

Diptford Parish Council
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Diptford Site Allocation in the LDF Development Plan Document (DPD) It was rewarding to learn that a number of parishioners had read my article about the site allocations in Diptford and had managed to respond to SHDC within the time limit for the initial consultation. Apart from objections to particular sites, all the respondents complained about the short consultation period. However, parishioners will have a second opportunity to put forward their views when the formal 6 week consultation period starts in March, once the best and most sustainable sites have been identified.

Part-night street lighting is due to be introduced from mid February, when street lights will be turned off from midnight to 5am. As Diptford is one of the first places in Devon to experience part-night street lighting, your County Cllr Black is keen to receive any feedback on its introduction.

The Ivybridge Voluntary Car Scheme has now absorbed the Diptford Community Car Scheme, although it is seeking to ensure that Diptford drivers serve Diptford, where possible. To book a car ring the co-ordinator on 01752 690444 between 9am – 12noon Monday to Friday, giving at least 48 hours notice of your need to travel. Passengers are charged 55p per mile for a return journey (70p per mile for a single one way journey), with a minimum charge of £2. For more details, look at the website, www.idcta.co.uk

Mobile library service Devon County Council is carrying out a review of the Mobile Library Service with the objective of revitalising it and making it a better used and more vibrant service within local communities. The Parish Council will be completing their questionnaire and, in addition, a public version of the survey is available at www.devon.gov.uk/mobile_libraries. Views and comments from people who are not currently using the service are very much welcomed.

Planning applications No objections were raised to the resubmitted application for a barn conversion to residential dwelling at Thorn Farm Diptford. Sustainable South Brent presented its proposals for a wind turbine at Marley Thatch, outside the parish boundary, and Councillors supported their community energy initiatives.

The Boundary Review was discussed briefly. County Cllr Black considered that the reorganisation was unlikely to be implemented before the general election as the decision had yet to be ratified by the House of Lords and DCC was intending to apply for a judicial review. She believed Exeter had insufficient population to sustain a unitary authority, and warned that its implementation would result in higher council taxes in Exeter and the rest of Devon.

Police report The police warn of a recent spate of burglaries to outbuildings and garages in the South Hams, where power tools and fuel have been stolen. They advise you to ensure property is marked, keep buildings and items secure and report any suspicious activity, including any unusual vehicles or people in and around the area. For non emergency calls, phone 08452 777444 or email the South Brent police station at southbrentofficers@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk. The Police Street Surgery continues every 1st and 3rd Monday morning from 8.30 to 9.30 outside the old Rising Sun Inn.

The Totnes Walk & Talk programme has been issued to April 2010, and regular walks are also held in South Brent, Ivybridge, Kingsbridge and Dartmouth. All led walks are absolutely free, and there are three levels of walk available, depending on ability. Details are available on the Parish Noticeboard, or call Kate Wright on 01822 813571 or 07920 786505, or email kate.wright@southhams.gov.uk

Photo Competition Finally, South Devon AONB is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a photo competition, and prizes include a balloon flight. There are three themed categories: Classic landscape, Settlements & villages, and Living the view. Each category has an under 16 section. Entry details are available at www.sdaonb-comp.org.uk

The next Diptford Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16th March. You are welcome to attend.