

The July meeting of the parish council on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> was dominated by work that was started earlier in the year.

Building on the work already undertaken into the facilities within the village for disabled residents and visitors a member of the parish expressed concerns about the access for disabled users to and from the bus shelter by the War Memorial, specifically access to the shelter across a grassy bank. Although the shelter was constructed for the use of children waiting to catch the school buses in the morning, common practice has seen it being used by pedestrians and the local bus, which turns around here. It was suggested that the shelter might be moved to somewhere flatter, removing the need for users to mount a sometimes slippery grass bank. The first action is to enquire of the bus company whether they would entertain such a move.

The advisory disabled bay at the Lydford end of the Granite Way is felt to be unfit for purpose, being partially obscured by road mud and too short to allow disabled users to access the rear of their vehicles. Councillors will arrange for the bay to be fully cleaned before entering into discussions with Devon Highways on enlarging the bay and putting up a kerb sign.

The council continues to press DNPA about the lack of toilet facilities for the disabled at the car park and the need for at least one dedicated disabled parking bay.

Councillors are keen to hear of any other problems that may be identified. Please pass details to the council at the usual email address – [clerk@lydfordparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@lydfordparishcouncil.com). A photo of the problem would be a great help.

With the help of Katie West, the Affordable Housing lead for WDBC, Councillors agreed the plan for getting the Housing Needs survey out to parishioners and for analysing the data received. To accompany the launch of the survey questionnaire, Councillors will hold a public meeting to raise the profile of the survey, explain its purpose and to answer parishioners' questions. The council is planning to circulate the questionnaire primarily online, although it will have supplies of hard copies for those parishioners who would prefer that medium.

The council pays for the play equipment to be professionally surveyed each spring by RoSPA. The last two reports have required large pieces of the wooden equipment to be replaced, citing decay issues. The pieces have been replaced as ordered, although on inspection both timbers were found to be internally sound. Having received no satisfactory answer to its request for clarity on the matter, the council is having to resort to RoSPA's complaints procedure to try and establish exactly what the relevant British Standards stipulate.

Councillors have been asked recently about the anticipated rollout of full fibre broadband to Lydford. The latest information available is that Government contracts have been signed with Openreach and work is expected to start some time in 2026.

The rising incidence of attempted banking fraud has led to the introduction of a dedicated phone number where members of the public can check if a request is genuine or fraudulent. Telephone number 159 works in the same way as 101 does for the police or 111 for the NHS. If you think someone is trying to trick you into handing over money or personal details stop, hang up and call 159 to talk directly to your bank.

There is no parish council meeting scheduled for August. The next meeting will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>