

Okehampton Town Council
7th July 2025
Meeting Report

Date:	30 th June 2025
Name:	Emma James

10. Highways and Footpath Matters

10.1 Ranelagh Mews – To consider correspondence from a member of the public in relation to parking difficulties

I am writing to you on the advice of Devon County Council regarding an ongoing parking issue we have at Ranelagh Mews which xxxxxxxxxx.

Our driveway there is consistently blocked from access on the right-hand side as cars park across both lanes where it finishes and turns into our drive and then a footpath.

There is a single white line which acts as ‘access protection’ but this is not seemingly helping prevent parking. Devon County have said below which I have copied that double yellow lines might be more suitable. To do this they have asked me to contact local council and explain the issue which I am doing. Two photos are attached one historic and one recent showing the issue faced.



10.2 Gas Network Upgrade – To consider correspondence from Wales and West Utilities advising of major gas upgrade work in Okehampton

We are Wales and West Utilities - your local gas network. We don't sell gas; we transport it to homes and businesses throughout Wales and the southwest of England. We also respond to gas emergencies, connect new homes and businesses to gas and upgrade old metal pipes to new plastic ones. I'm writing to advise you of our upcoming programme of Gas mains replacement works in the local area. Whilst I understand our works are disruptive and will ultimately cause delays around the local town, they really are essential.

We are due to commence a 1.5km pipe upgrade programme, investing £305k to upgrade current metal pipes to long lasting plastic pipes. We are proposing our works will start on the 30/06/2025 and anticipate the works to run until early 2026. During our works to ensure road users,

pedestrians and our colleagues are safe there will be various traffic management in place throughout our works, including road closures.

We are currently under consultation with Devon County council with regards to the permits for our works to take place.

The works will be carried out in phases as below:-

- Phase 1 – Exeter Road Starts 28/07 With Rolling 2/3 Way TLs.
- Phase 2 – Exeter Road Road Closure between LIMESHAYES RD TO BALMORAL CRESCENT from 15/09 until 06/10.
- Following Road Closures will be required on East Street / Far View Road/ Victoria Street/ Wonnacotts Road/ Barton Road/ Lopes Crescent.

As part of our communications strategy, I would like to take the opportunity to consult with the local town to ensure your expectations are met. Whilst work like this is deemed as disruptive, it really is essential to make sure we keep the gas flowing to homes and businesses in the area, and to make sure the gas network is fit for the future. As a business we will do all we can to help and ensure our works are completed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Within the coming weeks we will be looking to consult with residents, and we'd like to ensure your fully aware of our works first hand. No doubt this project will raise enquiries your way, hence the reason why I'm consulting ahead of our works scheme starting.

I'm looking to gain some key contacts from Okehampton Town Council to consult with as part of our communications strategy. Closer to the start date we will be looking to issue a press release advising the above details on the works. If there are any social media pages or local newsletters that you think would benefit from these details, please send them on to myself and I will ensure these are actioned.

10.4 Mill Road and George Street Roadworks – To consider correspondence from DCC in relation to planned work to the courtesy crossing

Firstly, let me introduce myself, my name is xxxxxx and I am the Highway Engineer for West Devon.

We have resurfacing works planned for this financial year for the whole of Mill Road, George Street, in towards Courteney Road and the junction with Castle Hill. There are several raised areas with paving across the carriageways, and we would like to remove these and replace them with blacktop as part of the scheme as this is a more user-friendly material and easier to maintain going forward. We will of course be keeping the areas raised though.



We are seeking your support for this, but should you have any objections please contact me.

10.5 Speeding in Crediton Road – To consider correspondence from a member of the public

RE: SPEED OF TRAFFIC ON CREDITON ROAD, OKEHAMPTON

I am writing to you as a very concerned Resident, ~~Resident, Motorist, Parent and Grandparent.~~

I am writing to you regarding the high speed of vehicles - cars, lorries, motorbikes & tractors - travelling up and down Crediton Road, Okehampton.

I live at ~~the top of~~ Crediton Road, so as a motorist my journey starts by pulling out onto Crediton Road from Fort Road (The new Redrow Estate). I would think that the majority of drivers living on our estate would turn right out of Fort Road taking them towards the town or the A30. The visibility of on-coming traffic is very limited due to the line of the hedge which is on a slight bend. This wouldn't be too bad if all the vehicles were keeping to the 30 mph speed limit. However, the majority of cars are not keeping to this speed, making turning right on to Crediton Road extremely dangerous.

Every morning before I go to work (between ~~8-11 am~~) I walk ~~along~~ along Crediton Road. This is obviously a popular time for lorries and vans heading for work - probably going to the new housing estates. The lorries go so fast that they have now scared ~~me~~ with the speed and noise and when I have to cross the road to walk down Chichacott Road we have to be very quick to get safely across due to the high speed of the traffic. The stretch of Crediton Road between Chichacott Road and Fort Road is wide, flat and straight encouraging drivers to go faster.

My grandchildren attend ~~St Andrew's~~ School. Last term the children showed me a letter they had received from school informing them that if they were in Years 4 - 6 they could walk home from school on their own if the parents agreed. That is children as young as 8 years old. Luckily my grandchildren don't live in walking distance from school so this wouldn't be an issue for them. However, children as young as 8 years old are walking out of school at home time and crossing the busy Crediton Road with no crossing or Lollypop Lady/Man. The traffic is obviously very busy at this time of day with the school run which is an accident waiting to happen. With the amount of cars dropping and picking children up from the primary school with not enough room allotted for the safe parking of all the cars, drivers and parents getting frustrated and angry causing aggressive driving. On one of my walks past the school I had to take to the hedge as there was a parent driving (all 4 wheels) down the pavement. The safety of the young children has not been considered.

There is going to be a really nasty accident - is this what you are waiting for before you do anything to make this road safer?

In December two young men were very sadly killed at the top of Exeter Road in a horrific single vehicle accident. Also in December a pedestrian was involved in a Hit and Run accident just after the speed camera - I am not sure what injuries he has but he was taken to hospital. A few months ago there was a nasty vehicle crash close to the new Persimmon site - All these accidents happening on a road where there is a 30 / 40 mph speed limit with new working speed cameras. New cameras have also been installed on Exeter Road since the hit and run.

If this can happen on Exeter Road where the traffic is noticeably and significantly calmer and slower why is nothing being done to combat the issue on Crediton Road?

My husband spoke to someone standing on Exeter Road with a speed camera - he was only there for half an hour - this isn't long enough.

Another big problem in the area is vehicles parking on the pavements - sometimes having all four wheels on the pavement. When I took my driving test many years ago it was a fail if you touched the pavement - pavements were for pedestrians not vehicles. On numerous occasions I have walked down Crediton Road, but I have had to walk on the road to pass a vehicle which has parked on a pavement. It is quite easy for me, albeit dangerous, to walk around the van but there are a lot of people who have prams and pushchairs and people who use mobility scooters or wheelchairs, also children walking to and from Okehampton College and the Primary School. On one occasion we were following a lady on a mobility scooter travelling down Crediton Road - we had to go and find the driver of a van to get them to move the vehicle as she couldn't get past - the driver was not very nice and not very happy to oblige. This should not be such a big problem and we should not have to walk on the road. On talking to other people I know who live around the town it seems to be a problem on most roads in the area.

As you walk past the new Redrow Estate the pavement disappears until you get to the entrance of AdPad and Barrett Homes. We were led to believe that as part of the planning application there would be a pavement along this part of Crediton road so pedestrians could get from the new Barrett's estate into town safely. Children and adults are walking this piece of road, sometimes in the dark to get to school and work - dodging the speeding traffic. Surely this should not be the case and this needs to be made safer.

There is now a crossing further up the road where Barrett Homes crosses over to David Wilson Homes - again no crossing, visibility very poor and speeding traffic. We know there have been numerous accidents along this road probably due to the speed the vehicles are travelling, and a couple of years ago a fatality.

Approximately 12 months ago ~~Mr. [Name]~~ volunteered to do a Speed Awareness course as the parish council and the police were going to set up a speed watch team in the local area - something that he was happy to help with to combat the problem. He spent his spare time reading up about it and doing the online course, however, this never went any further as there was a lack of interest from the police and the local council. Surely - if you have members of the public willing to help and make the area a safer place for drivers and pedestrians - most importantly the children - why not take advantage of their time and help?

God forbid there is a serious accident, but I fear it is not far away, at which time we will no doubt see the rise of experts within the local authorities that if they had interest at this stage they could assist in prevention rather than investigating and pointing fingers of blame when a serious accident happens.

I have sent a copy of this letter to:

Devon & Cornwall Police Headquarters
West Devon Council.
Local Parish Council.
St James' Primary School.
Local Planning Authority - West Devon.
Rt Hon Mel Stride

Devon & Cornwall Police Okehampton
Devon County Council
Devon Highways
Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
National Highways Traffic Officer

11. To consider correspondence from Bere Ferrers Parish Council

On behalf of Bere Ferrers Parish Council, I am writing to ask whether your Council has experienced any issues or has concerns regarding the West Devon Borough Council Planning Department.

Our Council continues to face ongoing frustrations, particularly with the limited local knowledge of many Planning Officers—many of whom do not reside in the area—as well as a noticeable decline

in the number of site visits being carried out. We are also increasingly concerned that our Parish's Neighbourhood Plan is not being given appropriate consideration in planning decisions.

We suspect these issues may not be unique to our Parish, and are therefore reaching out to gather feedback from other Parishes across West Devon. We fully recognize the valuable time and commitment that Parish Councillors dedicate to the planning process, and understand the growing concern that their contributions are being consistently overlooked.

Once responses have been gathered, we propose arranging a virtual Teams meeting with interested Parishes to further discuss these shared concerns and explore how we might address them collectively.

We would be grateful if you could send any comments, feedback, or relevant experiences to me at **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.