

Report to Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council

19th May 2024

REDBRIDGE

The Redbridge was discussed by DCC cabinet's meeting on 8th May 2023. I attended this meeting. This discussion took place with the press and public excluded. I attach the published minutes at the end of this report. I have requested a briefing note from officers that I can circulate to provide further information.

TIPTON SCHOOL

As you will be aware there is a public consultation on the proposed relocation of Tipton school to Ottery St Mary. I continue to support the school remaining in Tipton on a flood free site. I do not feel that the DfE report or the DCC report which have been published as part of the consultation, justify the school moving out of Tipton. Whilst it is described as a "relocation" it actually amounts to the loss of school for the village. I believe that DCC and DfE should be finding the capital to purchase a site within Tipton St John.

NOTICE OF MOTION AT DCC – SWIFT BOX

DCC holds its annual meeting on Thursday 23rd May. I have tabled a notice of motion on swift bricks. Swift bricks are a cheap and easy way to help reverse the drastic decline of swifts. I am urging DCC to write to Michael Gove to make swift bricks mandatory in all new housing developments. As Michael Gove is Secretary of State for Communities, he could so easily do this, yet for whatever reason, seems to be stalling.

Notice of Motion

The swift population has fallen by almost 60% in the last thirty years and it is estimated that there will be fewer than 40,000 pairs of swifts remaining in the UK by 2025.

Adding a swift brick to all new homes is an easy and cheap way to help ensure that swifts have somewhere to roost and nest at the end of their 3,400 mile journey. Introducing mandatory swift bricks will help stem the dramatic decline of this iconic species which was added to the red list in the 2021 UK Conservation Report as a species needing urgent action.

DCC notes local planning authorities face considerable difficulties in requiring swift bricks to be introduced in new builds as this has to be implemented through the lengthy local plan process. That is why we need Michael Gove urgently to change building regulations now to make swift bricks mandatory.

Devon County Council therefore agrees to write to the Secretary of State Michael Gove calling on him to urgently make swift bricks a mandatory requirement in all new housing development.

DCC also agrees to write to all Devon MPs urging them to press Michael Gove to support the mandatory introduction of swift bricks as a matter of urgency in order to stem the decline of swifts.

PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN THE HIGH STREET AND SCHOOL LANE

I pressed DCC public rights of way officer about finalising the PROW alongside the church and through EDDC's car park. Below is the response I received. Thank you to the excellent footpath warden Ted Swan for all his hard work in putting this forward as a formal PROW.

Hello Jess,

This one has been rumbling on for some time but is now coming to fruition. I was struggling to get a corporate response from EDDC as several different departments had an interest in it but were not committing to a definitive answer. However, they have now agreed not to oppose the proposed route through the car park and out onto School Lane. The only request that they have made is that the recorded route keeps as tight to the parking spaces as is feasible rather than running right through the middle of the signed vehicular route. This is a very minor tweak to the Order plan and won't have any impact on how the route is signed or used on the ground.

I've got the Order drafted, so will be getting it sealed and published as soon as I've got the approval of the PROW Committee chair as per the minutes.

Thanks.

Tom

GOOD NEWS FOR FOOTPATH 1

I met with Cllr Chris Burhop, Ted Swan and DCC PROW Officer at Footpath 1 a few months ago where we identified various works that needed to be done. I know that Ted and members of the community have been doing a great job sorting out various issues, but there was one section which needed capital expenditure - the extremely narrow section close to the Ash Tree. As the DCC councillor I did what I could to ensure that this would be prioritized amongst the many competing projects at DCC and I'm so pleased that this funds for this project have been found within DCC's budget this year.

WALL ALONGSIDE A3052 (GOOSEMOOR END)

I am really concerned about the collapsing wall on the Goosemoor side of the A3052 and have asked DCC's neighbourhood highways officer and enforcement officer what action can be taken to address this, as a matter of urgency.

DISCUSSION ABOUT POTENTIAL DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

At the last PC meeting a few weeks ago we talked about potential DYs. I have contacted Mike Brown to ask for dates to visit NP to discuss potential DYs with us and will let you know when the suggested dates come through from him.

Cllr Jess Bailey (Independent)
Devon County Councillor (Otter Valley)

* 548 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes, and

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act namely the financial or business affairs of a third party and in accordance with Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

* 549 **Part II - Land purchase for Redbridge, River Otter**

(An item taken under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during which the press and public were excluded, no representations having been received to such consideration under Regulation 5(5) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012).

(Councillors Bailey, Biederman and Wrigley attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport, CET/24/29, circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with regulation 7(4) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

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CABINET
8/05/24

The Report gave the background on the footbridge (Harpford Bridge, also known as Red Bridge) across the River Otter between Newton Poppleford and Harpford and how it was used by the community.

The Cabinet noted how the River Otter was prone to movement, with adjacent fields providing important floodplain. The footbridge and connecting paths were subject to erosion from natural river realignment, and flood events. They further noted the monitoring of the condition of the footbridge and works to stabilise the banks.

The proposal for moving forwards was outlined in section three of the Report and other options and alternatives considered in section 4.

An Impact Assessment had also been circulated for the consideration of Members.

The matter having been debated and the options and alternatives and other relevant factors (e.g. financial, sustainability and carbon impact, risk management, equality and legal considerations and alignment with the Council's Strategic Plan) set out in the Director's Report having been considered:

it was **MOVED** by Councillor Hughes, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

RESOLVED that the recommendations as outlined in the Report at (a), (b) and (c) be approved in order to progress proposals for land purchase for Red Bridge, River Otter.