance with Dorset, some operational areas are shared. There have been discussions around a potential merger, a business case has been written, the 2 Police & Crime Commissioners have met, no unanimous decision reached, Alison Hernandez is not in support of the proposal, decision expected on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

5. **WDBC Update –**

Jane Savage, Waste & Recycling.

Price for garden waste bags remains at £40, due for renewal 1<sup>st</sup> October, this is a non mandatory service provided by the Council. Current sacks will remain in use, there will be no new labels, technology in the cabs on the new vehicles can identify which properties have subscribed to the service. 20% of households signed up last year, target was 35%.

Current collection service contract ends 31 March 2019, procurement process for new contract currently taking place. Hopefully there will be an announcement before Christmas with details of the new contract. All Devon councils are working towards a more aligned service across the whole area.

Recycling will be expanded during the next few years – it is hoped to include items such as foil, tetra packs, plastic tubs etc.

National recycling rate last year was 52.5%, a 10% reduction on the previous year. The amount of dry recycling has increased following the introduction of the box clever campaign. West Devon currently ranks 30<sup>th</sup> out of 239 local authorities nationally on recycling rates.

Residual waste (black bags), currently no limit on amount collected, West Devon volumes are quite low.

The new collection vehicles have improved technology, they can report issues of 'dirty' waste etc

Food waste is currently taken to Holsworthy where there is a plant that creates energy from the waste, by products are spread on local land. Second bins can be issued to householders on request. The volume of food waste still going into the black bags is a major issue.

Fly tipping – volumes low in West Devon, the trend is not increasing.

Plastics – increased interest from the Council who are now looking at single use plastics and how this can be reduced.

**Helen Dobby – Public Toilets**

A £50k saving in WD budget is needed. Members would like public toilets to remain open if at all possible. WD are talking to Towns and Parishes to ascertain if they can

take on these facilities, also considering 'pay on entry'. A report is due to the Hub committee later this year. Those that have been transferred to Towns and Parishes have worked well. There are currently approx 14 public toilets in the area being maintained by WDBC. Acknowledged that business rates are payable on these buildings is an issue.

**6. Communities Together Fund**

- a. New applications –
  - i. Lamerton Parish Hall Committee, application for £5000 for project costing £40,125 in total for equipment for play area. Unanimous decision to recommend approval of award of £5000
  - ii. Burrator Group, application for £8400 for 4 defibrilators. Proposal to award full amount made, amendment to proposal proposed to award £6000, vote taken on amendment, 7 in favour, 1 against, substantive motion for £6000 put forward, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.
- b. Guidelines – a general discussion on the guidelines took place, agreed that working together must be considered in a wider context and should not just relate to Town and Parish councils.

**7. DCC Update – Simon Kitchen**

Written update to be distributed with meeting notes.  
Main points included are an update to Tavistock Primary School.  
Local Carers – trying to raise profile of the role, currently 1200 vacancies across Devon.  
DCC Financial challenge – overspend in Childrens Services and Adult Social Care  
Update on Crowdfunding.  
Full details in written update.

**8. DNP Update – Jo Rumble not in attendance.**

Written update distributed prior to meeting, no questions arising.

**9. Superlink Meeting**

Agreed to submit question from Cllr Lane re employment of local lengthsmen.  
Agreed to continue with meeting planned for 29<sup>th</sup> November as attendance by DCC  
Highways promised and to be able to consider further Communities Together  
Applications.

**10. Parish Feedback and issues – Cllr Hill raised issue with signage around Mary Tavy School, to be discussed further outside meeting with Cllr Pearce.**

**DATE & VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 29th November 2018 - Rundle Room, Tavistock Town Hall – 7 pm

Superlink - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, Kilworthy Park, Tavistock

(The meeting closed at 9.30 pm)