

## County Report February

1. Devon County Council's new Strategic Plan has been published. The heads are as follows:
  - Respond to the climate emergency
  - Be ambitious for children / young people
  - Support sustainable economic recovery
  - Tackle poverty and inequality
  - Improve health and wellbeing
  - Help communities to be safe, connected and resilient.

You can read the whole document at [www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan](http://www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan)

### 2. The Newton Abbot 20mph trial

You will recall from my report last month that the people of Newton Abbot voted against having a year-long 20mph zone in their town. The decision from County Hall has been that no new 20mph zones would be considered until successful completion and reporting / analysis had taken place. Now, we revert to the previous position, where standard county policy applies. It is Nick Colton's view that Ugborough meets all of the necessary criteria with the exception of collisions / casualty data. As such, Ugborough is now officially on the list for consideration.

In real terms, while this is good news for all, I cannot promise that it means anything will happen immediately. Projects will be weighted and prioritised. Cabinet have proposed setting aside a sum of £100k to deal with the financials around applications but clearly, in a county the size of ours, this will not be enough.

### 3. Covid Boosters

Advice from County Hall is to spread the message that anyone who had covid in December – and is yet to have one – should now book a booster. The recommendation is to wait 28 days after an infection and this time will now have passed. Home Park Stadium continues to offer drop-in sessions.

### 4. Budget 22/23

This month, we will be having the budget setting meeting. You will not be surprised to hear that it will be a very challenging balancing act. For the avoidance of doubt, this isn't a political point. All Local Authorities are struggling to deliver the full gambit of services with the money received from central Government. I will brief you in full in my March report.

### 5. Locality Budget

I still have some remaining localities money. If you have any projects in mind, the deadline for applications this Financial year is March 11<sup>th</sup>.