

Diptford Parish Council
Zoe Oldman, Parish Clerk
01752 873446
diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk

From 4 February 2019 Bridge Civil Engineering Ltd will be undertaking works to install a foul water sewer for the new housing development on **Wheat Park**, on behalf of South West Water. It is expected that the work will take 5 weeks to complete. Totnes Road will be closed to lay the new sewer so there will be some disruption. If you have any concerns about the works, please contact Ben Haskins from Bridge Civil Engineering on 07794 783748 or by email at bhaskins@bridgecivileng.co.uk or South West Water's 24 Hour Helpline on 0844 346 2020.

There are on-going concerns from local residents about the overgrown vegetation on the Church Wall which is forcing residents to walk in the road to avoid the brambles. The Clerk has written to the Parochial Church Council twice. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the Churchwardens as well.

Devon County Councillor Richard Hosking noted that:

- He has reported the damage on Stretchney Bridge and the collapsed culvert.
- There is also a collapsed area on the Diptford to Shorter Cross Road.
- It is budget season at DCC. The first draft budget will be available on 21 January.
- It is likely that mobile libraries will be phased back if not used. Please encourage those using this service to contact Libraries Unlimited. <https://librariesunlimited.org.uk>

Councillors asked if Cllr Hosking could chase the plans for Gara Bridge.

South Hams District Councillor Bob Steer noted that:

- Help to Buy SW won't be available until the properties at Wheat Park are ready to be marketed. But interested local residents can go on a waiting list. Please contact Help to Buy SW <https://www.helptobuysw.org.uk>.
- Councillors noted that planning permission was conditional on the properties being available for people with a Diptford connection. Cllr Steer agreed to go back and say that this has to be one of the criteria for selection for affordable housing properties. Diptford Parish Council supported this strongly.
- Waste Services at South Hams have been taken over by a private company from 1 May. There will be changes including a lot more recycling.
- SHDC have some commercial endeavours to raise money – these include a new supermarket in Ivybridge by the Leisure Centre, a national hotel chain in Kingsbridge and beach huts at Beesands. Parish Councillors noted that it is important to keep car parking in towns and not build on sites unless the car parking is retained.

There were three **planning applications** this month. Two were recommended for approval and one was not supported owing to concerns about drainage and the large size of the extension. Full details are in the Parish Council minutes on the website or the noticeboard by the school.

Councillors discussed the need to view planning applications when South Hams stop sending out hard copies in March 2019. Halwell and Moreleigh have a pull-down screen and projector which works well. The Clerk will approach the Parish Hall Committee and see what they suggest.

Over recent months Trustees of the local **Eleemosynary Trust** have been re-examining their role and the function of this small local charity. It is now inviting applications from people residing in the parish of Diptford for a modest grant from its limited funds to assist with:

- Travelling expenses to doctor or hospital appointments or residential care
- Anyone suffering financial difficulty due to sickness or unexpected loss
- Anyone under the age of 21 who is training as an apprentice or for an occupational qualification

For further information please contact the Charities secretary Miss C Crocker, Coombeshead Park, Coombeshead Farm, Diptford, TQ9 7NG. Parish Councillors asked if there is a closing date but applications are on-going.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on 28 May in the evening in the Village Hall. It is hoped that there will be a talk from Devon Air Ambulance as well as the local charities and community organisations. Please put the date in your diaries!

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 12 February at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Please consider standing as a Parish Councillor at the elections in May. All training is provided and it is a chance to really make a difference to your local community.