

Diptford Parish Council
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A new Councillor was selected at the June Parish Council Meeting; Bob Baggott, who lives in Stable Cottage, Diptford Court Farm. He has lived in Diptford since 1999 and, with his wife Pat, has been involved in local activities. He brings to the Council experience in business and working with voluntary and community groups. The Parish Council received 3 applications for the Parish Councillor vacancy, which was a very healthy response and, as all the candidates would have made excellent Councillors, the decision was a difficult one.

The Meeting started with a very illuminating discussion on planning enforcement with SHDC's Malcolm Elliot, the Planning Team Leader and Enforcement Officer Helen Smart. They emphasised their reliance on local people – you – to report any possible breaches and, as the enforcement process can be protracted, breaches should be reported as soon as possible. Reports should be submitted on their Planning Breach Notification Form, which will also soon be available on line.

District Cllr Steer reported that the South West Regional Spatial Strategy had identified 20 additional travellers' sites for travellers in the South Hams, all of which will be located in the South Brent area. The Post Office had announced that Avonwick Post Office was due for closure and the Parish Council has submitted its concerns that the Post Office includes a shop which serves Diptford and adjacent Parishes. Without the Post office, the shop may close and Diptford would suffer a loss in service and, with no bus, an increased reliance on cars, with the associated rising fuel charges and cost to the environment.

Local Government Review proposals were received from both Devon CC and SHDC, but it was likely that the Boundary Committee would be publishing only one proposal for consultation on the 7th July.

Finally, a free Time for Life Community Mentoring Service is being offered to assist people over 50 to build confidence, remain active and independent. Funded by the Department of Health, and supported by Devon CC and a number of Health Providers, the service helps you to take easy steps to improve your quality of life, like making new friends and exploring new experiences and sharing skills. Contact Life mentors on 0845 296 7997 or info@timeforlife.org.uk.

I haven't forgotten consultations on planning applications – there were none!

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th July in the computer suite beneath the parish hall and you are welcome to attend.