

Ugborough Parish Council

February Newsletter

Graham Wilson, of PL:21 Transition Initiative started the January Meeting by presenting four options for an Active Travel route from Ivybridge Rugby Club to Bittaford, for use by walkers, cyclists or horse riders. The remaining route, in Ivybridge and from Bittaford to South Brent was considered safe. A more detailed analysis is needed, although the Parish Council considered the proposal for horse riding through Bittaford playpark would be unacceptable.

G-Up wildlife and diversity proposals followed, with exciting ideas, including creating a wildlife meadow on the church green (although this may be restricted to a 3ft edge strip in order to accommodate community use of the green); replanting planters and additional tubs; replenishing the planting area in Donkey Lane playpark; replanting the churchyard with wild flowers; providing a hedgehog corridor around the village; and encouraging wildlife associated with footpaths. Councillors also suggested planting in Bittaford playpark and the burial ground, and a wildlife corridor through private gardens. A meeting is being held later in January to firm up proposals.

County Cllr Hosking reported on incidents of covid in Devon, and the effect of the new lockdown on schools and online tuition. Some helpful links:

- Families qualifying for free school meals and those facing hardship should contact Neil.Hawke@southwestdevon.gov.uk.
- Help is available through the helpline (01803) 861297, Citizens Advice Bureau 0344 411 1444 and Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership 03456 047047

Connecting Devon and Somerset has just signed new Broadband contracts, including with Airband, to deliver full fibre connectivity to 56,396 homes and businesses across six procurement lots within Devon and Somerset between 2021 and 2024, with public funding of £36.8 m.

Household Waste Recycling Centres will remain open during lockdown, although the resale shops will be closed. Winter opening hours: 9am-4.30pm (weekends 10am-4:30pm). Leisure centres have closed.

Following Brexit, online advice is available at [How to Import](#) and [How to Export](#)

Finally, Cllr Hosking gave a huge thank you was extended to all of the volunteers who are still, nearly a year after the announcement of the pandemic, helping the vulnerable who are isolating or quarantined. Which I am sure we would all endorse – thank you.

Planning applications – only one, with recommendations in **bold**:

[2393/20/FUL](#) Retrospective change of use of land to a residential traveller site, associated operational development and erection of barn, Land at Torpeek, Bittaford **Object. New development in open countryside**

The 2021/22 Budget & Precept was the major item on the agenda. The precept, or Parish Council element of the Council Tax, will increase to £26,570. As there are additional houses in the Parish, this means that the Band D Council Tax will remain at £30.86 – the same as last year. Full details of the budget are available in the [minutes](#).

The Interim Devon Carbon Plan [consultation](#) continues, and the publicity states that ‘Residents will have the chance to shape the county’s roadmap to creating a net-zero Devon, where people and nature thrive’. The topics range from active travel, renewable energy, and improved air quality to better insulation and warmer homes, reduced fuel poverty and eating more balanced diets. These actions will help to create a fairer, healthier and stronger Devon.

The 2021 Census will be held on Sunday 21 March, and the Office of National Statistics want us to be prepared. Information about the Census, how your data is kept safe and what happens to your personal information is available at <https://census.gov.uk/>

Winter weather prompted a discussion on grit bins. Grit bins are provided on roads that are not normally treated at known troublespots such as steep hills and frost hollows. You are welcome to

spread the grit on the public highway – but not private drives and paths. Empty bins can be reported [online](#).

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held remotely on Wednesday 3rd February starting at 7.30pm. Agenda and minutes will be displayed on the website and noticeboards.

Privacy policy – visit ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk