

Report to Bickleigh Parish Council

27 January 2022

From **Cllr Barrie Spencer**
Bickleigh & Cornwood Ward, South Hams District Council

I am pleased to be able to provide you with an update from SHDC based on the last few months workload. In an effort to slim down my monthly reports I will be touching on the more important issues with full details being posted onto my FB site, normally by the next following day.

Waste Collection arrangements

At today's Executive Committee meeting it confirmed that dialogue with FCC continues with another meeting due next week. One of the key issues (but not the only one) is that of the recommencement of the collection of garden waste. FCC promised to deliver their action plan for recommencement by the end of January 2022 and we were informed that it should be with Officers by Monday next week. Our hope, at least, is that the garden waste service might recommence by March but please bear in mind that this is a complicated issue.

Watch this space for further developments.

Broadband Update

Having acceptable levels of BB is key to SHDC thinking and they have engaged a specialist to support the rollout, which has been considerably delayed.

The role is evolving but aims to:

- Provide signposting to residents and businesses by creation of webpages and a dedicated officer <https://southhams.gov.uk/community-broadband>
- Identify digital connectivity solutions to homes/businesses struggling with poor broadband
- Supporting communities in viable digital connectivity projects where they fall outside any Government or commercial fibre rollout
- Identifying further funding to support digital connectivity projects

More details are on my FB page.

Yelverton to Roborough Cycle Path

I attended a meeting with DCC and WDBC regarding the extension of the Drakes Trail Cycle path which currently runs to Yelverton and eventually ceases at Clearbrook. The thought is that there is some need to extend this to Roborough at around the Dartmoor Diner. There has been discussions for many years and I think that many of you will know the problems with cyclists and the congestion already evident using the A386 between Yelverton and Roborough. At the present time there are two possible options on the table. The first is taking the route from Clearbrook directly to the A386 along the A386 line (might aid commuters) and the other taking it across country (might aid the leisure cyclist).

At the present time there are considerations such as consents, requirement for third party land, within Dartmoor National Park and on common land, tying in the connection at the southern end and funding.

The next steps are to liaise with stakeholders, start public consultation and progress design development. I will keep you informed.

Executive Meeting – 27 January 2022

The following points arose from today's meetings –

Housing Crisis update – SHDC have purchased a house in Sherford which will be used to accommodate homeless people in the area. The hope is that an additional 3 properties might be purchased by the end of March 2022 but this now looks as if there may be some slippage. As far as I can see there is not much, if any, call for this type of accommodation in the Bickleigh & Cornwood Ward but might be useful for you to know.

The new draft of the Homeless Strategy for the period 2022 to 2027 was agreed and will now go out for public consultation.

Some stats that came out of the meeting include –

- 45,606 residential properties in SHDC area
- 3,455 are deemed to be second homes – c8%
- 46 houses are empty
- 73 uninhabitable
- In the 3 years to 2020 there was a net increase in population in SH
- Projections are that this will increase by another 5%
- Average house price is £440,139 – up 25% since 2016
- Average salary £30,160 in 2020 – up 9% since 2016

Council Tax. Proposed an increase of £5 for 2022/23 ie 2.85%. Lots of uncertainty about future funding and a proposed budget deficit of £1.2 million by end of 2025.

Community Composting Scheme. £200,000 has been set aside for 2022/2023 to create a scheme. Designed to improve existing arrangements or help create new ones.

Appeal – Rose Cottage

There was a planning application turned down on Rose Cottage for the establishment of a mobile home/caravan on site for holiday accommodation. Further details on my FB page now.

Facebook

I see that not all members of the Parish Council are on my Facebook Group. This is the only way I have of distributing news quickly to you, residents and the surrounding community quickly. This is the only way that you can get up to the minute knowledge of what is happening at SHDC. Please join the Group as soon as you can and please also encourage your residents to do so. Thank you. Look for –

- ***Cllr Barrie Spencer – Bickleigh & Cornwood Ward***

Sustainable Community Locality Fund

I know that you are aware that I receive the sum of £2,000 per annum to spend on local projects that are within my Ward. There is a small amount of funding still available for those projects which you might have and have yet to tell me about. Please email or ring me for more details.

Climate Change Funding

In addition to the Locality Fund, it is proposed that I should be given control of a further allocation of £3,000 to be spent on local climate change and biodiversity initiatives. This amount is a one off amount for the year 2021/22. I have yet to receive a formal proposal from Bickleigh Parish Council.

Barwood Development

I continue to have ongoing meetings with the planners and the Urban Fringe Development Team regarding the Barwood development.

Enhancing Biodiversity on Council green spaces

SHDC have been consulting on their new specialisation for management of Council owned green spaces within the Parish; this notification was issued to the Parish Clerk towards the end of last year. The response was that BPC wanted to discuss this at their meeting today, but I don't see it on your agenda.

Can I remind Bickleigh that they do have Council owned property in their area and their contribution would be valued? The areas involved are largely around the Woolwell Centre and Cann Wood but they do go beyond this.

The District Council is seeking views on their proposals to reduce deliver biodiversity net gains of up to 36%, so I hope that this is something that the Council will consider seriously.

Barrie Spencer

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