

Loxhore Parish Council
County Councillors Report

July 2023

North Devon Link Road

At Borners Bridge a roundabout is operational. A new road layout now in place. Whilst this is not the final design, the roundabout is accessible for the residents of North Molton, whilst Station Road remains as left turn only.

There are new speed restrictions in place for the safety of the workforce and speed cameras are in place it is now 30mph

There are some work under lights all along the Link Road over the next few weeks, this is night time only.

Recycled Bikes available at Recycling Centres.

Fully serviced, reconditioned bikes are on sale at many of Devon's recycling centres from this week. This week is international Bike Week (5-11 June) and this initiative will reduce waste and offer more people access to cycling.

With some brands of bike as much as 20 per cent more expensive than a year ago, it offers those who want to saddle up a chance to do so at an affordable price.

A specially trained team at SUEZ, who run the recycling centres on Devon County Council's (DCC) behalf, will repair the bikes from their new 'Re-Cycle Hub' at the Brunel Road facility in Newton Abbot.

They will repair old bikes, no longer wanted by Devon residents, and give them a new lease of life. They will then sell them through the network of reuse shops in Devon's recycling centres. Each bike will be serviced and include a warranty.

Each year an estimated 10,000 bikes come through the recycling centres in Devon as residents outgrow them, break them or get frustrated that they're taking up valuable space in the garage.

Road defects (Potholes)

As you'll be aware, an extremely high level of pothole defects across the network, following the cycle of prolonged cold and wet weather we experienced over the winter. To put this in context, around 26,500 potholes have been identified and passed to our contractor, Milestone, since January – this is around 8,000 or 30% more than for the same period last year. January alone saw almost 7,400 potholes identified, the most of any month in over 3 years. Similarly, the inspection team have assessed almost 35,000 reports of potholes from members of the public since January, compared to just over 14,000 last year.

To tackle this backlog, teams across the Devon Highways partnership have worked very closely to enable re-prioritisation of resource so that safety critical defects on our highway network could be identified and repaired as effectively as possible. In order to achieve this some of our works programmes required adjusting, with schemes postponed or re-planned to free up available

resource. We also had to make the difficult decision to temporarily cease identification and repair of serviceability (i.e. those that don't meet the intervention requirements of our Highway Safety Policy) highway defects, so that the focus could remain on those defects that represented the biggest risk to users of our network. At times, we have had over 40 pothole repair gangs working across the County, along with repairs and inspections taking place during evenings and at weekends.

I am pleased to report that, the number of potholes currently with Milestone for repair has now stabilised, sitting at around 800 (down from 3000 at its peak in February) and is much more in-line with the sort of volume we'd typically expect for this time of year. On this basis a number of the additionally resourced gangs have now returned to programmed works and we have very recently re-introduced the identification of non-safety defects, as we fully recognise the benefit of acting proactively and repairing these before they worsen and require attention at a later date. In other words fixing non safety defects in the vicinity of reported safety defects.

Aside from traditional pothole repairs, the longer days help a great deal to ensure the dragon patchers are double shifting. There is also an additional 5th vehicle operating in the County this summer.

Please keep reporting any defects you come across.

Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;

[Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk)

0345 155 1004

Live chat is available on the Highways website Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 4.30 pm (4 pm on Fridays). To report a problem with road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs and public rights of way

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