

Around the District

Our troubled waters persist in the headlines with a major debate at full district council last week. Although I believe the motion was well meant, it lacked any significant teeth with which to encourage/force SWW to improve the current appalling state of our sea and water ways. I attempted to add an amendment to the motion in the form of the following, 'EDDC Further asserts that no major planning application will be considered without an accompanying, and independently verified report, by SWW stating that they have the relevant capacity for such an application'. I did cause some head scratching but was considered to put EDDC in a challengeable situation and failed to gain enough votes. As a result SWW said of the unanimously passed original motion that it was "disappointed". Not perhaps as disappointed as we are with the mess they are making of looking after our waters! To balance the issue I am duty bound to say that SWW have stated that they remain committed to improving things with substantial investment going into our infrastructure.

Related to the above and of interest to Buckerell, is, of course, the current spate of large planning applications in the Feniton area. I will be submitting my comments on these shortly, but, as a member of the planning committee, I must at all times refrain from showing any predetermination so will not elaborate further in this report. However, I can say that I'm working closely with the Parish Council to put the case for proportional development in keeping with needs of the village.

I am pleased to report that a well supported parking review is underway, even more pleased to see my request for there to always be a choice of how we pay is enshrined in the recommendations. I have seen for myself the chaos caused when people try to use certain phone paying apps in car parks. This why I will ensure that, when the review comes to full council for signing off, a full choice of payment options is locked in.

Following on from my comments regarding pot holes in my last report, I have had a number of comments passed to me about residents experiences with using the Devon Pothole Map. It seems that inspectors that go out to confirm the state of a given hole will often remove it from the map without informing the person that complained. Now it seems ridiculous for me to state the obvious here, but these holes don't mend themselves and they are only going to get deeper. I also know

that budgets can only stretch so far. However, surely it makes more sense to fix an issue when it's going to cost less. How does that old saying go..... a stitch in time..... I have also seen evidence of holes marked on the map as down for repair being suddenly removed. I have taken this up with County as this is completely unacceptable. So I would strongly advise everyone to, firstly report every relevant hole they find and, secondly regularly check that it hasn't been removed from the map by some hidden hand. If it has put it back on and keep doing it until it's repaired. I still remain convinced that, as ratepayers, we are not getting the correct value out of our contribution to road repairs. I still see evidence of poor repairs often done on a previously repaired hole. I would ask for the data on how many potholes on the Devon map are ones that have been done before, but I doubt that data exists.