

**Key Issues Devon County Council: At the Full Council meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>**, In accordance with the Council's Public Participation Rules, the Leader and relevant Cabinet Members responded to 15 questions from members of the public on street furniture and their refurbishment including how they operated, the duty of care towards Devon residents and public liability insurance, researching the legal obligation and duty of care for residents affected by high frequency radiation, provision of white zones, greenhouse gas emission levels for Devon's District and City Councils, Dartmoor National Park and Town Council areas for Climate Action Plans and the calculation of these figures, climate change marches and the detrimental impact of a 5G rollout on the environment, Government data on CO2 emissions (reductions made by industry versus increases in transport emissions) and annual estimates for transport CO2 emissions for the next 3 years, definition and written procedure on a 5g Moratorium and how this affected people's rights, what the Council was doing to increase the number of safe cycle routes and footpaths to encourage healthier and greener ways of getting to school, climate emergency declarations and training workshops and networking meetings to support and assist others to achieve carbon neutrality in towns, reviews of all relevant policies (procurement, investment, waste and public transport) to ensure they addressed the Climate Emergency and accorded with the emerging Climate Action Plan, dates for an evidence-led Devon Carbon plan and delegation of decisions to unelected community members, annual carbon reduction targets for the next decade and the review of the target of zero carbon by 2050 in light of earlier targets set by other local authorities in Devon, the Council's message to those who partook in the Global Strike for Climate on 20th September, the lack of safety studies by Public Health England and inadequacy of ICNIRP guidelines on 5G and its impacts and the relevant Act or directive that determined the rollout of 5G in Devon.

The Chair of the Council thanked all participants for their contributions. [NB: A copy of the questions and answers are available on the Council's Website at <http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=132&Year=0> and may be observed through the webcast].

**At that Full Council meeting I proposed the following motions:**

*'That DCC amends the Declaration of a Climate Emergency to include an Ecological Emergency'.*

*'In response to the recent Climate & ecological Emergency protests, this Council will reconsider its date for becoming carbon neutral from 2050 to a revised date of 2025'.*

Despite my requests for DCC to reflect the urgency of these matters and take a vote at that meeting, both notices of motion were referred, without discussion, to the Cabinet for consideration.

**Devon Carbon Plan: The following news bulletin has been issued by DCC. "Help Devon to be 'Net-Zero' what's your idea?"** The top team of environmental experts who have been charged with ensuring that Devon becomes a net-zero county want your ideas on how to reduce carbon emissions as quickly as possible.

The Net-Zero Task Force has been appointed by the [Devon Climate Emergency Response Group](#) – made up of Devon's councils, emergency services and business groups - to deliver the Devon Carbon Plan. The Carbon Plan will lay out in stark terms what every resident, organisation and business has to do to reduce emissions and help safeguard the planet for the next generation.

This Call for Evidence is open to everybody, and submissions can be made through the [Devon Climate Emergency website](#), and every submission will be reviewed by the Task Force.

Submissions will feed into the creation of the Carbon Plan, which includes a series of thematic hearings in November and December. Each hearing will focus on the different parts of our society that produce most of the emissions, like transport for instance. The hearings will seek to understand what needs to happen and what we all need to do to achieve rapid decarbonisation in Devon, and how it can be delivered.

Then the Task Force will present a series of 'options' to a Citizen's Assembly - and the deliberations of the Citizen's Assembly will lead to the Draft Devon Carbon Plan, which is due for publication next spring.

**Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee meeting 17<sup>th</sup> October '19.** The outcomes of the public consultation held earlier in the year on whether to retain the Reuse Credit Scheme payments being made to REFURNISH and the other large goods recycling outlets came before this committee. Regrettably, and despite various representations from myself and David banks from Refurnish to both the County Council in May and to this Committee, the following decision was taken:

- (a) that the contribution that the Reuse Credit Scheme has made to encouraging furniture reuse in Devon and the commitment of staff, volunteers and customers in supporting RCS be recognised;
- (b) that *Option 1 (Proposal) - 'Discontinue the RCS through a phased reduction in allocation'* as set out in paragraph 3 of the Report be approved; and
- (c) that consideration be given to allocating the proposed savings made in 2021/22 towards a new Waste and Recycling Advisors (WRA) contract to enable additional resources to have a wider impact.

I am deeply disappointed by this decision which is likely to lead to a reduction in services by REFURNISH and the other similar providers as this support is vital to their base income. I also believe that this does not reflect the results of the public consultation which indicated a groundswell of support for Option 3, which was to retain the RCS payments of £48,500.00 pa to these companies, i.e the approximate cost of 2 DCC staff members to deliver all this recycling and diversion of waste from landfill. I will be asking further questions at DCC regarding what I consider to be a flawed and political decision. In the meantime, I have nominated Mr David Banks as a RECYCLING HERO. See this link if you would like to support this too:

<https://www.recycledevon.org/node/720/done?sid=26455&token=4d69a230f7753060a404088d96c3e346>

#### **South Hams District Council – key issues:**

The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that is intended to assist interested parties in the understanding and implementation of the JLP has now been issued for public consultation for 6 weeks. When this came before Executive Committee for delegated approval to be published for public consultation, I sought assurance that submissions from this consultation exercise would be truly taken into account and reflected in the next stage of the document; I was given this assurance, but would advise any interested parties or those making submissions to check that concerns expressed by the public are reflected in the final document.

#### **LOCAL MATTERS:**

**Illegal Traveller Camps and Residential Vehicles:** I met with a group of approx. 18 Dartington residents to discuss the three illegally parked caravans sited in Barracks Hill, Longcause and Sawpit Lane. I have also received complaints from a number of other residents regarding other illegal caravans and residential vehicles, large proportion of these in South Hams are in rural parishes in this County division surrounding Totnes. As previously reported I am frequently in contact with officers at SHDC and DCC regarding the clear and rising need for properly serviced transit and permanent sites to be developed and made available to meet what is becoming a clear residential need. Further to my earlier requests, South Hams agreed well over a year ago to establish a Traveller Forum on the model of that established by Teignbridge District Council, however this has not happened, however I have applied more pressure and they have agreed to look into this again but would apply a more inclusive interpretation of the definition of Traveller, rather just limit any such Forum to Roma Gypsies and Travellers. In the meantime a Members Session has been arranged at SHDC to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020, with a view to hosting a Forum event at the end of the following month.

#### **Totnes Town Council Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Planning events- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

A separate document is attached. This event was highly successful and well attended including residents and Councillors from towns and parishes outside of Totnes. A draft Action Plan based on the sessions will be prepared for December TC meeting and subject to agreement will be circulated for wider public consultation until mid-January.

**Totnes Travel Partnership mtg. (15.10.19)** The 106 monies from the redevelopment at Baltic Wharf which is now almost at 90% occupancy and due to trigger these monies for projects was discussed. Green Travel Coordination for this development and the new residents as well as a Green Travel Coordinator for the town that formed part of the 106 agreement was discussed and how this could be managed considered.

**Local Drug Dealing issues:** This matter has been raised as serious in this county division. It is essentially a matter for the police and they should be notified of any urgent matters. However it is a multi-agency matter that is included in the provisions of the Community Safety partnership

<http://www.victimcaredevonandcornwall.org.uk/Drug-and-alcohol-Issues/Victim-Support/>. This on-line link includes a list of agencies and their contact details plus a **Victim Care call line number 0300 3030 554**

**Devon Children and Families Partnership** has a website with information and contacts regarding the so-called County Lines, which is the police term used to describe gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas, market and coastal towns across the UK using dedicated mobile phone lines. They provide a list of signs that a child or young person is involved in county lines. <https://www.dcfp.org.uk/child-abuse/county-lines-and-criminal-exploitation/>

**Attendance at meetings etc. as elected public representative:**

- Tues Oct 1st Totnes Travel Partnership: to discuss Green Travel Coordination  
Meeting with reps from Rattery PC and South Brent PC to discuss Climate Action – public engagement
- Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. Staverton Parish Council meeting
- Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct DCC Full Council meeting – see report above  
Berry Pomeroy Parish Council meeting
- Fri. 4<sup>th</sup> Oct DCC Climate Action scrutiny working group
- Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. SHDC DM (Planning) Committee site visits  
Totnes TC – Full Council meeting:  
My motion to amend the Climate Emergency Declaration to include Ecological Emergency was approved. The TC also approved a motion to become an ‘Earth Protector Town’
- Weds 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. SHDC DM (Planning) Committee: the DRA application for the Children’s new Play area and BMX Bike track at Meadowbrook was considered & approved by a majority of one. I spoke against the Bike Track element due to this being sited in a woodland and in my view will have a substantial adverse impact on the woodland and its understory habitats and the wildlife not only there but those that use the connectivity of this wildlife corridor. I sincerely hope that the DRA will reconsider this and that bike track will be relocated outside the wildlife area.  
Dartington Parish Council Meeting
- Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Oct SHDC Climate & Biodiversity Emergency working group: update on progress  
South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau AGM – attended  
Totnes Neighbourhood Plan meeting – the draft plan will go to public consultation in November
- Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Oct SHDC Waste Working group; overview of new services
- Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement (TRAYE) project – Steering Group meeting  
Public meeting hosted by Sarah Wollaston MP regarding the Climate Emergency
- Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Oct Meeting with David Banks from Refurnish regarding DASWC meeting  
Totnes Travel Partnership – see report above
- Weds 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. Transition Town Totnes (TTT) – Core Group meeting – attended
- Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. DCC – Heart of South West (HOSW)& Local Enterprise Committee (LEP) scrutiny committee – I attended and spoke.  
Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) meeting – I sent in a statement (but it coincided with HOSW meeting) – see report above.
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> – Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. Communiversity. Representatives from Stroud, Glastonbury, Frome and myself from Totnes had a weekend long seminar to see where our progressive towncs can share ideas and information and work closer together on Climate & Ecological Emergency measures. Very interesting & productive.
- Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. TTT Climate Change workshop – ‘public engagement & getting the climate change message across’
- Weds 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) – I presented on the work of Totnes TC regarding Climate & Ecological Emergency at a workshop, together with other speakers from S.Brent, DCC and N. Devon Totsoc AGM – attended

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Oct.- Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. Lifeworks, Dartington – Family Quest 3-day seminar – wonderful and inspiring

Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Oct Meeting with Totnes Rowing Association  
Meeting with Dartington residents regarding illegal roadside camps

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct Totnes Extinction Rebellion meeting

Weds 30<sup>th</sup> Oct Totnes & District Traffic & Transport meeting: considered Climate Emergency measures

Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Oct SHDC Executive Meeting: discussed the new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that will clarify the Joint Local Plan (JLP) is now out for public consultation.

SHDC member's briefing was held to discuss options regarding CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) which SHDC has not adopted – as yet.

SHDC Enforcement Officers meeting with Members – individual sessions. I received some updates and there was a lot of discussion around the illegal camps in my ward.

**Diary Dates:**

Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> – National Tree Charter – tree planting day

Friday November 29<sup>th</sup> – South Hams HATOC

Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> December – Devon County Council Full Council meeting at 2.15pm

Weds 11<sup>th</sup> December – Devon County Council Cabinet meeting at 10.30am