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To: The Chair and Members
of the West Devon
Highways and Traffic
Orders Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 19 March 2024

Contact: Yvette Welsh 01392 382406

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WEST DEVON HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC ORDERS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 27th March, 2024

A meeting of the West Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee is to be held on the above date at 10.30 am at Town Hall Okehampton to consider the following matters.

Donna Manson
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART 1 OPEN COMMITTEE

1 **Election of Chair**

To elect the Chair for the ensuing year.

NB: In accordance with the County Council's Constitution, the Chair and Vice Chair must be County Councillors. County and Borough Councillors may vote.

2 **Election of Vice Chair**

To elect the Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

NB: In accordance with the County Council's Constitution, the Chair and Vice Chair must be County Councillors. County and Borough Councillors may vote.

3 **Apologies for Absence**

4 Minutes (Pages 1 - 2)

Minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2023 (previously circulated).

5 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

6 Stopping up of Public Highway: Whithill Farm, Access To Withill, Sampford Spiney (Pages 3 - 8)

Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport
(CET/24/23)

Electoral Division: Yelverton Rural

STANDING ITEMS

7 Bus Users and Stakeholders (BUS) Forum (Pages 9 - 14)

The Committee representative to report.

8 Petitions/Parking Policy and Review

[An item to be taken under s18 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 relating to any reviews of parking policy sought in line with the Council's [Petition Scheme](#).]

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

9 Dates of Future Meetings

Dates of future meetings

21 June 2024
12 November 2024
25 March 2025

PART II - ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil

Part II Reports

Members are reminded that Part II reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). Members are also reminded of the need to dispose of such reports carefully and are therefore invited to return them to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.

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Under the provisions of Standing Order 23, any member of the HATOC (including the District Council representatives) may put an item on the Agenda for the HATOC relevant to the functions of the Committee, subject to them giving notice in writing to the Chief Executive of the matter to be discussed by 9.00am on the eighth working day before the meeting.

Any member of the District Council for the area covered by the HATOC who is not a member of the Committee, or a Town or Parish Councillor within the area covered by the HATOC, may, after giving 24 hours' notice in writing to the Chief Executive, attend and speak to any item on the Agenda with the consent of the Committee. For further information please contact the relevant Clerk.

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Induction Loop available



WEST DEVON HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC ORDERS COMMITTEE

31 July 2023

Present:-

Councillors J McInnes, L Samuel and D Sellis

West Devon Borough Council

Councillors T Southcott and A Johnson

Apologies:-

Councillor P Sanders

* **21** **Election of Chair**

RESOLVED that Councillor Samuels be elected as Chair for this meeting and the matter of election of Chair be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

* **22** **Election of Vice Chair**

RESOLVED that the election of Vice Chair be deferred until the next meeting on the Committee.

* **23** **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2022 be signed as a correct record.

* **24** **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item requiring urgent attention.

* **25** **Local Waiting Restrictions Programme**

A summary of the proposals advertised were detailed in Appendix 1 (with associated plans) and details of the objections received to the proposals, and the Officers' responses were shown in Appendix 2 of the Report.

Following advertisement proposals, which had not attracted objections, would be implemented; and those which had received objections were detailed in Appendix 2, with recommendations for each location. The respective local Members commented on the proposals.

Agenda Item 4

2

WEST DEVON HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC ORDERS COMMITTEE

31/07/23

RESOLVED

(a) that the local waiting restriction programme be noted; and

(b) that the recommendations contained in Appendix 2 of the report be agreed subject to the following:

i) ENV6034-83 Road from Shilhays to Zeal Head Cross that pending a site visit, authority be delegated to the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport in consultation with the Chair and Local Members to determine the proposal.

* 26 **Petition Calling for a speed Limit on the B3215 (minute 57, 5 November 2019 refers)**

The Committee NOTED the previous request submitted by the Parish Council in 2017 involving this length of road.

* 27 **Traffic Sensitive Routes Review**

The Committee NOTED the report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport (CET/23/2) that Devon County Council to undertake a full review of the traffic sensitive streets network across the county.

* 28 **Bus Users and Stakeholders (BUS) Forum**

No update was available at the meeting. Minutes of the Forum to be circulated to this Committee when available.

* 29 **Dates of Future meetings**

The next meetings to be held at 10.30am on the following dates:

7 November 2023, Town Council Offices, Okehampton

27 March 2024, Kilworthy House, Tavistock.

NOTES:

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*
2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the webcasting site for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

* **DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 10.50 am

CET/24/23
West Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee
27 March 2024

Stopping up of public highway: Whithill Farm, Access To Withill, Sampford Spiney Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- (a) the extent of highway land Access to Withill, Sampford Spiney, as detailed in Appendix 1, is not needed for public use; and
- (b) this Committee resolves that subject to the consultations referred to in section 4, Devon County Council makes an application to the magistrates' court for an order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 that the said highway land be stopped up.

2) Introduction

Under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980, Devon County Council can make an application to a magistrates' court to stop up a section of highway if they think it is unnecessary.

We have received representation from a resident of Sampford Spiney who wishes to apply for a stopping up order so that the land in question (as shown in Appendix 1) no longer forms part of the public highway.

3) Proposal

It is recommended that an application is made to the Magistrates' Court under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 for the stopping-up of the public highway known as Access to Withill, Sampford Spiney as shown on the drawing attached as Appendix 1.

4) Alternatives

Devon County Council could refuse the application but would have no specific reasons for doing so as it is not considered the public highway provides any benefit to the highway network.

5) Consultations

A number of organisations have been contacted on the proposal and a summary of the consultees and their response can be found in Appendix 2.

Agenda Item 6

6) Strategic Plan

The proposal to stop up the highway will reduce the maintenance liability for the Council. This is considered an effective use of the resource that is available and helps the Council be financially resilient and a trusted Council.

7) Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications to this proposal as all costs will be met by the applicant.

8) Legal Considerations

Under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 a highway authority can apply to a magistrates' court to stop up highway on the grounds that it is 'unnecessary'. Whether a highway is unnecessary is a question of fact. It should be unnecessary for the sort of purpose for which the public might reasonably be expected to use it, for example, to reach a specific destination or for recreational purposes.

Only a highway authority can apply to a magistrates' court for a stopping up order. A highway authority has discretion on whether or not to make an application. However, this discretion is capable of being judicially reviewed. It should therefore have good reason for not making an order.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

There are no environmental impacts in relation to this proposal.

10) Equality Considerations

There are no equality considerations in relation to this proposal.

11) Risk Management Considerations

No risks have been identified.

12) Reasons for Recommendations

In summary it is recommended that the Committee approve the request for an application to the magistrates' court for a stopping up order of the public highway known as Access to Withill, Sampford Spiney as described above, as the land is not needed for public use and is unnecessary as public highway.

Meg Booth

Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Electoral Division: Yelverton Rural

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Nil

Contact for enquiries:

Name: Amy Garwood

Telephone: 0345 155 1004

Address: Traffic Orders, Policy and Programme, Devon County Council Highways,
PO Box 968, Exeter, EX1 9DQ

ag050324wdh

sc/cr/Stopping up of public highway Whithill Farm Access To Withill Sampford Spiney
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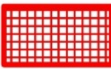
Agenda Item 6

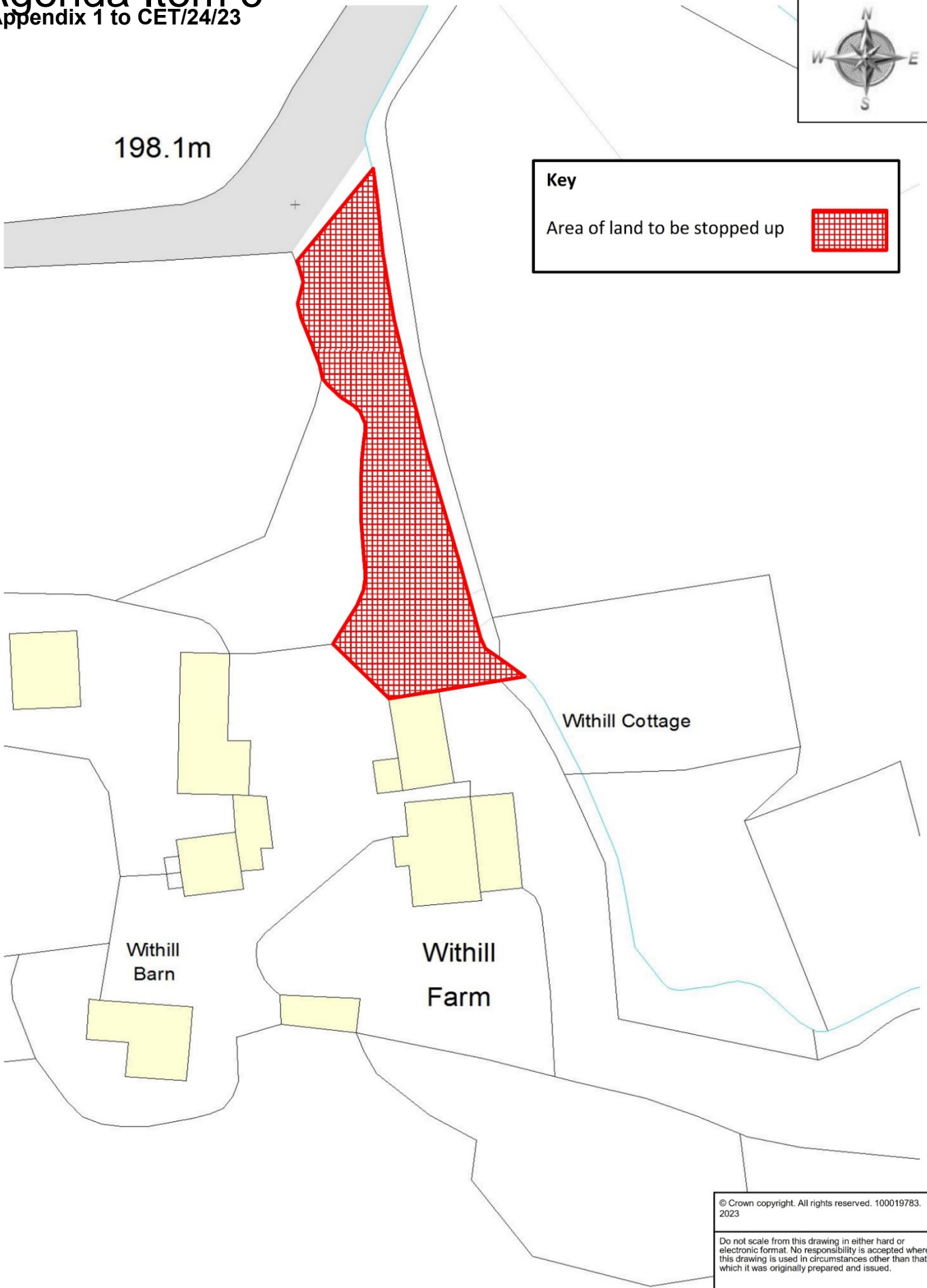
Appendix 1 to CET/24/23



198.1m

Key

Area of land to be stopped up 



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Meg Booth - Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

TOPP Team
Devon County Council Highways
PO Box 968
Exeter
EX1 9DQ
Telephone 0345 155 1004

SCHEME

WHITHILL FARM, ACCESS TO WITHILL, SAMPFORD SPINEY, YELVERTON

DRAWING

PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAY

drawn by **JD** scale **1:500**

date **26-Feb-2024** O.S.Ref **254868 , 072706**

drawing number **SU23-01 (B)**

Appendix 2 to CET/24/23

Organisations Contacted & Response

Organisation Contacted	Response
West Devon District Council	Letter sent 29/01/24 Acknowledged receipt of letter, no comments received – deadline for response is 29/03/24
Walkhampton Parish Council	Letter sent 29/01/24 Acknowledged receipt of letter, no comments received – deadline for response is 29/03/24
BT	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24 (A utility stats search showed that there was apparatus close to the land to be stopped up.)
South West Water PLC	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24 (A utility stats search showed that there was no apparatus within the land to be stopped up.)
Wales and West Utilities PLC	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24 (A utility stats search showed that there was no apparatus within the land to be stopped up.)
National Grid PLC	Letter sent 29/01/24. Response received (A utility stats search showed there was apparatus within the land to be stopped up). National Grid and applicant are in discussions to arrange a wayleave/easement to maintain access to their equipment).
Auto-Cycle Union Ltd.	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.
British Driving Society	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.
British Horse Society	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.
Byways and Bridleways Trust	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.
CLA South West	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.
Cycling UK	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24
National Farmers Union	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.

Agenda Item 6

Natural England Consultation Service	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.
The Open Spaces Society	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.
Rights of Way Officer	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.
Trails Riders Fellowship	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.
4 Wheels Vehicle Users	Letter sent 29/01/24. No response received, deadline for response is 29/02/24.



BUS (Bus Users and Stakeholders) Forum, 11th January, 2024

Summary Report of the Meeting – prepared for designated representatives from each of the Highways and Traffic Orders Committees (HATOC)

Purpose/role of the Forum

- The Forum acts as an informal body to consider current issues and opportunities relating to all aspects of bus services across the Devon County Council (DCC) administrative area.
- The Forum will represent the views of bus users and stakeholder across the county and provide a united voice through the invited representatives.

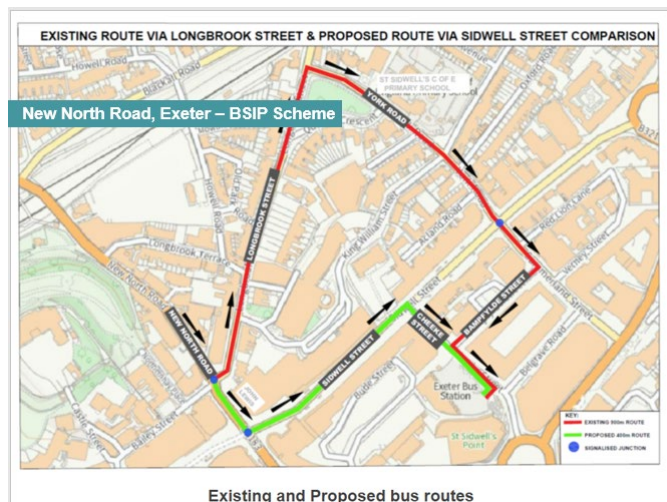
The Forum meets quarterly, and each of the eight HATOCs have an invited representative at the meeting. Bus operators are also invited to join. Terms of reference for the forum have been circulated previously.

1) DCC Officer Update (Rachel Phillips, Integrated Public Transport DCC)

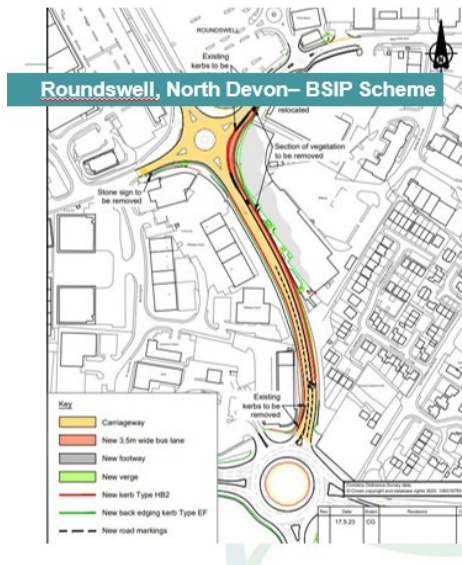
ZEBRA2 Fund (Zero Emission Bus Rural Areas Scheme)

- DfT announced the ZEBRA2 Fund (Zero Emission Bus Rural Areas Scheme) - £129M funding for ZEBs (Zero Emission Buses) including £25M ring fenced for rural schemes
- Competitive bid process, applications had to be made by Local Transport Authority (Devon County Council) – however does require **significant investment** from bus operators
- Stagecoach and Devon County Council have put in a bid – awaiting a decision from the DfT which will be in March 2024
- Proposal includes electrifying routes in both Exeter and North Devon

2) BSIP Capital Schemes Update



Agenda Item 7



- New bus lane (500m) between Gratton Way and Roundswell roundabout
- Improve bus journey times for services from Barnstaple towards Roundswell
- Priority for buses and taxis to avoid the queuing traffic, ensuring more reliable bus services onto the A39

Scheme	Update	Timings
Exeter		
New North Road - Bus Gate	Approved by Cabinet – contractors are being appointed	work will start late-Spring 2024
Cowick/Preston Street	Improvements to Preston St junction, traffic signalling and bus lane timings – consultation complete.	HATOC approval at January HATOC
Heavitree & Pinhoe corridors	Still in design phase – consultation to begin in February	Completion in 24/25 following consultation and Cabinet approval
Newton Abbot		
Highweek Street improvements	Improvements to junction layout and signalling to improve access and priority for buses.	Completion in 24/25 following consultation and Cabinet approval
North Devon		
Gratton Way Bus Gate, Roundswell	Approved by Cabinet – contractors are being appointed	Following approval, work will start in Summer 2024
Braunton Road	Consultation currently underway: Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP) in North Devon - Have Your Say	Completion in 24/25 following consultation and Cabinet approval
Barnstaple Rail Station – improved access for bus passengers	Approval given by DFT to move funds – now in design stage	Timeline TBC

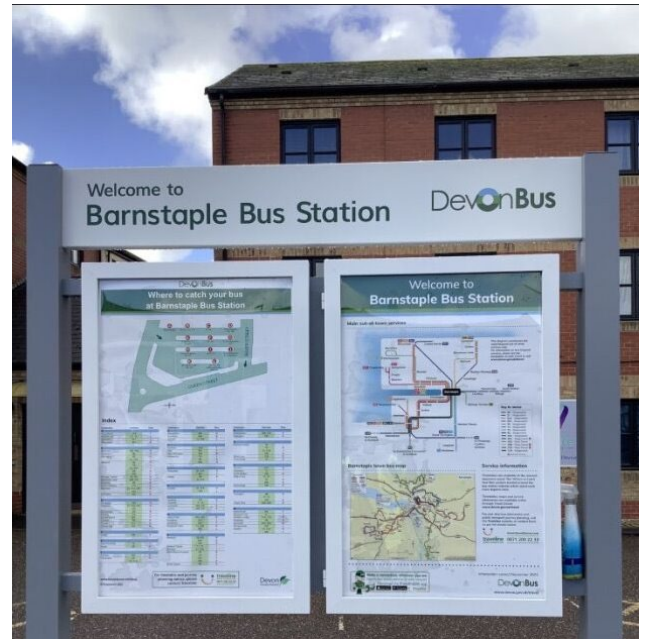
Bus Station Improvements	
Barnstaple	Site visit complete – works have started to replace shelters and update signage (see photos below).
Tavistock	Site visit complete – plan in progress to update signage, real time and cycle parking
Tiverton	Site visit pending
Countywide	
Street Lighting Upgrades	COMPLETE

Agenda Item 7

Bus Stop Infrastructure	£1M of investment – completed Y1 / Y2	Plan in place to spend remaining fund in Y2 & Y3
Bus Stop Multi-Modal Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drumbridges pilot project – HATOC approval – work to start spring/summer 2024 • Design proposal in place for Yelverton and Tavistock 	
Countywide Pinchpoint Scheme	Work underway on identified schemes	

Barnstaple Bus Station

- Upgrades to shelters – replacement of perspex
- All signage replaced
- New real time signs will follow



Upgrades to Real Time Estate

20 screens going in imminently – mainly in Exeter. Longer term plan to replace existing estate. Following this we will identify new locations around the county.



Q&A

Q: May I request a reminder as to what the Braunton road scheme entails?

A: Improved bus priority coming into Barnstaple from Braunton. (this has now gone to consultation - full details are on the DCC "Have your say" website: [Bus Services Improvement Plan \(BSIP\) in North Devon - Have Your Say](#))

Q: regarding Barnstaple Rail Station; does improving access mean matching bus & train times? Particularly regarding East-the-Water services?

A: It is capital investment, so this means physical improvements at the rail station. Quite a few bus routes have been re-timetabled, improving connections. The main bus service between Bideford and Barnstaple is at a 15 minute frequency, which does link to rail services.

Q: In Exeter High Street, the screens are displaying timetabled information rather than real time information?

Agenda Item 7

A: We do not understand this as have seen real time on these screens - the limitation in the High Street could be when buses have just started their journey, so there is no previous vehicle tracking for the journey (DCC have since checked the system and provided evidence to the individual that the screens do in fact show real time information – this will, on occasion, default to scheduled information if real time information is not available)

Q: Will further bus/rail links be added in 2024?

A: We are always looking for opportunities to do more.

3) Update from Stagecoach (Peter Knight, Managing Director)

Headlines

- Reminded attendees whilst Stagecoach represent 90% of the bus market in Devon, there are other operators.
- Stagecoach had a very busy Christmas period with 5% increase in passenger numbers in the run up, compared to last year. Situation has improved regarding service reliability. However, it has been extremely challenging regarding current levels of congestion in Exeter causing punctuality to drop. Whilst the congestion problems have mainly been within the city, most services touch upon Exeter at some point so this causes delays across the county.
- From a service delivery standpoint, Stagecoach has a full complement of staff across the business and has made significant investment in driver recruitment and training to achieve this and ensure that services operate per the published timetables. However, the variable levels of traffic congestion do cause issues with services being operated punctually.
- The wider view and Government policy: The £2 fare cap runs until the end of December 2024 and Stagecoach are expecting to participate for this length of time. It has helped grow patronage and helps customers knowing their fare; therefore addressing uncertainty.

Q&A

Q: Any news on the new vehicles coming in the Spring? Is it dependent on winning the ZEBRA 2 bid?

A: 10 new diesel vehicles are still coming to Devon very shortly.

Q: Will new vehicles have audio announcements?

A: Yes, they will be equipped with next stop information and a hearing loop. This is a government requirement for any new passenger service vehicles which are purchased.

Q: Regarding usage increase, what is the percentage increase in Exeter? Also, £2 fare cap – what if people have to travel and change buses - are there thoughts on a through ticket system?

A: Percentage increase for Exeter was 6.9% in the 4 weeks running up to Christmas. Re the £2 Fare; this is for one single journey. There are barriers to technology regarding fare-capping and therefore enabling 2 hour tickets that allow multiple journey's in that timeframe. Stagecoach as a group are investigating options but it will not be achievable particularly quickly. If there are 2 bus journeys to a destination, plus 2 return journeys; then a day ticket or flexi-bundle may be the best value option.

Q: For many years, there was a half-hourly evening service in Exeter, now late evening is hourly on the 2, 5, 9 services. It is quite a sever drop to get back from an evening event.

A: It is challenging in the context of hourly services not being as attractive. However, there is also the challenge of a structural change post-covid and there are not as many people around in the evenings, coupled with inflationary increases with £40+/hour operating costs now. The economics don't warrant a more frequent service. Vehicles might look busy (eg from Exmouth) but would look a lot less busy if we halved the numbers onto a more regular service; but incurred twice the cost - it wouldn't necessarily generate more passengers. Stagecoach do tailor their service to actual travel patterns and therefore do review services regularly.

In conclusion, Cllr Andrea Davis (Chair) reminded all that we must use services or lose them.

4) Equality Impact Assessment Discussion – ZEBRA 2 Bid (Rachel Phillips)

- As part of our ZEBRA2 bid DCC, have conducted an equality impact assessment (EIA) to ensure due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (s149 Public Sector Equality Duty – Equality Act 2010), and how people with

Agenda Item 7

protected characteristics will benefit from the scheme and to ensure any possible negative impacts are mitigated early on.

- We must consider how ZEBRA 2 positively or negatively affects people.
- Rachel talked through the slides and EIA consultation completed so far and asked if anyone had anything to add.
- Comments from the discussion have now been incorporated into the EIA which will be published in due course with our ZEBRA2 bid.

5) Connecting You – project summary and update (Karen Rose, Devon County Council)

- Devon Connecting You final report was submitted to DfT at the beginning of November. There is an embargo on sharing it until DfT have had the opportunity to review all 12 pilots and release their report. This is anticipated to be February.
- Karen was able to share some examples of the life changing stories which the pilot received from the transport projects funded through the Connecting You pilot.
- There is no news of further DfT funding to address loneliness but some of the Connecting You projects have used their experience gained from this pilot to apply to other sources to continue their work.

A comment was made about the positive results from the pilot and suggested that social prescribing could be a good way to link people to public transport.

6) Questions from the Floor (raised in advance)

None received.

- Cllr Andrea Davis (acting Chair) thanked everyone for attending and reminded all that this meeting represents the end of the first year of the forum and we need to consider electing a new Chair. Nominations to rachel.phillips@devon.gov.uk please.
- Date of Next Meeting – 11th April 2024

