

June County Councillor Report

Cllr Louise Wainwright



TRAFFIC ORDERS

I attended my first **South Hams Traffic Orders Committee** meeting on 8th June to consider a number of changes to road use (speed limits, parking restrictions etc). I am now the **Vice Chair** of this Committee. The relevant Traffic Orders to Salcombe Division were **ENV6140-412 A/B/C/D** for new road marking preventing parking at any time. These were unanimously approved. I had the opportunity to discuss a number of initiatives with **Tom Hall, Head of Highways**, at this meeting and the outcomes are included in the list of improved communications below.

I am grateful to **Cllr Mark Long** who spent a day with me to help me orientate on the key highways issues in the **Thurlestone, Salcombe, Malborough, West Alvington, South Huish** and **South Milton** neighbourhoods.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION on HIGHWAYS

A collaborative effort to improve communications is likely to address the general complaint that 'no one is listening', 'nothing is happening'. This could not be further from the truth and I am making it my job to ensure that we are aware of the great work our Highways teams are doing with the limited budgets at their disposal. I have established an excellent working relationship with our **Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Adam Keays**, who is fully in support of the improved communications and evidence gathering plan described below.

1. A series of **site visits** with NHO, myself and representative parish councillors will inspect and discuss priorities identified by the parish council. This process began with sites visits on 27th June in **Loddiswell, Aveton Gifford, Churchstow** and **Thurlestone** to review priorities and agree the way forward. If possible the Clerk should attend to take minutes or delegate this to a parish councillor to report back to parish council.
2. Adam has provided the **current provisional list of works** in these parishes, which I have shared with their Clerks. When Adam returns from leave we will confirm a series of site visits to all parishes.
3. Prior to the site visits – parish councils are requested to confirm, after a full Agenda item, the **current priorities** of the highways repair programme in your parish. The Clerk to send these agreed priorities to Adam and copy to myself please. adam.keay@devon.gov.uk louise.wainwright@devon.gov.uk Please channel all communications **through the Clerk** so that we can confirm that these have been discussed and the local priorities agreed. Please note that I am

awaiting information from Head of Highways for the **scoring system** they use to determine priorities. It makes sense for the **parishes to use the SAME SCORING** system so that it feeds more easily into the district-wide system of prioritising works.. I will provide this information as soon as possible. It may have to be retrospectively added once you have agreed the general list of priorities and may involve some training.

4. Parish Councils should continue to encourage the use of the **Report It portal** on the Devon County Council website. I am assured that Officers [review this on a daily basis](#) and make prompt inspections of reported serious defects for immediate action or included this in the review of priorities and planned works. Please respect the process and be assured that it is not being ignored. We will **communicate better** about the programme of works going forward which are informed by site visits from the **Highways Response Team** or our NHO, as a result of the Report It entry. [Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)
5. Head of Highways has offered to provide me with access to a **pilot scheme** which will enable me to **view all planned works from all highways budgets** over the immediate to long term – within the **Salcombe Division**. I will discuss with NHO Adam Keays about how we will share this information with parish councils – on the understanding that it is a **provisional list and priorities will change** for a number of valid reasons.
6. My forthcoming six-monthly **digital magazine ‘The Same Page’** will feature an **editorial on Highways** which will provide a guide to how our highways are maintained and repaired and how we can get involved through appointment of a **Parish Lengthsman or Road Warden**.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

Concerns about anti-social and illegal parking on double yellow lines by both locals and holiday makers has been brought to my attention in Thurlestone and Bantham.

A **live event** should be reported here: [Report a problem - Roads and transport](#) with a photograph of the illegal parking to include the car registration Please be reassured that strict **GDPR** protocols will prevent anyone using the Report It portal from being identified.

We have 2 Enforcement Officers covering South Hams. For enforcement to be effective we need to provide more detailed information (if there is a **pattern of behaviour**) about the **peak times** and **days** when these offences are happening. The Clerk should enter this information in the Report it portal and make me also aware that a report has been made of **regular illegal parking**. This collaboration has already improved issues in

Thurlestone. Thurlestone PC are considering putting a **QR code linked to the Report** it website on the grass verge where the offences regularly occur. This system has worked well when used on SHDC waste bins that need to be emptied.

SPEED LIMITS

Several parishes have raised concerns about speeding, the volume of traffic and their views on the need for more signs and zebra crossings. This should be included in the requested **parish highways priority list** and communicated to myself and Adam.

Following a site visit with councillors (as described above) Adam will consider if there is a realistic prospect that a request could be assessed by the **Speed Compliance Action Review Forum (SCARF)**. If appropriate, he may initiate a discreet **speed check camera (24/7 over one week)** to provide evidence of the risks and needs. The SCARF process involves **DCC** and the **Devon and Cornwall Constabulary**.

One outcome of the SCRAF meeting could be the police collaborate with the community over a **community speed watch scheme** involving a trained community group deploying a hand-held speed camera in a defined area.

Some key points about speeding:

- Parishes can still **apply for the 20mph zones** to be considered but realistically there are only **3 to 5 zones agreed** throughout **Devon per year**. Adam can interrogate the database and inform applicants of their position on the 'to do' list.
- There is a motion before **DCC to extend the 20 mph zones** to be debated and voted on at next Full Council in September 2025.
- In the meantime, parish councils can work with local schools to implement the a **Twenty is Plenty** campaign. These signs must not look like official highways signs, must not be put on road side utility poles and have permission of the landowner. [20's Plenty for Us](#)

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DCC aims to address deficiencies in our current care arrangements for children and young people in care by providing new homes, support, residential therapeutic care, education and treatment for children with complex psychological, emotional and behavioural needs. DCC plan to deliver this through a strategic partnership worth up to £156 million.

This represents an ambitious move away from the council's previous preference to commission, rather than directly deliver, residential places for children in its care, councillors agreed to an multi-million investment programme to establish 12 new

children's homes; 20 specialist foster places; and up to four new therapeutic schools, over the next 10 years.

DISPOSABLE VAPES BAN

From 1 June 2025, single-use (disposable) vape products will be banned in the UK, as the Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) Regulations 2024 takes effect. See guidance on the Government's [website](#). The aim of the ban is to reduce plastic waste and promote more sustainable vaping options.