

Staff

There have been a series of temporary changes to Neighbourhood staff as a result participation in the current working groups on System Thinking and the new Team Maintenance Contract:-

Torrington – Steve Elsworthy is looking after Ian Rawle's Bideford South and Hartland Division.

Newton Abbot – Tegan Preston is dealing with customer enquiries in Simon Pearson's Kingsteignton and Chudleigh Rural Divisions, with Dan Ray and Luke Jamieson helping Tegan with special events and temporary traffic orders.

Tiverton – Richard Brown is being seconded to the post of Neighbourhood Highway Engineer.

Eastern – A replacement for Richard Brown has not yet been confirmed.

Road Warden Scheme

Following presentations at the two Town and Parish Councils Conferences, the autumn cycle of Highways and Traffic Order Committees and the recent team events the full guidance notes for the Road Warden scheme are now available.

[Community Road Warden Scheme - Guidance Notes.doc](#)

[Community Self Help Scheme - Guidance Notes.doc](#)

Last year over 30 parish representatives took advantage of training in Highway Safety Awareness in preparation for the scheme. Funding for training for Road Wardens is available again this financial year, but is unlikely to be available next year. Could all those in contact with Parish and Town Councils encourage them to put forward representatives for training **now** to take advantage of this.

Drainage

There is a separate article in this bulletin regarding the effect of recent flooding in East Devon and a number of drainage issues have come to light over recent weeks on the priority salting network throughout the county. The November meeting of HNMG has identified there is currently capacity in the revenue drainage budget, cleaning budget and gully cleaning jetting budget to undertake remedial works which need to be ordered. There are also no priority 1 capital drainage schemes awaiting authorisation and so should any come to light they may be introduced into the programme at the expense of a lower priority scheme. In light of this it was agreed to arrange for Neighbourhood Teams to undertake a review of the priority salting network and take appropriate action to resolve any issues which may be putting the authority at risk as we enter a potential period of cold weather.

Barnstaple Civic Centre

It looks likely that the Neighbourhood staff based at the Civic Centre will be on the move next year (along with their EDG and BCMT colleagues). A decision has been made to vacate Barnstaple Civic Centre during 2015. Discussions and negotiations with other occupiers and stakeholders continue and the County Council are also considering other possible locations for office space in the town. One of the options being considered is Barnstaple Library and it is likely that modern, flexible office space will be created in the building. The initial stages of planning and preparation have started including scoping the space at the Library and discussions regarding refurbishment and improvement of the facility. Over the coming weeks works will take place to progress plans to reconfigure the Library space, alongside engagement with staff at the Civic Centre to consider accommodation requirements for each team in more detail.

Tony Matthews
Neighbourhood Highway Group Manager