

DCC COUNCILLOR REPORT - AUGUST 2022

VAL RANGER

I am so very sorry we have lost the wonderful Val Ranger. I saw first hand what an amazing councillor and outstanding advocate she was for Newton Poppleford and Harpford. Even during her illness she continued to work for the community in an extraordinarily dedicated way.

As the new county councillor in May 2021, Val provided me with a huge amount of advice and I always knew that I could turn to her. Val was unceasingly supportive of me and I greatly admired both Val's dedication to the community and the way Val was a fearlessly outspoken champion for her community. I miss Val very much and can only imagine how difficult this time must be for her friends, family and loved ones and they are very much in my thoughts.

HIGHWAY SAFETY MEETING

Following the HATOC meeting on 22nd July a meeting has been convened for 10am on 29th September which will be attended by DCC Highways Officers and Cllr Stuart Hughes and representative(s) from the Parish Council are invited. I will ensure that a formal invite is sent to the Parish Council.

WATER LEAK ON ROAD TO HUNGER HILL COMMON

I have raised this with the neighbourhood highways officer Mike Brown who has set out his response below. I subsequently received correspondence from a resident who has very nearly fallen over on this road as a result of the slime. I have therefore contacted Mike Brown again and requested a site meeting and if possible I would like a representative from the Parish Council and the resident to attend. Once I have some dates for the meeting from Mike, I will contact Jacqui.

Dear Councillor Bailey

This was previously investigated in 2020 (enquiry references ENQ201352386 and ENQ201363394) and as South West Water had attended and found that the water was not from any of their pipes it was thought that it was most likely groundwater from a spring or an unidentified field drain.

The water running down the road is not a safety defect and in view of the category of the road and the scale of works which would be necessary, in an area where there

are no existing drainage systems which could be connected into, a highway drainage scheme is unlikely.

Yours sincerely

Mike Brown

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL LOCALITY BUDGETS

As you may be aware Devon County Council, having only just approved the 2022-3 budget, out of the blue and without warning, announced a "temporary suspension" of Councillors' locality budgets. It had already reduced the amount in this financial year from £10,000 to £8000, and to now find that it has been suspended is extremely disappointing not least because it is more important than ever with the ever deeper cuts and the cost of living crisis. This sudden 'suspension' seems a very short sighted and knee jerk approach to me which I am strongly opposed to. There is considerable opposition to the cut from Labour, Lib Dem, Green and Independent members so I do hope that the Conservative controlled council re-thinks this.

I am doing all that I can to ensure that the grants that Newton Poppleford were applying for have been/will be paid (notice board, defib training, speedwatch signs)

Cllr. Jessica Bailey
21st August 2022