

Report of District Councillor Chris Wheatley

Community and Resources (C&R)

We received a Report from the Street Name & Numbering Officer (SNN) regarding the requirement by TDC to approve and resolve the dispute over X3 Street names for the Torrington Housing Development in School Lane being undertaken by Clayewater Homes Ltd/ Aster Group. The names agreed after discussion and approval were Meadow View, Babbage was approved and Cawthorne Drive to be removed and the third street name to be referred to Great Torrington Town Council for final decision of the suffix. This was discussed and voted for unanimously by Council.

TDC considered a revised proposal of tree planting in Bideford - Garfield Community Woodland and grassland after a presentation from Mike Day Lead Ranger and as part of the TDC support for the North Devon Biosphere. The public feedback was positive and to be funded by Devon County Council and the Woodland Trust. Maintenance was discussed and the proposal was approved and resolved.

Head of Legal Governance and Monitoring presented Household Support Fund 6 which is Devon County Funding for £267,568 for financial hardship covering 1st Oct 2024 until 31st March 2025. This was voted for unanimously. This fund covers areas Food, Energy, Appliances, Housing, and essentials. Apply torridge.gov.uk/householdfund or 01271 371 499.

Full Council

We received various Reports highlights including Peer and challenge Levelling Up from our Chief Executive and Leader Steve Hearse and Ken James regarding the £20,000,000 Levelling Up Fund from government with development and a mission-based approach to implementation with government after meeting with Alex Norris MP Undersecretary For Housing, Communities and Local government. Alex Norris MP has been cordially invited to Torridge to show case the various Projects including the Innovation Center which shall provide Green Energy, maritime research, and support for Offshore wind technology.

LUP Annual Report on Treasury Management from the Financial Manager and Draft Financial Outturn 2023/24 confirming the recommendations for the surplus.

A discussion commenced about the £500K surplus assigned to Leisure services and decarbonisation to aid the reduction of TDC footprint. The setting aside of draft surplus from 2023/24 as outlined in this report was approved.

Holsworthy Leisure Centre decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects and capital programme to be increased to £1.834M for a new roof and decarbonisation works at Holsworthy Leisure Centre. Bideford Town Hall and old Library renovation

decarbonisation projects and energy efficiency including roofs were discussed and approved.

Council received a presentation from Judith Gentry non -executive Director from Active Torridge validating our Active Torridge Business Plan and acknowledging the improvements that need to be made after the Leader Ken James had provided details on the Business Plan. We also had a slide presentation from Chris Keeble Chief Operating Officer of Active Torridge highlighting strategic aims, Reviews, Financial history, growth, postcode analysis. Fees and management projections. The business plan was approved after discussions by Council.

The Community Projects Officer presented a report on funding of three play zone schemes by reallocating Rural England Prosperity Funding working in partnership with Active Torridge and community organisations including with football foundations and was approved by Council. The three PlayZones are located at Stanhope Park, Holsworthy; Polyfield East-the-Water Bideford and the former Tennis Courts at Gas Lane Torrington at a cost of £250,00 per PlayZone with funds made available from Rural England Prosperity Fund and Active Torridge to manage each site.

External Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Cheryl Cottle Hunkin Chair of External Overview and Scrutiny presented an enlightening annual Report to Council stating that the Committee have many external organisations that have been welcomed to our Committee and working in partnership with Torridge District Council and the Pickwell Foundation and North Devon Plus. The Chair thanked everyone for accepting our invites and the time to come and present to us. Issues raised in our meetings have been picked up in the local press and thank you in particular the hard work of Karen Hewlett in Democratic Services. Many issues have been raised under urgent matters and it has been good to hear from members of the public and contributions speaking at Committee meetings. The Committee intends to work with North Devon District Council. Working together will bring a stronger voice to those issues which affect the wider region such as Agriculture, Dentistry and Childcare provision.

Councillor Climate Working Group Meeting

EV Charging points was discussed after the Head of Communications and Place provided an overview on of the current electric vehicle leasing arrangement and consolidating providers.

Harvey Gardner the Estates Manager proceeded to inform members that a notice to quit has been served after the present contractors failed to meet TDC requirements. The situation is complex, and termination is difficult due to lease arrangements. The LEVI

scheme is managed by Devon County Council concerning their sites at Caddsdwn, the three leisure centres and Bonehill in Northam which are not working effectively.

Funding for cycle friendly accreditation scheme was approved costing £2030 and approved unanimously by members of Council.

Other item highlighted was Plant based food policy after Brian from Plant based Council Movement informed us about the impact of farming on land use, animal agriculture of which 85% of Uk farming is animal farming. 37% Meat and Dairy with Biodiversity loss main component of climate change. We received a Slide Plant Based Presentation.

TDC Biodiversity Management Plan was presented by the Sustainability and Climate Officer who highlighted that tree planting was too slow and not ambitious enough. Members expressed their concerns and expressed the need for suitable land sites to be identified.