

Teignmouth Town Council – 13 MARCH 2023
Town Councillor's Report – Councillor Joan Atkins

WAVELENGTH's 6th edition either is, or is about to be, published widely – hard copies (300) going to the town's hubs, churches, pubs, etc, and emailed to the town's organisations and community groups, schools, surgeries, etc, plus the online presence on the website and social media. Arrangements for the next edition will have to be made after the election but anyone who wishes to submit copy or news of events, etc, should send them to me in the meantime.

The St James' Church Pop Up Café

Attendance at the church's Pop-Up Cafe is going from strength to strength – particularly among young people – there were around 25 who called in over half term plus 3 adults and at the end of February this had risen to 33 and 8 adults and they weren't just passers-by. There had been a fair showing of people who had dropped in initially, and this is encouraging, and particularly illustrates the need for our young people to congregate somewhere. A list of all the Teignmouth venues offering a safe, warm place is on the website for reference with a **caveat about checking days and times** since there have been some discrepancies and inaccuracies published elsewhere – it will also be repeated in **WAVELENGTH**. Our Lady and St Patrick's RC Church has also come on-stream and details are awaited to add to the list.

It does appear that funding is becoming an issue generally as the supply of food donations seems to be becoming patchy and also the events are developing, in some cases, into spin-off cooking courses (The Alice Cross Centre), etc, for which funding is required. Details of how to apply to the Council in the new financial year have been passed on and the new Grants Policy should be uploaded to the website in the near future.

The full list for Teignmouth that we know of is:

The Alice Cross Centre, Bitton Park Road, has a Heat Café on **Mondays and Thursdays 1.30– 4pm**, food and hot drinks, free or pay what you can.

St James Church, Bitton Park Road – **Tuesday afternoon 2 – 5pm** offering a free drink and a snack to all ages in the Church itself

Teignmouth Baptist Church, Fore Street – hot soup and a roll on **Wednesday 12.30 – 2pm**

Teignmouth Library – warm, welcoming and here for life, a designated warm site. Free hot drinks, **Wednesday and Friday mornings 10 – 12 noon**. Also, there is a Warm Coat (hat, scarf, gloves) Rack in the foyer where people can donate a warm coats and other clean item(s) that may help someone else out and where those who need one can take one, for free. Check first if you have something to drop off, as they were oversubscribed with donations (which is great).

Kingsway Meadow Centre Cosy Club, **Mondays 1 – 3 pm and Thursdays 10 - 12noon** – free drinks and snacks and activities such as jigsaws, board games.

Our Lady and St Patrick's RC Church - details awaited of times, days, etc.

If anyone else knows of anywhere else in Teignmouth that would like to be added to this list, please contact Cllr Joan Atkins joanatkins@teignmouth-devon.gov.uk who will arrange it, put it on the Town Council website and social media platforms. Thank you.

Residents Parking Zone permit users and changes in who requires permits

The Residents Parking Permit renewal now requires you to upload proof of address and car ownership and create an account before a virtual permit can be issued OR, apparently, visitors permit books be sent. A warning that renewal is due and how to proceed is sent out in the post a month before. I still have to dice with that system but it is extremely daunting you– can't wait to see if you can get a book of permits without a car, if you live in the RPZ as should be possible.

There is a link in the renewal letter but full information and instructions can also be found here: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/parking/parking-permits/> including a telephone number if you get stuck in the process

DRUG USE AND ABUSE

We have a problem local to St James churchyard plus evidence of hard drug usage discarded in the surrounding streets, the presence of the local drug dealer openly riding about on his deliveries and concerns about the proximity of all this to young people going to and from school. It has been raised with the local Beat Team and Acting Chief Inspector Philp at our continuing monthly meetings (as OPCC Cllr Advocate) since the situation seems to be getting worse rather than better despite some enhanced targeting of on-street drug use and dealing, from patrols over recent weekends. But as ever, reporting, reporting, reporting cannot be stressed strongly enough – with times, dates, locations, etc, as eventually a vital piece of intelligence may be the bit that completes the jigsaw puzzle and allows escalation of police action. If you are worried for your safety in case you are identified then use Crimestoppers. 0800 555 111 which is anonymous.

The State of Dental Service Provision

You will recall that I was awaiting permission from NHS England to open the contents of the response to my letter of complaint about provision of NHS dentists in Teignmouth and, that having been granted, is now posted on the website for information.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND THE LOCAL PLAN

We are still awaiting further comments from Teignbridge on our Plan (already revised once – you recall they called it in to offer informal comments and to decide whether an SEA/HRA assessment was needed in October 2021 and got back to us in February 2022 with comments and reports indicating no SEA/HRA was necessary. We made amendments and then did the Reg. 14 pre-examination consultation Jly/Aug. 2022 and made subsequent adjustments established by the responses. Then, because of the change of government policy on housing TDC called it in again in December 2022 having decided that there was also a need for an SEA/HRA and we await suggested amendments with baited breath. Meantime, we continue to put the Consultation Report together having got the Basic Conditions Report finished. It was hoped that whilst the TDC Draft Local Plan was out for consultation (closing date 13 March) it would expedite return of our plan but, as yet, no indication has been given of an expected date.

REPORT of the Councillor Advocate

The 2022 Annual Report of Community Speedwatch from the OPCC's Office has been circulated to all councillors and posted on the website in the News section for a limited time. Some interesting stuff – Newton Abbot has achieved grant funding for some vehicle activated speed signs which was a project we were looking into several years back.

As the Town's Councillor Advocate for the Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez, I was invited to a **volunteer 'thank you event'** at the end of March near Saltash but have declined due to the distance involved and to avoid any smidge of politicisation – it is not meant to be any such thing, just a genuine thank you to all sorts of volunteers, also in the company of the new Chief Constable, Will Kerr, OBE, KPM. Not only an excellent chance to meet him but a chance to showcase some of the hard work of the office and to reflect on the support given by volunteers in their personal time which contributes to that work. "Too often, working at such a fast pace, we do not stop to reflect on what we achieve and so this will provide a great opportunity to do that. We should all be very proud that in Devon and Cornwall we are living in one of the safest places in the country. This is thanks not only to our police officers and staff but also to those who volunteer for my office," said Alison.

A **new Assistant Chief Constable** has just been appointed: Dave Thorne who spent 23 years at D&C before being appointed Assistant Chief Constable in South Wales Police in 2020. He will be responsible for Crime, Justice and Vulnerability and is passionate about tackling and reducing crime and working with partners and the public to deliver better outcomes for victims and communities. There is a longer article on the Devon and Cornwall Police website: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/news/newsarticle/fc9c71f8-37bc-ed11-9d53-6045bdd24049>

I also still **meet with Acting Chief Inspector Philp** on a monthly basis – he should be returning back to our Sector in the not too distant future. He is pleased to note that with increased numbers of boots on the ground our Teams across the whole sector are nearly up to strength and Teignmouth is well-provisioned with PCSOs even though there is a recruitment drive for new ones, that should hopefully fill gaps in Torbay and Dartmouth and overall, response times have improved.

Regular seminars planned for OPCC councillor advocates for the coming year will cover drugs, road safety, violence and anti-social behaviour.

Report from the Teignmouth Chamber of Commerce meeting 15 Feb. 2023

As the TTC Liaison Cllr, I was asked to update on the ASB and policing issues and was able to inform the group that the new Beat Sgt is now in post – Rob Harvey (not to be confused with ex-PC Rob Harvey who covered Teignmouth Rural area and retired in the recent past). We now also have a permanent Neighbourhood Beat Manager in post, PC Robbie Mangham, who I'm sure will be out and about in due course.

Noted that we would try to get another meeting of the previous members of a group looking at Anti-Social Behaviour in the town and how best to report and address the issues. – this included TDC ASB Officer, Gary Wilson and representatives from the school.

Concern was expressed that there are considerable numbers of empty shops in the town now with another 13+ on the market and how this might be addressed.

TCoC is working with the Air Show promoters to see how use of the town itself could be promoted since, by dint of where the main action of the air show takes place (sea front) the town was quite empty last time as well as most of the town car parks being closed for the safety exclusion zone. The Air Show team have already met with the Teignbridge Safety Group for the first discussions. They await the allocation of the aircraft to be announced in March to go forward with publicity. Dates for the Family Fun Weekend to raise funds for the Air Show and the Air Show event itself were noted and the Chairman and Mayor, Iain Palmer, made some very helpful suggestions about provision of more programmes at the school car park and with bucket collectors, etc There is a disabled access route up to the seafront for drop off of those with mobility and other difficulties.

A meeting has been arranged with TDC PH: Cllr Alistair Dewhirst and officers plus Highways, on location of Trade Waste Bins and arrangements for storage in early March.

Other events were noted – Coronation in particular – event programme is underway, other summer events and seafront entertainment - to be spread around the town, if possible, when booked by the Town Council.

Membership of TCoC needs to be checked, updated and a recruitment drive for new/returning business people as they would be stronger together and information would be more widely circulated.

There were Committee vacancies which needed nominations.

Net meeting 12 April 2023.