

Devon County Council has welcomed the sentence imposed by Barnstaple Magistrates on a man found guilty of assaulting a civil enforcement officer.

On 2 July 2023, one of our civil enforcement officers was physically harmed while carrying out their official duties in managing road restrictions and on-street parking in Barnstaple. The incident left the officer with injuries that required medical attention.

Following a thorough police investigation and subsequent legal proceedings, the defendant from Barnstaple, was found guilty of assault and assault by battery in May. Barnstaple Magistrates imposed a 12-month community order and he was ordered to complete 250 hours of unpaid work and to pay compensation and court fees amounting to £984.

A public consultation was launched on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October on the Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) which sets out the transport priorities across the county between 2025 and 2040. The full document is available on the Have Your Say webpage. The deadline is Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

The plan's vision is for well-integrated and accessible transport to facilitate sustainable growth, support net zero carbon targets by 2050 at the latest, improve travel choice and benefit people's health and wellbeing.

Priorities including enhancement of bus services (transition to lower emission and zero emission buses, bus priority on key routes, improving the integration of rail and bus services, establishing a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging facilities, and expanding pedestrian and cycle networks). All are subject to securing funding.

As different areas of the county face different transport challenges, individual strategies have been developed to meet those needs. This includes:

- Completion of the resilience work on the railway between Dawlish and Teignmouth;
- New railway stations at Okehampton Interchange; Edginswell serving Torbay hospital and Cullompton;
- Work with the rail industry to make the case for reopening the railway between Tavistock and Plymouth;
- Improving bus priority on routes in Exeter, including Cowick St, Exe Bridges, Pinhoe Rd and Heavitree Rd;
- Providing 15-minute bus service frequency from Cranbrook, Crediton, Cullompton and Newton Abbot to Exeter;
- Delivering the Dinan Way extension in Exmouth;
- Completion of planned highway links in Teignbridge including A382 improvements;
- A38 pedestrian and cycle bridge and Langage Spine Rd to unlock growth at the Plymouth Freeport;
- Protect and enhance access to Brixham Harbour;
- Expansion and improvement of the multi-use trail network, including completion of the Tarka Trail, delivery of Teign Estuary Trail and Newton Abbot to Torbay cycle route;
- Strategic active travel routes to Cranbrook and along the A3052 corridor.

As part of the consultation, public webinars will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October from 6-7pm and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November from 6-7pm, where there will be an opportunity to put questions to the project team. Details of how to register to attend the online webinar events will be available on the Have Your Say webpage.

All libraries in Devon will have a copy of the full draft LTP4 and the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment as well as printed copies of the LTP summary booklet and printed copies of the feedback questionnaire.

Running in parallel, also until Saturday 30 November, is a consultation on the draft Devon Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which provides an opportunity to feedback on identified future cycling and walking improvements.

The countywide LCWIP will complement Devon's existing three local area LCWIPs covering Exeter, Heart of Teignbridge, and Barnstaple with Bideford and Northam LCWIP, and a further two which are currently being developed for Cullompton and Tiverton, and Clyst Valley and New Communities.

An online engagement event on the LCWIP will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

These consultations can be found on the Have Your Say webpages <https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/countywide-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip/>.

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) and Airband have announced that they have agreed to scale back Airband's contract agreements to deliver full fibre to properties in the region.

Both CDS and Airband remain committed to finding possible alternative delivery solutions for those communities who were due to receive fibre broadband.

CDS contracted with broadband supplier Airband, initially in 2016 to deliver fixed wireless infrastructure and additionally in late 2020 to rollout fibre broadband networks to communities across Devon and Somerset, with four contracts originally due to conclude at the end of 2024.

In total, Airband is contracted to deliver 55,493 premises. To date the operator has delivered 18,794 premises in collaboration with CDS.

However, following Airband's restructure earlier this year, the company is seeking to maximise take up across its existing network while slowing down on build activity which means it can no longer complete its contracted build for CDS in full. As a result, in April, Airband sought a change to its contract.

Detailed discussions have now concluded between CDS, Airband and Building Digital UK (BDUK) to resolve the situation and Airband has now committed to provide full fibre access to 8,377 more homes and businesses covered by the contracts, providing a total of 27,171 out of the 55,493 premises it was originally contracted to deliver. This additional build will further unlock fibre delivery by Airband to 10,997 non-contracted premises along the network build routes, giving an overall commitment to connect a further 19,834 premises in Devon and Somerset.

CDS is also discussing alternative options with BDUK, the Government's national agency, responsible for the delivery of Gigabit Broadband.

CDS is urging BDUK to re-enable rural voucher applications to open promptly in communities where Airband will no longer be delivering. This should offer communities a potential alternative. At the same time CDS is seeking confirmation of the Devon and Somerset premises that will be connected under the nationally led contracts awarded to Openreach as part of the Government's Project Gigabit programme.

A raft of environmental, cultural heritage and community improvements were unveiled at Stover Country Park on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, offering people the opportunity to be among the first to see the benefits of the Restoring Stover Park Project.

Visitors will be able to follow a two-hour trail that takes in all the varied aspects of the Restoring Stover Park Project, including a new community workshop and upgraded visitor centre.

The trail will also explore the conservation work which has been carried out to restore the gatehouse and there will be a chance to learn about the de-silting of Stover Lake.

The Restoring Stover Park Project has been made possible thanks to a grant of £2,084,600 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, together with National Highways, Devon County Council, Devon Remembers, Teignbridge District Council, Bovey Tracey Town Council, Kingsteignton Town Council, and Friends of Stover Park.

In 2019, National Highways' funding enabled Devon County Council and the Stover Country Park team to deliver a giant reedbed filtration system to help improve water quality and enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitats within the Nature Reserve bordering the A38.

Five years on, and further company funding has helped the Stover Park team to deliver the second phase of the environmental and biodiversity work, seeing the de-silting of Stover Lake – an initiative which is hoped to see white water-lilies return to the lake.

The Restoring Stover Park Project has also seen the restoration of the historic Grade II listed gatehouse, a newly built community workshop and an extended and upgraded visitor centre.

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