

## **Holcombe Residents Association**

Over the last few months, the Residents Association has been following up on a number of issues raised by Members at recent General Meetings. Two issues in particular warrant a wider circulation.

### **Crossing of the A379**

We have written to Devon County Council asking for an update of its plans to improve pedestrian safety on the South West Coast Path, in particular at the Holcombe dip. In its response, DCC acknowledge that the double crossing of the main road for walkers using the SWCP is undesirable and that they have explored two options to address the particular concern at Smugglers Lane. Both options would have involved a widening of the road and the construction of a pedestrian refuge but have been ruled out on cost grounds.

However, DCC recognise that the problem will not go away and the position is likely to deteriorate with increased traffic on the A379, for example following the Sainsbury's development. It appears that a formal traffic survey / count may not have been done on this stretch of road, so DCC are undertaking to do one to see if a pedestrian crossing, of some sort, can be justified.

We have asked DCC to keep us updated on the outcome of the traffic count and also enquired whether extending the pavement from the junction of Windward Lane to Holcombe Drive has been explored, as this would certainly help SWCP walkers.

### **Gatehouse development**

When this development started nearly four years ago, permission was obtained by the developer to create a temporary access point in Smugglers Lane on the condition that the wall was re-instated after the development was completed. We have written to Teignbridge District Council asking whether the wall should now be re-instated given that the development has ceased due to financial difficulties. TDC has responded that the developer is not in breach of any condition as the development is not completed and, as a result, it cannot take any action. From our perspective, it is unfortunate that no time limit was attached to the condition. We will, however, continue to monitor the debris that runs off the site down Smugglers Lane through the "temporary" access point, as we have been informed that DCC can take action if it is impacting on the highway (yes, Smugglers Lane is deemed to be a highway!).

Copies of correspondence from DCC and TDC on the above issues can be found on the Village website ([www.holcombedevon.co.uk](http://www.holcombedevon.co.uk)).

### **Forthcoming events**

The next General Meeting of the Association will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15pm. Apart from the usual agenda items, we will be having a talk by John Risdon on "Torbay's Glorious Coastline".

At the time of writing this article, there are still some tickets available for “An Evening with Tony Beard” on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm (see last month’s article in this newsletter). Tickets priced £6.50 can be obtained from Gerry Chambers (01626 888919), with all profits going towards Devon Air Ambulance.

We are also holding an additional General Meeting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 7.15pm to discuss the draft Local Neighbourhood Plan that should be published around the end of September. This is an important document as it will set out a vision for Dawlish over the next 20 years, and TDC Planning Officers will be at the meeting to go through the key issues. After a consultation period, there will a public referendum on the Plan early in the New Year.

And finally, a belated thanks to everyone who contributed to the refreshment stall at the Village Summer Fayre. All the cakes and savouries were sold and raised £119 for Village Hall funds.