

Corporate management

Following the appointment of Phil Shears as Managing Director of the Council further changes have been made within the management structure as part of the council's commitment to cost savings.

Neil Aggett's departure as head of democratic services and monitoring officer has necessitated that some key roles be filled to ensure ongoing business continuity.

Justin Price-Jones has been appointed as Teignbridge's new Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer. Mr Price-Jones will be at Teignbridge on an interim basis for three months while MD Phil Shears continues his work on reviewing the senior management structure. Mr Price-Jones started this week and is based in the Managing Director's area in Forde House.

Exeter City Council are providing Democratic Services with ongoing support with councillor committee meetings. This arrangement will be in place until May 2019 when it'll be reviewed following the district local elections. Gail Charles, PA to the interim Heads of Service, is assisting with any Local Ombudsman enquiries the council may receive.

Audit have taken on the council's GDPR responsibilities. As an authority we met the May 25 legislative start date in a robust position and organisational awareness is high. Lisa Wilson, GDPR consultant from Data Privacy Advisory Services, is with Teignbridge on a part-time basis until October and remains working through some outstanding matters.

The council is currently advertising for a permanent HR and Organisational Development Manager. The closing date is 25 June.

Planning

After 32 years in local government, Nick Davies, Teignbridge's Business Manager - Strategic Place will be leaving Teignbridge District Council in November.

Following a very lengthy selection process, Nick has been successful in being appointed as a Planning Inspector at the Planning Inspectorate.

A distinguished career in Planning, Nick began his time at Teignbridge as Temporary Planning Clerk and following studies to gain a Planning degree soon secured a post as Graduate Planning Officer. A short spell at Exeter City Council saw Nick return to Teignbridge as a Planning Assistant in Development Control (as it was called then). Showing a dedication and commitment to his planning career, over the years Nick progressed to Senior Planning Officer, Area Planning Officer and Major Projects Officer. In the last management restructure Nick was appointed a Business Manager.

UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO SINGLE USE PLASTICS

At Overview and Scrutiny on 4th June David Eaton, the Environmental Protection Manager for Teignbridge District Council, programme lead of 'Zero Heroes', led a presentation with Lizzie Burston, one of the recycling officers supporting the project. The project's focus was on the Council's response to Single-Use Plastic, as opposed to the general recycling service performance which had regular updates on the Clean Scene presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings. He commented on the changing perception of plastic as a disposable resource and of Teignbridge District Council's efforts to eliminate single-use plastics across all of their sites by reducing waste and recycling more from all of the Council's operations and buildings. David Eaton outlined the work to date and referred to the 'Zero Heroes' project team, which, with colleagues from the Economy and Assets team were working together to audit and action a reduction of the level of single-use plastics such as plastic bottles and cups, coffee cups and lids, plastic cutlery, straws, bags, and even decanting cleaning products from larger containers. He highlighted

a number of particular initiatives including the reduction of the use of the take-away cup working with the Seasoned Kitchen catering staff at Forde House by promoting the use of branded reusable cups which could easily be identified and collected back up.

Lizzie Burston updated Members on a number of projects including: -

- The Litter Innovation Fund in Teignmouth was part of a six-month project funded by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to reduce marine litter from litter bins on the sea front and from general waste collections from properties on sack collections, with a trial of different containers in an effort to deter seagulls. Teignmouth was selected as it had the right mix of town and seafront. There were other opportunities to work with residents and local businesses to increase awareness and ultimately reduce green litter.
- A team had been working with volunteers to manage and prevent litter on the Back Beach at Teignmouth, with new signage and compartmentalised bins.
- A litter campaign had commenced to reduce litter particularly thrown from cars and highlighting the reporting and enforcement process.

Crowdfunding

At full council, also on 4th June, members were asked to consider working with Devon County Council, Exeter City Council, East Devon DC Mid Devon DC and Devon and Cornwall police on helping communities with Crowdfunding for projects. A short presentation was given to members but it was felt that more information was needed before we could commit any funds to the initiative.

Wolborough Barton

Finally, on 22nd June, I attended a presentation given by the council's consultants White, Young, Green on the draft development framework document for the site. It is expected to have the documents placed before the planning committee at the end of July for approval to go out to public consultation shortly thereafter.

Cllr Dennis Smith (Ambrook Ward)