

County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date of Report: 10th September 2019
County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington
(incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)
District Councillor for Dartington & Staverton

Key Issues - Devon County Council At Full Council meeting on 25th July, in response to a motions seeking approval of a 10 point plan to protect wildlife, the following was approved:

(a) that the Council endorse the principle of further action by Devon County Council to address environmental issues in line with the global concerns highlighted through relevant intergovernmental panels; and (b) mandates the Environmental Performance Board to consider how relevant issues raised by the 10 Point Green Action Plan might be addressed through relevant changes or additions to its suite of action plans, in the light of the opportunities and constraints highlighted (by Appendix 1 of Report)

In response to a number of members of the public attending who had submitted questions regarding the roll out of 5G mobile phone masts and devices, Cabinet Member Cllr Roger Croad made the following response: *"The County Council draws on the advice and guidance provided by Public Health England (PHE) regarding the health and safety of mobile technologies including 5G. PHE continues to monitor the health-related evidence applicable to radio waves, including in relation to base stations, and is committed to updating its advice as required. The County Council has been in touch with PHE (June 2019) to ask for any further advice. PHE responded to confirm that its briefing note on 5G is still current, and PHE has also recently updated its website with information on 5G.*

Public Health England (PHE) advises the Government on appropriate public health standards for protection from exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (EMFs), or radio waves. PHE's main advice is that the guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) should be adopted and there is no convincing evidence that exposures below the ICNIRP guideline levels cause adverse health effects. ICNIRP is formally recognised as an official collaborating non-governmental organisation by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization. ICNIRP is also consulted by the European Commission. Advice from PHE includes comprehensive scientific review reports and statements on topics.

The County Council is not involved with mobile infrastructure planning applications, this is a District Council responsibility as part of the planning authority remit. Where street furniture is concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies, but we would review any such request from mobile network operators in accordance with Government guidance and PHE guidance. As a County Council we have no current plans to make use of 5G in our "ICT roadmap" to 2020."

DCC announces Net Zero Task Force for Devon County Council Climate Emergency Action Plan: A paper outlining the activity facilitated by Devon County Council (DCC) to demonstrate leadership on the locally-declared climate emergency has been produced. Their first meeting will take place on September 23rd. A temporary website with this paper is at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange/devon-climate-emergency>.

KEY ISSUES SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL:

At Full Council Meeting (25.07.19) A Climate and Biodiversity Emergency was formally declared. Reports were provided regarding the working across the county with DCC and fellow District Councils has been taking place since February. A cross party working group has been established to take this forward - I have been appointed to this group. A separate decision was also taken to invest in renewable energy.

SHDC Joint Local Plan (JLP) - Special Planning Document (SPD). This document which is intended to inform the implementation of the JLP is an important document with regard to the JLP. It is currently being consulted on with Ward Councillors and further to a workshop later in the month, will go out for wider and public consultation early November 2019.

South Hams HATOC; The meeting scheduled for July 5th was cancelled, however I have (yet again) requested a meeting with officers to discuss the outstanding issues in my division:
Dartington issues from previous HATOCs
Speeds at Puddaven on A381

Illegal caravans and 'residential' vehicles: I have a meeting scheduled with the DCC officer later this month to discuss where I will continue to press for a South Hams Traveller Forum - which has been very successful in Teignbridge.

LOCAL MATTERS:

Totnes & District Traffic & Transport Forum (31.07.19) Further to the discussion at the previous meeting regarding the **bus services from Totnes to Torbay hospital**, a spreadsheet of the current services run by different operators had been produced by a member of the Forum. While it was agreed that more needs to be done to try and instigate more direct services that could include a wider group of travellers (and thereby reduce traffic and car use), this information would be made publicly available at information points around the Town and adjacent parishes and at Torbay hospital to assist in the meantime. Some of the proposals regarding traffic and transport in the Totnes TC Climate Emergency *draft* Action plan (that was produced on July 1st to Totnes TC) had raised a number of concerns with local traders. In particular the proposal to close the high street for four hours each day and to host a car free day on September 24th in the town centre. It was agreed that the Car free day would be reverted to **“Leave the car at home day”** and the other issues would be discussed further as the plan went through a community consultation and agreement process.

Public consultation on the Devon & Somerset Fire Service “Safer Together”. The proposals include reducing the number of fire engines (‘pumps’) at various local Fire Stations including Totnes Fire Station which will be reduced down from two to one. This is the link for the on-line consultation on the DSFRS website: <https://tinyurl.com/yxgvdkp>. Paper copies are available at the public drop-in consultations or at ph. 10392-872347. **The public consultation runs until September 20th.**

Declaration of a Climate Emergency – Community Consultation on Totnes *draft* Action Plan. Sat. 10th August, Totnes.

This event was widely publicised, invites were sent to a number of community organisations and it was attended by over 100 people from a wide variety of interests. There were three main parts to the event:

- 1. Where we are:** A handful of individuals who have been involved in Transition Town Totnes, Extinction Rebellion, Youth Strikes and the Town Council Climate Emergency meetings made some brief opening statements about how different conversations and progress was being made in the town. A Community Conversation had been jointly hosted by TTT, XR and the TC in July which had produced an early draft of a People’s Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan.
- 2. Adding more ideas and proposals for actions:** The first early draft Action Plan that was brought before Totnes Town Council on July 1st was used as a starting point for table discussions. It was explained that this draft Climate Emergency Action Plan is at a very early stage, it is the first rough draft of possible actions put forward by a wide variety of people that is now going forward to a wider far more representative group and that is the task for this event. Tables had been set up around the different action based themes that had emerged to date and attendees were invited to spend time at different tables and discuss the themes with others at the table and add their ideas and propose additional actions to those already put forwarded. A separate table had been set up for proposals for additional themes to be added. It was explained that this was not the time to vote on any of the ideas or object to them. A large number of suggestions and proposals for actions were added.
- 3. Involving more of the community and creating a plan and timeline for the actions.** Attendees were invited to consider and discuss a public engagement process to involve more of the community in this plan and to invite further input and responses to the proposals put forward. For the latter the current idea is to have a week long event in the town (Guildhall) during the first week of November with an open exhibition of the proposals. This will be used for drop-in, informal discussions, information sharing and workshops that individuals and groups can participate in to turn the ideas and proposals into a workable plan that will go out for further public comment etc before being adopted by the TC. This proposed week of events was widely welcomed and a number of suggestions were put forward.

In addition it was proposed and agreed to have a **Climate Emergency Community event in September**. This will be a **Totnes Wombles Event** for as many people as possible to litter pick around the town. This will not only promote awareness of the litter issue in Totnes but also prevent plastic (and other) waste entering the food chain and in particular the river system where it can be hazardous to wildlife (and from whence some of it could otherwise reach the massive Pacific gyres of plastic waste which is killing marine life). It was agreed to meet at the Guildhall at 1pm for this action.

V6 Totnes draft Climate Emergency Action Plan: All the outcomes from this public event have now been added as raw data to the earlier versions of the draft Action Plan. This has been circulated to all those on the mail chimp circular and those who asked to be included on this mailing list. Further work will be carried out to this version 6 to add the new themes and amalgamate the new proposals into the earlier listings (they have currently been left separate so that the production of this draft Action Plan can be tracked). As it evolves the plan for Totnes will need to incorporate ideas, proposals, actions and learning from other relevant plans and processes, including the Totnes People’s Climate &

Ecological Emergency Plan and the TTT Energy Descent Action Plan as well as other plans evolving from SHDC and DCC and wider groups such as Friends of the earth and similar bodies.

Next Totnes Climate Emergency meeting (10am - 12 noon) and & Community Action event 1pm - Sat 21st

September, Totnes Guildhall: The Climate Emergency meeting will take place at 10am to discuss and plan the week long event in November. It will be followed by the Totnes Wombles Event at 1pm. (bring a picnic lunch at 12noon if you wish)

Next Steps: My proposal for the **Climate Emergency Planning week Sunday 3rd - Saturday 9th November** is to create a process of discussion, voting on ideas, actions and proposals and filtering further for viability, editing, prioritisation and being ordered into a process and timeline to create a plan that has the ownership, agreement and blessing of the Town. We have a long way to go and a lot more work to do in this process. This is now and will continue to need to be an open and public process that anyone can get involved in; however the situation is that from now on we need to be actively engaging with a much wider group who will inform the process as well as the content. This will involve proactive invitations and engagement with all sectors and groups in the town including schools, community organisations, businesses etc. There will be a job for everyone in this reaching out!

Publicity: A copy of the First draft of the Action Plan together with the early draft of the People's Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan (from the Community Conversation held in Totnes on July 20th) was been on display in the Guildhall for 3 weeks (until last Tuesday) and attracted wide interest. We need to continue to have a display of the current draft of the Totnes Climate Action Plan and initiate the public notice boards around the town asap to maximise publicity and provide easily accessible information in the lead up to the week when we make the plan and make these displays interesting, where possible interactive.

Attendance at meetings etc. as elected public representative:

Weds 3 rd July	Totnes Community Conversation event about Climate Emergency - planning meeting Staverton PC meeting
Thurs 4 th July	Berry Pomeroy PC meeting
Friday 5 th July	South Hams HATOC - Cancelled ('nothing for the agenda'!)
Sat. 6 th July	Totnes TC Climate Emergency meeting (see separate report) Staverton Riverside Community Supper - delightful
Tues 9 th July	Totnes Community Hub to discuss new arrangements and facilities to support local Homeless people Harberton PC meeting Buckfastleigh Bat count – to inform Devon Biodiversity records
Weds 10 th July	SHDC Member sessions regarding the Joint Local Plan and the draft Special Planning Document being prepared Dartington PC meeting
Thurs 11 th July	Totnes Community Conversation event about Climate Emergency - planning meeting Meeting with SHDC officer to discuss process and progress with Climate Emergency Action plans
Fri 12 th July	SHDC Waste Working Group. Discussed the new operations. This group (of which i'm a member) will monitor these. Also it will look at how the Climate Emergency and plastic free initiatives can be supported.
Sat. 13 th July	Totnes Community Conversation event re; the response to the Climate Emergency in Totnes – well attended
Sun. 14 th July	Natural Flood Management seminar in Buckfasleigh with Environment Agency and others – very informative
Tues 16 th July	Talk about 5G held by local activists
Weds 17 th July	SHDC Development Management (Planning) committee. The Riverford application for their new Canteen was approved
Thurs 18 th July	SHDC Executive Meeting - observed Transition Exeter event to inform and support Parish Councils about Climate Emergency Action plans
Mon 22 nd July	Meeting with <i>Regenerative</i> Planner about developments that mitigate and address Climate Change

Tues 23 rd July	DCC workshop with Exeter University; training for Local Authorities in calculating their Carbon footprint Extinction Rebellion Totnes – Totnes meeting
Thurs 24 th July	Meeting with TTT about the outcomes of the Community Conversation event Informal meeting with T.Cllrs and local fire officers about the public consultation on proposed cuts (see above) Bridgetown Alive! Meeting
Thurs 25 th July	SHDC Full Council - see report above Extinction Rebellion – talk & update
Mon 29 th July	Launch of Chrysalis – a mobile community space by Encounters group: (Currently seeking a parking space)
Weds 31 st July	Meeting with SHDC Officers regarding Follaton Arboretum – managing as a community open space Totnes & District Traffic & Transport Forum (see report above)
Thurs 1 st Aug.	Berry Pomeroy PC. Meeting
Tues 6 th Aug	Meeting at Totnes Cemetery to discuss options for wildflower planting to replace grass and support biodiversity
Sat 10 th Aug	Totnes TC – Declaration of a Climate Emergency – Public Event - Actions + next steps
Mon 12 th Aug	SHDC - DM Committee site meetings
Weds 14 th Aug	SHDC - DM (Planning) Committee
Fri 16 th Aug	Landworks Community Open Day: This project continues to inspire and help people to change their lives
Thurs 22 nd Aug	Totnes - Vire meeting. Seeking ways to get the TC more involved
Thurs 29 th Aug	SHDC Climate Emergency Working group - discussed their terms of reference and next steps Totnes TC - Neighbourhood Plan meeting
Fri 30 th Aug	Meeting with United Nations Climate Change Accredited Teacher to discuss more teachers across Devon taking the 15 hour course and becoming similarly accredited to bring this work into our schools
Mon 2 nd Sept.	Totnes TC meeting. The Town was declared a Plastic Free Town by Surfers against Sewage. A moratorium was declared on the roll out of further masts and mobile phone until they are proven to be safe
Weds 4 th Sept.	Staverton PC meeting
Thurs 5 th Sept.	Meeting with Transition Town Totnes & Totnes Extinction Rebellion group to discuss the Totnes Climate Emergency Action Plan DCC Climate Emergency Action Plan Scrutiny Working Group meeting (I'm now part of this)
Friday 6 th Sept.	Meeting with Totnes resident & T.Cllr to discuss 5G health studies
Sat. 7 th Sept.	Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement (TRAYE) project Steering Group meeting (recent activity report attached) Totnes Pride Festival - the largest attendance yet!
Mon 9 th Sept.	Attendance at DCC School Transport panel to support local parent South Devon Refugee Support Network meeting
Tues 10 th Sept.	Caring Town Totnes - network meeting: outcomes of catchment survey presented and discussed Harberton PC meeting

Diary Dates

Weds 1 st Sept.	10.30am DCC Cabinet meeting at County Hall.
Thurs 19 th Sept.	Thurs 26 th Sept. SHDC Full Council meeting
Sat 21 st Sept.	Totnes TC Climate Emergency 10am Meeting & 1pm Totnes Wombles day of Action - Litter Pick (see above)
Weds 25 th Sept	6.30pm – 8pm Totnes & District Traffic & Transport Forum mtg (Dartmouth Inn, upstairs)