

Loxhore Parish Council
County Councillors Report
November 2023

North Devon Link Road

The North Devon Link Road is partially closed for a month to allow essential maintenance work to go ahead to 12th November.

As part of Devon County Council's ongoing scheme to upgrade the A361, contractor Griffiths needs to excavate the road in a number of areas to waterproof five major structures beneath the highway. Drainage improvements, safety barrier replacement and resurfacing will also be undertaken at the same time.

The work will require the closure of the westbound carriageway (Tiverton to Barnstaple) of the A361 between North Aller roundabout and Landkey roundabout, for a month.

Traffic heading to Barnstaple diverted onto the C783 to travel through Filleigh, Swimbridge and Landkey.

On-street parking in these villages on the diversion route will have to be restricted during this period to help maintain traffic flow. The diversion route will be regularly monitored.

There will be a separate diversion route available for HGVs and abnormal loads heading westbound (Tiverton to Barnstaple) to reduce the number of large vehicles travelling through the villages. This will be signed via the B3227 and A377.

The eastbound carriageway (Barnstaple to Tiverton) will remain fully open to traffic throughout this phase of work.

More information at;

<https://community.alungriffiths.co.uk/projects-in-your-area/north-devon-link-road/>

Snow Wardens

Gentle reminder to order any salt you need, the colder weather will soon be upon us. You may need to update contact details if there has been any change in who your snow warden is, with an election earlier this year I am aware we may have forgotten to talk about this during the summer.

Grit bins should be filled but if you would check just in case that would be really helpful, if they need filling the link is below;

[Grit Bins map – Road and Transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

Household Support Fund

Earlier this year DCC secured £10m from the fourth round of the Government's Household Support Fund to cover the period from April 2023 until March 2024

The money comes with conditions on how it can be allocated and is to support households in most need – those that are struggling to pay for food, energy, water bills and other related essentials. It is also intended for those that may not be eligible for other government support.

So far under this fourth round of the scheme, over £5 million has been used to support more than 38,000 households across Devon.

And now with winter approaching, DCC are working with Team Devon partners (district and city councils) and other community organisations to provide our most vulnerable residents with rapid short-term financial support to help them over the coming months.

The homeless, low income families, those who are suffering from ill health and ethnic minorities are just some of the many groups who will benefit from schemes including free school meal holiday vouchers, hardship payments, pre-payment and credit energy meter support, community grants and funding for minor energy efficiency measures.

For this coming winter, Devon's district and city councils have over £2 million to offer 'one-off' financial help to those who are struggling to pay for their food and utility costs or other household essentials. Help may also be available for unexpected or exceptional circumstances, for example, rent arrears prior to being in receipt of appropriate housing benefits.

DCC are also working with the Devon Community Foundation to provide grants to voluntary sector organisations supporting communities that don't always get the help they need. Their '**Food, Fuel and More**' grant scheme was very well received earlier this year and will re-open this winter with a further funding pot of over £260,000.

The scheme will offer large grants of up to £25,000 to organisations that support homeless people or people in temporary or insecure housing. Groups supporting households with disabled residents or those suffering ill-health which has a direct impact on household income and an ability to meet food and energy bills, are also encouraged to apply, along with organisations that support Asian, black, traveller, Gypsy, Roma and ethnic minority communities who are not accessing support through other channels. They will also be operating a small grants scheme of up to £2,000 for smaller community initiatives.

Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;

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

[0345 155 1004](tel:03451551004)

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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