

# Southern Link

## Northern - Eastern

Location: **Council Chamber, Kilworthy Park**

Date: **14<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Time: **7:00pm**

### **Present:**

#### **Town and Parish Council**

Bere Ferres – Cllr Brian Lamb & Cllr P. Crozier

Brentor – Cllr Terry Pearce

Buckland Monachorum – Cllr Dave Butland & Cllr Susan Woollacott

Burrator Grouped – Not represented

Dartmoor Forest – Not represented

Gulworthy – Cllr Kate Royston

Horrabridge - Not represented

Kelly - Not represented

Lamerton – Cllr John Edgar & Cllr David Green

Lewdown Grouped – Cllr Tom Andrews & Cllr Terry Southcott

Lifton – Cllr Chris Edmonds

Lydford – Not represented

Mary Tavy – Cllr Tony Williams & Cllr Paul Reid

Milton Abbot Grouped – Cllr Ray Brewer

Plasterdown Grouped – Cllr Neil Howes

Peter Tavy – Cllr Jim Jeffery

Stowford – Cllr Lorna St Louis & Cllr Leroy St Louis

Sydenham Damerel - Not represented

Tavistock – Cllr Anne Johnson & Cllr Ginnie Parker

**WDBC** – Drew Powell

**WDBC Members** – Cllr Terry Southcott Bridestowe Ward, Cllr Terry Pearce Mary Tavy Ward, Cllr Neil Jory Leader of WDBC, Cllr Chris Edmonds Tamarside Ward, Cllr Debo Sellis Tavistock South East Ward, Cllr Andy Coulson Tavistock North Ward,

**Chair** – Cllr Chris Edmonds

**Clerk** – Bethany Aubertin

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**Other** – John Fewings (Devon County Council)

The Chair thanked those for attending and introduced himself for those who were not at the last meeting – Cllr Chris Edmonds is now the Chair of the Southern Link. The Chair then introduced John Fewings from Devon County Council, here to discuss Highways issues that are on-going in the Parishes.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Steve Hipsey & Cllr Jeffrey Moody – Tavistock North Ward

Cllr James Spettigue – Tavistock East Ward

Cllr Steve Squires – Lydford PC

Cllr Simon Hill – Plasterdown PC

Cllr Bill Lane – Peter Tavy PC

### **2. Agreement on Notes of Last Meeting**

Notes agreed of the last meeting

### **3. DCC - Highways**

The Chair welcomes Cllr Debo Sellis who a County Councillor as well as a Borough Councillor for West Devon.

John Fewings started the Highways discussion by thanking the Southern Link for inviting him to the meeting. John had put together a few items to address before opening the meeting up to questions.

Permit system for Highways works – John advised the meeting that Devon County are moving over to a permit system that allows more control over the work carried out on the Highways. At the moment, DCC are advised of work that is going to take place but do not have any control over when work is carried out. This can mean that multiple pieces of work are carried out over a small area, which can cause major traffic issues.

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The permit system means that contractors have to apply to carry out work and Devon County can have more of a say on when this work is carried out and co-ordinate it better. If emergency work is required then a retrospective permit can be applied for.

Using one system to programme work – at the moment Devon County are using multiple system to map and report work to be carried out. They are moving on to a single map based system that will allow them to better co-ordinate schemes internally. This will also make it easier for Parishes and residents to better find the information they require about upcoming work.

Doing What Matters – this is a new system of working with Parishes. It means Devon County and each Parish working together to collect data and agree priorities. This has already been rolled out across Torrington and is due to be rolled out in Chagford shortly. Once the Parish is enrolled on to the scheme, Devon County will be in touch to arrange a meeting to discuss the issues in that locality.

Maintenance – this has been based on yearly surveys, John is not happy with this way of working and is looking to make improvements on this system.

Grass cutting and drainage – John advised that they have had issues with the current contractor. They are not happy with the work that is being carried out and so regular audits are being conducted in an attempt to improve the service that this being received.

The meeting was then opened up to questions and concerns from the Parish Councillors.

Cllr Lamb advised that recently, work had been carried out to repair a road. When the contractor was finished, they had excess materials. This was then used to tarmac a private driveway in the village. Cllr Lamb asked if this excess material could be offered to the Parish first so that they could point out any local issues that the materials could be used on.

John advised that when the contractor is sent the job, the size of the pothole etc is calculated along with the amount of material required, ie a bill of quantities. This is the amount that Devon County pays for. Therefore, any excess materials are still the ownership of the contractor. Although they can ask the contractor to contact the Parish first, they will usually look for someone locally that holds a U1 licence.

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There was a lot of discussion throughout the meeting surrounding issues with speed, speeding and wanting to reduce the speed on a certain stretch of road. John advised that any changes to a speed limit, ie adjusting the full stretch or moving where the limits begin/end requires a traffic regulation order. To obtain a TRO, it goes through a joint forum, SCARF (Speed compliance and review forum), between various authorities to discuss the requirement and accident and speed data before coming to a decision. This forum meets 4 times a year meaning it can take time for a request to go through the appropriate channels. To start this process, please contact your Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

Another topic that came up regularly was surface water on the roads. John advised that this is generally due to blocked gullies. DCC are having problems with the contractor for this work. Usually each gully would be cleaned annually. However, they are trying to find a better way of working around this which involves regular checks in order to track how often each gully needs to be cleared instead of just the annual clean for each one. John highlighted that there are over 240,000 so it is a big undertaking. If you do find that there is a gully or drain that is causing a particular problem, please do report it on the Devon County website as it may be that an issue with mud or leaves has caused a blockage.

When discussing the Lengthsman funding that once was, John advised that unfortunately they just do not have the budget for this anymore, it has been cut almost in half over the last few years. However, as they are carrying out an audit of the contractor, please report every time you notice work that is required as this will help Devon County to put together a better report to take to the contractor and hopefully have them performing better.

The Chair summed up the meeting – there are lots of ongoing issues but John has advised of how they are working to improve all of these. This is going to take some time but hopefully we will be looking at a much better service from the contractor and in other areas within 2020.

John has taken a note of some of the specific concerns from the Parish Councillors and will be feeding these back.

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#### 4. Matters Arising

Cllr Lamb discussed the Cemetery Management Training Course being arranged. At the time of the meeting, there were 7 confirmed attendees and 12 spaces. This will held at the end of February in Bere Alston Village Hall. Please contact Cllr Lamb if you wish to attend.

#### 5. AOB

N/A

#### Dates and Venues for future meetings

**Superlink - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 7.00pm – Council Chamber, Kilworthy Park**