

DCC Cllr Claire Wright

Monthly Report – August 2020

Tipton St John school relocation planning application - land adjacent to Cadhay Lane

I thought you may be interested to know that the OSMTC planning meeting to discuss the above application is scheduled for 3 September. I will be present to hear the views of councillors and other members of the community.

I have been involved in meetings relating to Tipton school's difficulties for many years. My position has always been that Tipton St John's school should have been able to be relocated within the village. A site was identified with landowner agreement in principle, in around 2014/15. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of DCC, the school and the diocese, this was not possible due to the government rejecting the bid to ministers under the Priority Schools Funding programme.

The Environment Agency retains its long-term position that the school has a serious flooding problem, which could cause loss of life. I am working on a blog post to provide the background and my own position.

B3180 speed limits

I am still having difficulty in getting answers from highways officers on what the plans are on this road and the campaign from residents to extend the 30mph area. I hope to get some clarity soon. Residents living along that road are getting frustrated, understandably.

Anti-racism campaign

I am working with Kings School sixth form students (especially BAME students) on an anti-racism campaign, which has been sparked by the Black Lives Matter movement. Last week we agreed a campaign structure which is tied into a motion I have submitted to Devon County Council and will be debated in October, following a recommendation to cabinet next month.

The students originally contacted me to say they felt they didn't have a voice and could I help, so I was only too happy to support them and we worked on the motion together.

I am sorry to report that my motion has met with some significant opposition online, some of it abusive, mainly on Facebook but also in the comments section of the media organisations that covered it. This has not deterred the students though and they are keen to kick off the campaign and set the record straight on a range of issues relating to the discrimination that BAME people face every day. It will be launched in the next week or so.

Grant funding

This link may be useful to local groups/councillors who are looking for funding for projects - <https://inside.devon.gov.uk/news/devon-funding-news-and-grantfinder/>