

Southern Link

Notes of the meeting held on **Thursday March 16th 2017**
Rundle Room, Tavistock Town Hall, Tavistock at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Town & Parish Councils

Bere Ferres – Cllr R Lethall, Cllr B Lamb,
Brentor – Cllr T Pearce & WDBC
Buckland Monachorum – Cllr D Butland , Cllr S Woollacott
Burrator Grouped – Cllr T Aves
Dartmoor Forest – not represented
Gulworthy – not represented
Horrabridge – Cllr S Roche
Kelly – not represented
Lamerton – Cllr M Jefferies, Cllr J Edgar
Lewdown Grouped – not represented
Lifton – Cllr C Edmonds & WDBC
Lydford –Cllr B Cook
Mary Tavy – Cllr P Jarvis, Kerry Higham (Parish Clerk)
Milton Abbot Grouped – not represented
Peter Tavy – Cllr B Lane, Cllr J Jeffery
Plasterdown Grouped - Cllr G Antcliffe
Stowford - not represented
Sydenham Damerel - not represented
Tavistock – Cllr H Smith

West Devon Borough Councillors

Cllr P Sanders, Cllr A Roberts, Cllr D Moyse

Helen Dobby (WDBC)
John Fewings (DCC)
Anita Prosser
Insp Mark Sloman – Devon & Cornwall Police

Mrs J Gillard (Links Administrator)

Prior to the start of the meeting, a one minute silence was held to mark the recent death of Cllr Mike Benson. The Chairman stated he would be sorely missed and that he had been a great contributor to these meetings and his community.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Steve Jorden (WDBC), Jo Rumble (DNPA), Cllr J Evans, Lamerton, Cllr J Chalcraft, Cllr R Pike

2. Agreement of Notes of Last Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 1st December 2016 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

The Clerk advised that the IT equipment (laptop, projector and screen), previously purchased from TAP funds for use by Southern Parishes was currently being held by the new Dartmoor Forest Parish Clerk. Tavistock Town Council may agree to hold the equipment on behalf of all the Parishes, as soon as this is confirmed, The Clerk will arrange for the equipment to be moved, also set up a system for the borrowing, and communicate with all Parishes.

4. DCC Highways – John Fewings

John has replaced Peter Brunt as the DCC Neighbourhood Highways Manager.

They are currently working through the change of contractor from SW Highways to Skanska, there is a lot of work taking place on this. Many staff will be transferring from the old to the new contractor. Skanska offered many efficiencies in their bid for the contract. Cost savings to DCC will come in the amount they are charged for the whole service provided by Skanska. The Exeter Road depot in Okehampton will be retained, the Brayhams one will be closing.

DCC made a successful bid to the 'Pot Hole Action Fund' and have an additional £2m for this now

They will be promoting the Roadwardens scheme during the summer months. They are still looking at different and better ways of filling potholes. 24 Parishes are already signed up to the scheme. The Community Enhancement Fund has funds available to help provide tools etc. There is £50k in the fund next year.

Attendees stated the new Roadwarden Scheme agreement is easier to understand than the original however requires the Parish to have indemnity insurance. This situation could also apply to the Snowwarden scheme. **Action - John to investigate further and provide guidance.**

A reminder that gulleys are now cleaned annually, one off blockages can be resolved using funding from the minor works funds. Notices can be served on landowners if they do not maintain their hedges.

The reason for less regular work being undertaken is down to budget cuts. If there are specific stretches of road in need of attention as opposed to single potholes, parishes should liaise with their local Neighbourhood Highways Officer. Currently maintenance is reactive rather than proactive.

Cattle grids – if these become full with debris, contact the Parishes Neighbourhood Highways Officer who will arrange for them to be cleaned out.

All are encouraged to use the DCC website to report issues with potholes etc.

Peter Tavy TAP application for Highways drainage repair (see TAP application summary), the Parish have been advised DCC have no funds to make this repair, John advised that DCC Highways have a duty to maintain the highways, he was not aware of this particular situation but agreed to investigate the situation and liaise with the Parish.

Dirty road signs – bring these to the attention of the Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

Horrabridge village sign – this has been missing for some time following a road traffic accident – **Action John to investigate why this has not yet been replaced.**

5. DCC Update – Simon Kitchen

Simon was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting due to being delayed at County Hall and road closures on the way to the meeting. Written update supplied after the meeting and circulated with these notes.

6. TAP Fund – summary distributed prior to meeting.

Bere Ferrers advised they would only be taking £1150 from the £2750 awarded at the previous meeting for their Devon Air Ambulance night landing site, the 'return' of the £1600 has to be formally confirmed by their Council. This would make the total available funds still to be awarded £10978.09.

After a general review and discussion on all applications, each was reviewed again and the following decisions made –

Brentor application for £2000 for 2 village noticeboards, it was felt these costs were higher than expected and it was agreed further investigations be made on costs and the specific requirements for the area and that the application be deferred until the next meeting. Proposed by Cllr T Pearce, all in agreement.

Buckland Monachorum application for £913 for Fire Protection and Data Storage of Parish Files. As there is no written support from a second parish it was agreed this application was not within TAP guidelines and the application was therefore not approved. Proposed by Cllr T Aves, all in agreement.

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council application for £900 for ditching and drainage, full amount approved, proposed by Cllr T Pearce, all in agreement.

Lamerton Parish Council application for £1000.00 for lengthsmen work, full amount approved, proposed by Cllr T Pearce, all in agreement.

Mary Tavy Parish Council application for £1249.00 for defibrillator,
Lamerton Parish Council application for £1000 for defibrillator,
Buckland Monachorum Parish Council application for £1305 for defibrillator for Milton Combe Village Hall, and
Buckland Monachorum Parish Council application for £1305 for defibrillator for Clearbrook
Full amount of the 4 requests approved, proposed by Cllr S Wonnacott, all in favour.

Peter Tavy Parish Council application for £5825 for repair to broken gully, (see also discussion in item 4 above). After lengthy discussion, proposed by Cllr T Pearce and seconded by Cllr B Lamb that the application be deferred until the next meeting pending more investigation and information from DCC Highways, 6 in favour, 5 against.

Lydford Parish Council application for £2750 for Devon Air ambulance night landing site and

Mary Tavy Parish Council application for £2750 for Devon Air Ambulance night landing site.

Following discussions at the previous meeting, the following information and update has been received from Devon Air Ambulance –

Approach

In simple terms any community can have a night landing site and we will help them get to the point of knowing a) what site is suitable for night landing and b) what costs are associated with developing the lighting solution needed. In terms of our approach, we would like all towns and major villages to have a site, however our aim is to develop a network where there is a sufficient density to mean a patient is only ever a short drive from their nearest community landing site. To that end we do expect smaller villages will also

have a landing site in time, particularly where they could act as a good point for people from more remote farmsteads to be brought to for onward transfer. In larger communities such as Okehampton we expect there will be a need for two or maybe three sites to adequately 'serve' that community, certainly also as we take into account the level of development over the coming years.

That approach is based around where we are needed most – typically that's in areas of greater population where more people fall ill, have accidents etc. e.g. we go to Okehampton more times in a year than Sticklepath.

However, from a funding perspective which you are considering, larger communities have greater wealth and capacity to fund these projects than smaller ones. To sift between these aspects, and select out those communities which are more/less worthy of a grant is very difficult and therefore my gut feeling is setting a cap per application would be a sensible way to proceed.

Funding

As of only very recently we have received notification that DAAT will receive funding through the UK Treasury, originating from the Bank Libor funds, to provide communities with grants towards the installation costs of the lighting solution at a night landing site. i.e. communities still need to buy the capital items, we can pay for groundworks etc. Those grants will cover 100% of installation cost, so communities should be able to get a good start in their own fundraising. We will be writing to communities with grant offers over the coming weeks so would expect them to illustrate that some of the project costs have been secured when applying to TAP funds.

As there were insufficient funds available to meet both applications in full, the representatives from both Parishes agreed the applications could be reduced to £2000 each and any remaining funds after the awards of £2000 be split equally between the 2 applications. All in agreement. After calculations, this results in a total of £2109.50 being awarded to Lydford and Mary Tavy.

It was suggested that for future years that WDBC should consider introducing a 50% cap on applications of the total costs of the project.

The meeting agreed that only the 2 deferred applications above should be reconsidered with no new TAP applications considered at the July meeting.

7. WDBC Update – Helen Dobby

Joint Local Plan – now approved by all 3 councils involved. Neighbourhood Plans will feed into it. The next stage of public consultation takes place 10 March – 26 April, all encouraged to feed into it. There will be engagement events organised. The Inspectorate decision will be expected towards the end of the year following which it will be adopted by the 3 councils.

WD have received an extra £250k from Central Government for community housing, they are now looking at how this can be used with local groups.

Council Tax for West Devon has been increased by £5 to a Band D for WDBC of £218.39 (2.34% increase)

Net Budget for 2017/18 agreed of £7.4 million

Additional annual costs for the Council equated to £0.7million and these have been built into the base budget as year on year cost pressures

The Council has identified annual savings of £0.6 million (main savings were from the re-procurement of the Leisure contract which has delivered annual savings of just under £350,000)

West Devon Borough Council's funding from Government Grant and Business Rates will be reducing by a further 37% between now and 2019/20 and the Council is facing a budget gap over the next two years of £1 million

The Council is receiving New Homes Bonus funding of £960,000 in 2017/18 and is using £860,000 to fund the Base Budget with £88,000 being spent on capital projects. The Council also agreed a capital works programme totaling £570,000 for 2017/18. Within the Capital Programme is a budget for £450,000 for Disabled Facilities Grants to enable people to live independently within their own home. The grants pay for adaptations which can range from simple stair lifts and level access showers through to full extensions.

Also included in the approved Capital Programme is £50,000 for Affordable Housing

Waste collections – there will be a managed service with FCC covering the next 2 years. Charges for garden waste will be introduced, the full details and costs of this are not yet known but will be communicated in advance of the charge being introduced.

It was also noted DCC have introduced changes to the policy for disposal of certain items of waste.

8. Parish Feedback and issues – none.

9. Policing Issues –

mark.sloman@devonandcornwall@pnn.police.uk

There has been an increase in crime nationally and in Devon and Cornwall. West Devon has seen a large increase in violence with injury but bear in mind this includes harassment, assault, on line and social media harassment. Rape figures have also increased, this includes domestic incidents and also historical incidents which now have to be recorded.

There has been a decrease in vehicle crime, vehicles protection improves and Moorwatch operation continues. Burglary dwellings have increased, although small numbers but still too many. Previously this figure was on a decrease.

Overall there has been a 10% increase, there have been significant amounts of shoplifting incidents in Tavistock and Okehampton.

PCSOs – the officer covering Lifton was on desk duties, the patch is currently being shared between 2 other officers. The whole area currently has 6 PCSOs – it should only be 5. The longer term role of the PCSO will see numbers reduce from 360 to 150 over a 4 year period. There will be an additional 100 police officers.

Current positive outcome/detection rate is approx 23%

It is not known what rural policing in the future will look like.

Future meetings – it was agreed the Rundle Room was a better venue than the Coronation Hall for these meetings, it was agreed the Clerk to investigate changing future meetings to The Rundle Room – the change would be dependent on the costs involved.

DATE & VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 13th July 2017 – Coronation Hall, MaryTavy (to be confirmed)

Thursday 5th October 2017, Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy

Thursday 30th November 2017, Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy

(The meeting closed at 9.15 pm)

**Locality Lead Officer Report
Southern Link Committee
16 March 2017**



Devolution

The Heart of the South West devolution partnership recently began a consultation on the first draft of its Productivity Plan. This aims to ensure the area makes a significant contribution to the UK's productivity growth - with all the improvements to living standards and economic benefits that come with that.

At this stage the devolution partnership is seeking views from interested groups and the public on whether it is considering the right challenges. A final plan will be launched in the autumn with further opportunities to feedback.

The plan can be found online here <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/devolution>

Broadband

Phase 1

West Devon is benefitting from solutions provided by both Airband Community Internet and from BT Openreach. In Phase 1 of the programme Connecting Devon & Somerset has funded fibre upgrades to 66 cabinets across West Devon, bringing over 11,000 properties superfast connections. Phase 1 is now nearly finished and the last remaining fibre network from the Beaworthy exchange is due to complete by the end of February. On top of the delivery funded by CDS, the towns of Okehampton and Tavistock have been brought coverage by commercial providers further adding to the superfast connected homes.

National Parks

As well as the delivery under Phase 1, CDS contracted with Airband Community Internet to deliver a fixed wireless network to Dartmoor National Park. Much of this network is now live and when complete will serve over 4000 premises. Protecting the natural beauty of Dartmoor whilst ensuring the hardest to reach communities can receive a connection has added complexity to this project, but the current plan has the core targets being met by the end of March. Additional build to the network beyond the targeted properties will mean works continue after March to deliver services to more homes and businesses. This fixed wireless network compliments and infills the areas on the moors already connected by BT under phase one of the programme.

Phase 2

Phase 2 of the delivery programme is underway in some areas with 4 of 6 contracted Lots being awarded to Gigaclear, a fibre to the home provider. Lot 4, which covers most of the remaining West Devon areas outside of Dartmoor, is yet to be contracted but CDS hope to have a supplier appointed shortly. When awarded, the supplier will deliver more superfast services to properties that remain unconnected, working until the end of 2019. There will be announcements on the CDS website <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/>

Voucher Scheme

As well as the main programme CDS has run a very successful voucher scheme programme, which some residents in West Devon have benefitted from. The scheme offers subsidies for interim connections to faster speeds and utilising technology such as 4G has in some cases brought superfast delivery of over 30Mbps. For those areas outside of any planned Phase 2 deployment, CDS is looking to continue the voucher scheme as a way of providing connection to those who need it most.

County Council Elections

County Council elections take place every four years – the next one is on 4 May 2017. 60 County Councillors will be elected. There will be 56 'single-member' electoral divisions and 2 'two-member' divisions.

'Purdah' begins on 27 March, this is the period between the notice of the election and the date of the election itself. During Purdah, the activities of existing Devon County Councillors are restricted to prevent them from gaining – or being perceived to be gaining - advantage over any other candidates. However, DCC must continue to discharge normal council business during this time.

With regard to TAP funding, existing County Councillors cannot be part of any TAP decision making processes during Purdah and any publicity surrounding TAP funded projects must be factual, focusing on the projects concerned and not promoting or providing coverage for existing County Councillors.

Votes will be counted on 5 May with final results declared around midday. For further information including frequently asked questions and to see electoral division maps please visit:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/elections-and-voting/elections-2017/>

Abbey Rise Day Centre is officially opened by Council Chairman

The Abbey Rise day centre in Tavistock has celebrated its official opening this month by the Chairman of Devon County Council, Cllr Andrew Moulding.

The new facility opened its doors last September, when the Council's previous day service for people with learning disabilities at the Molly Owen centre closed. That building had become no longer fit for the service, and was located on the edge of an industrial estate.

In contrast, the new facility at Abbey Rise is a modern, bright and spacious facility, close to the town centre so that day service users can enjoy easy access to everything in town. The move has been warmly welcomed by users of the service and their families, as it offers far more opportunities to support individuals to do, and to experience, new things.

One of its highlights is a state of the art hoist for use by people who require assistance to walk. Best described as a parachute harness that tracks along a supported beam running right through the facility, the hoist enables its users to walk with support in each room. The hoist also supports users while they stand at work surfaces, learning daily living skills.

The new facility at Abbey Rise has a fully equipped and adapted kitchen to help people learn independence living skills. It has a new sensory room, which is designed to stimulate mind and body. And it has a 'Changing Places' facility – a larger than usual, purpose-designed toilet and changing facility for people with disabilities, which can be used by people visiting the area. It's accessed with a Radar key.