

Report to Ugborough Parish Council, 10/12/25

Cllr Victor Abbott, Devon County Council

All Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposals from around the County (including those produced from where we have representation) have been submitted. Those produced by near neighbours (Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay) tend to support each other in their particular area's growth and at a cost to us directly (Plymouth bidding to absorb us) or indirectly (emasculating Devon, leaving us as a stem of a cauliflower-shaped remnant stripped of educational and economic centres).

My own committee work has included participation in a Youth Briefing (with young people present in a workshop-style environment, asking questions of Cabinet Members); two Traffic Briefings (on Street Lighting and road materials), Full Council (with LGR as the principal topic), a meeting of the Corporate Infrastructure Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee (with two issues: the reduced lighting regime and finance), a South Hams Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (SH HATOC) where we discussed traffic management across the District, and a Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee, County's Full Council.

Coming up: the Development Management Committee.

As a result of local representations on traffic problems at Ermington Road and with the agreement of the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO), changes will be proposed to the SH Highways and Traffic Orders Committee, in the new year.

There has been a second Youth event (to which I could not go). Feedback from other County Councillors includes:

- . They were apolitical, erudite, and we need them on local/ (eg our Parish) Council!
- . DCC will discuss how to integrate their voices into Full County Council
- . A significant statement. "Well we are all at school. Come and talk to us. Tell us what you have done for us. Don't over promise and underperform. We want to hear what actions you have taken".

There is a Youth Grant, search: Devon Youth Grant Communities.

Of note from DCC

It would seem central government funding of local government will be focussed on cities and not upon counties.

DCC have implemented auto-enrolment to pupils whose family income makes them entitled to free school meals. This has meant more than 1,000 pupils in Devon who were entitled to free school meals but not previously receiving them, are now getting free meals at school.

There is an offer to book your child onto Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme for the Winter break. The offer is four sessions per child. The Government-funded scheme provides activities and nutritional meals during the holidays to children aged 5 to 16 who receive benefits-related free school meals.

Four new coworking spaces have joined Devon's Work Hub network. The Good Space in Dawlish, Propeller in Exmouth, Tiverton Work Hub, and UNIT 2 CoWorking in Kingsbridge, are the latest additions to the expanding number of independently run, locally-focused work hubs across the county.

The successful child pedestrian safety training for primary schoolchildren has received additional funding from Vision Zero South West to continue through to March 2028. "Walkability" child pedestrian training was launched last year, and more than 4,070 pupils from 48 schools in Exeter, North Devon and the surrounding area have so far taken part in the current pilot, which is delivered by Active Devon on behalf of Devon County Council and funded by Vision Zero South West.

Devon's foster carers will benefit from improved fees and allowances for looking after a child from April. DCC's Cabinet approved a £2 million investment into the authority's fostering service, and we are exhorted to encourage others to become foster carers.

A new employment scheme is being launched in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay to help support almost 6,000 people into work over the next five years. The Connect to Work programme, backed by £22.7 million from the UK Government's Get Britain Working Programme, is being led and delivered by the three local authorities to ensure support reflects local priorities and reaches the people who need it most. It will improve access to employment,

health and skills support, and help reduce economic inactivity across the region.

Ugborough West

I have two issues concerning North Filham.

There is a road sign at about W3W ///successor.prancing.duos when heading from [\\\\\\bittaford](#) towards the Rutt Lane roundabout. There is a branch masking the sign. Is it possible to ask the lengthsman to clear it?

Just east of the sign, about ///approach.shepherdess.strength there is the eastern entrance to the Rutt Lane south SEND School site. Last week there was work to drill to 150' and test for heat transfer in circulating water.

Some preparatory work had been done to strengthen the entrance with stone but it is completely covered in mud, as is the footpath. The footpath is also broken.

Poor practice with holding a low loader on site for hours (instead of sending it away and bringing it back) meant severe interruption to a resident's movement. Passage along the footpath is difficult for the unsteady and those in wheelchairs. Both apply to local residents.

This is a Department of Education project.

I have asked the appropriate NHO for help here (it's the Ivybridge Division not Ugborough), but we are yet to move towards even a temporary solution. The rejection of the Aldi build means the associated S106-financed improvements at North Filham are on hold and the imminent improvements to the residents of the North Filham cottages footpath/ cycleway and parking are delayed until the next application and build.