

Diptford Parish Council March News

Two members of the public attended the virtual meeting

The report from District Councillors Smerdon and Pannell can be found as appendix 1 to the minutes on our website

<https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/meetings.php>

Report from DCC Councillor Hosking

- First case of COVID recorded in Devon on 1st March 2020 – one year ago
- Significant roadworks at the junction of the A379 and A3121 will result in road closures and diversions for 6-12 months
- SF noted street lights in Diptford have been replaced
- CP requested an update on the Gara Bridge situation. Recent damage has caused significant expense which could have been avoided if the works had not been delayed. RH reminded Council that due to COVID there had been lots of staff deployment and shortages but he will chase up.
- Agreement that litter seemed to be an escalating problem

Open Forum

Primrose Trail Feasibility Study

1) The recently published feasibility study for The Primrose Trail was discussed with input from the 2 members of the public. Summary of concerns:

- It would have significant impact on the environment and local people
- That it would increase visitors to the area
- That it cites support of DPC who only agreed in principal to the project before having full details
- Diversions are on “quiet” lanes that are not quiet
- There are no parking places or facilities in the central area of the trail where people are likely to gravitate to start their activity
- Loss of privacy for properties on the proposed route

Although it was acknowledged that developments in Diptford parish would be in the future it was agreed that the clerk would draft a letter for all Councillors to comment on expressing concerns about the project and that this would be distributed to all organisations cited in the study.

2) It was reported that there had been several complaints about **noise coming from Sterts Quarry Farm**

Highways and Community Lengthsman

- a) Concern was raised about the escalating flooding issues at the Cross north of Oakham Bridge to Diptford. The clerk will contact DCC Highways
- b) The on-going problems with damage to Gara Bridge had been discussed with RH earlier

General Power of Competence

- a) It was agreed that the Parish Council meets the criteria for eligibility (two thirds elected members and CiLCA qualified Clerk)
- b) It was agreed to adopt the General Power of Competence

Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed to hold a virtual Annual Parish Meeting on 13th April at 6.30pm followed by an ordinary council meeting.

The Clerk will invite SHDC recycling team to the meeting to give residents an opportunity to ask questions about the new recycling scheme. All Diptford groups will receive an invitation to either submit a short report or do a brief presentation. If any groups or individuals do not get an invitation and would like to participate please email the clerk:

diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk

The AGM of the Council will be held on 5th May to fall within legal statute

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

Date of next meeting 13th April