

Community Roadside Action Party (CRAP)

Three of us, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (WDBC locality officer and mayor of Hatherleigh) xxxxxxxx (who works for DWT) and myself have set this group up - CRAP - Community Roadside Action Party - as a response to being fed up seeing the verges filled with, well, crap. We're gently trying to encourage people to adopt a stretch of verge which they clear, then show some TLC on a regular, ongoing basis to keep it clear. The uptake has been tremendous. 250 members in three days, and many people heading out to pick then sharing photos of their haul (which has included a toaster, silver tea set and so far 47 bags of rubbish). We're asking people to separate for recycling when possible and prioritising safety by encouraging high viz, gloves and risk assessments in advance, with fast roads being avoided.

Xxxxxx, xxxxxx and I are having a meeting tomorrow over zoom to discuss ways forward. We want to start with West Devon and give our borough the opportunity to be put on the map for something positive. Then we would like to roll it out nationwide if possible, involving schools and businesses. Radio Devon and Spotlight have got wind already and are keen to feature us. We've held them off until next week when we will have had a chance to catch our breath. Someone in Hatherleigh has offered to sponsor us (not sure what that would look like but we've asked if we can come back to him when we're more established and he has kindly said yes).

So, I'm not sure what Oke Town Council or WDBC could do for / with us. We would like to retain "ownership" as it were as we have some good ideas between us, but any thoughts and support gratefully received.