

## DCC Highways schemes for Parish Councils

WHPC has been informed about two schemes:

### **1. A trial scheme for communities asking to self-deliver “minor” highways improvements.**

DCC Highways service is trialling a scheme for communities to use their own money to make minor improvements to roads in their area. Such self-delivery schemes could include, for example, a 20mph zone or traffic calming. The results of the trial will determine if the proposal should be turned into a permanent scheme. A step-by-step guide will be published, co-authored by the Highways and Traffic Management Service with the support of the Engineering Design Group, enabling communities to understand the steps that are required before any work is carried out. Steps include appointing a competent designer, environmental considerations, road safety and maintenance audits, consultation with affected parties and any changes to Traffic Regulation Orders.

There is no additional information on the DCC website, but it may be possible meet with Tom Vaughan DCC Neighbourhood Highways Manager to discuss the scheme.

### **2. 20mph speed limit programme – expressions of interest 2024-25 (tranche 3)**

Each year Devon County Council receives significant numbers of requests for 20mph schemes. Communities that would most benefit from lower vehicle speeds are prioritised, based on a 'priority matrix'. So far, 11 selected 20mph speed limit schemes in the first two funding tranches are underway or have been completed. There is now an opportunity for a third tranche to be progressed through the 2024-2025 financial year.

The first two tranches received a significant amount of interest (152 submissions). Each community is ranked using a 'priority matrix' and six communities with the highest scores were put forward for new schemes in 2023. The six chosen in 2023 were Black Torrington, Bridgerule and Dolton in Torridge, Cockwood and Dawlish in Teignbridge and Uffculme in Mid Devon. Four communities were chosen in 2022. It is proposed to utilise the same scoring matrix as used for the previous years.

The 'priority scoring matrix' takes into account a number of factors: average speeds at key locations and the number of vulnerable road users in that area, speed-related collision history, the level of support in the community, presence of an active Community Speedwatch group and the community's deprivation index ranking. (West Hill is not high on the index of deprivation)

There is not enough funding to deliver schemes in every community that requests one, hence the priority scoring matrix. The intention is to identify those most in need to ensure the limited resources are focused where they will be of the greatest benefit.

The next steps will be for elected DCC Members to work with their communities to complete new or modified applications. It is important that every application is supported both by the Town or Parish Council and Elected Member prior to assessment.

**To allow for assessment and prioritisation for schemes to be delivered in 2024-25 all new or modified submissions must be complete by 1st March 2024.**

The application form is online at [DCC Highways 20mph Community Self Assessment Form](#)

For consideration:

1. Do Cllrs wish to request a meeting with a DCC Highways Officer to learn more about the community self-delivery scheme?
2. Do Cllrs wish to submit an application to the 20mph speed limit programme Tranche 3 (bearing in mind the deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> March)?