

November Report – Cllr Marcus Hartnell, Seaton & Colyton Division

Police Cllr Advocate Meeting held in Seaton

I hosted the latest Rural East Devon Police Cllr Advocate meeting at Marshlands in October. Various points were discussed, including:

- Speeding and anti-social motorists
- Use of Operation Snap to submit video evidence of irresponsible drivers
- <https://operationsnap.devon-cornwall.police.uk/>
- Safeguarding
- CCTV & use of Mobile CCTV unit
- 101 now has a call-back option to avoid waiting on hold
- Pavement parking
- Update on Carnivals across East Devon
- Number plate theft

Storm Ciaran

Following the recent flooding caused by Storm Ciaran, residents are asked to report any flooding of properties to Devon County Council by email floodrisk@devon.gov.uk or using the online form <https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/report-flooding-to-property/>

Seaton to Colyford Multi-Use Trail

The construction of the new section of the multi-use trail between Seaton and Colyford is into the final stages, with surfacing works now finished and a programme of planting and finishing touches continuing with a planned opening towards the end of November.

Seaton Hospital

Further to my email sent to Seaton Town Councillors on 20th October with attached briefing paper from NHS Devon, I attended and spoke at the Public Meeting held at Colyford on the 3rd November. At that meeting it was proposed and agreed that those speakers present would form a steering committee to explore options to secure the Hospital wards and with a clear remit that a deal should be done allowing the League of Friends and Re:store to develop and manage a Health & Wellbeing Hub. As Seatonians have fundraised significant sums of money over the years, including 100% of the funding for the ward wing, it was clear that everyone present felt that hard negotiations should take place with NHS Property Services to secure a free asset transfer or at the very least a minimal rental charge. There was an impressive turnout of around 400 people, with queues around the car park and many who turned away because they could not park. I have a further briefing with NHS Property Services this week.

Seafront Bus Shelters

As part of the “Bus back better” £14m Bus Improvement funding received by Devon County Council Seaton is to benefit from new bus shelters including those on the seafront, The plans will see the two current shelters (outside Pebbles and by Jubilee Gardens) relocated at Fisherman’s Gap creating a safer space for passengers to wait and the possibility of improving the adjacent public realm area with support from Seaton Town Council, East Devon District Council and Seaton Chamber.

Levelling up

The Levelling up & Regeneration Bill recently received Royal Assent. A raft of new measures came into force which the Government says will “put local people at the heart of development”. County and District Councils will be expected to work with a faster and less bureaucratic planning system with developers held to account.

More beautiful homes, built alongside GP surgeries, schools and transport links, and environmental enhancement. Communities taking back control of their future with new powers to shape their local area.

This all sounds very good, but of course the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and it will be interesting to see how Councils interpret the Bill, where seemingly it has a more urban than rural focus.

The Act says will:

- Boost local services – requiring developers to deliver vital infrastructure. This will put an end to lifeless edge-of-town developments with no community assets and ensure developers deliver the schools, doctors’ surgeries and public services communities need and expect. Further details on these measures will be set out shortly.
- Rebalance the housing and land markets, giving local councils the power to increase council tax on empty homes and reforming compensation for compulsory purchase orders by removing ‘hope value’ where justified.
- Encourage developers to get building; giving communities updates on the progress of development and giving councils the chance to consider slow ‘build out’ rates when approving planning.
- Bring high streets back to life, giving councils the powers to work directly with landlords to bring empty buildings back in to use by local businesses and community groups through high street rental auctions. It will also make it faster for local authorities to give hospitality businesses permission to use outdoor seating

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