

West Down Parish Council

County Councillors report

January 2024

Some good news to start 2024.....

Tarka Trail missing Link

Long standing members of the Parish Council will know that I have been campaigning for this for the 18 years I have been the County Councillor.

Proposals have been approved proposals to construct the latest section of the Tarka Trail between Barnstaple and Ilfracombe.

The £583,000 scheme supported at last month's Cabinet meeting will complete a missing link between Buttercombe Lane and Foxhunters as part of a longer-term route to eventually connect Barnstaple to Ilfracombe.

This new stretch is the second phase of the project and will be built using Active Travel Funding which Devon County Council received following a successful bid to Government earlier this year.

The scheme is delivering around 700 metres of shared use path, while also installing drainage culverts and creating a picnic area and several other rest areas.

The first phase from Willingcott Holiday Village to Buttercombe Lane has been built but requires access at either end.

A route at the holiday village is under construction by a third party as part of a planning permission, and North Devon HATOC recently approved construction for a section at Nethercott Road.

My aspiration as the local County Councillor is for the Tarka Trail to eventually be mostly off road and segregated from traffic between Knowle and Willingcott, with the exception of the short section on Nethercott Road, where the alternative route options are limited.

Currently, the Tarka Trail is off-road from Barnstaple to Braunton Police Station before it transfers on-road to Willingcott Bridge Junction, just north of Georgeham.

By providing a safe, off-road route more people will be encouraged to walk and cycle to work, place of education or in their leisure time which can help save money, while also improving health and the local environment. These latest improvements will provide an alternative to car journeys which will contribute towards our net zero carbon targets in the county.

Cedars Crossing Scheme- potential for traffic congestion.

Not in Combe Martin Rural division but I realise the significance for us all assessing services in Barnstaple therefore I wanted to warn you and your councillors about roadworks starting on **22nd January for the Cedars crossing** scheme.

The works will have a **duration of 20 weeks**. There are multiple utilities to be moved, hopefully all the various companies will stick to their timelines.

We can expect significant delays as a result of these works as there are limited alternative routes.

There will be four way traffic signals, manually controlled.

Signals will be taken down when there isn't anyone working as long as it is safe to do so, signals will be removed for the bank holiday weekend.

There is a dedicated email address for the scheme should you wish to make contact;

DCC-Cedars-Roundabout@wsp.com

Grit bins and information about gritting routes

With the colder weather we can expect to be using the grit bins, if you find a bin which needs filling there is an easy to use grit bin map on the website, just click on the icon and ask for it to be filled, damaged bins can also be reported here.

There is a map of the gritting routes in Devon but I would advise that when out driving in icy conditions to treat all roads as if they haven't been gritted as it needs friction for the grit to work.

[Grit Bins map – Road and Transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/road-transport/gritting)

Happy New Year, looking forward to working with you in 2024

Andrea Davis

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