Highways in Coldridge

There has been some mention of highways recently and Coldridge Parish Council (PC) would like to explain the situation in Coldridge, which is no different from many other rural parishes in Devon.

DCC has a policy that all roads are there to be used by all and any vehicles which are legally allowed to use them. As all the vehicles appear to be legal there is no reason why articulated lorries should not use the highways in Coldridge.

Devon County Council (DCC) are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all the highways in Coldridge and any issues should be reported using the following link. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

The PC are not content with the state of repair and have written to DCC Highways, copied to Mel Stride MP as well as MDDC Councillors, but this had little effect.

The Parish Council has been trying to get an initial study carried out to see if Coldridge village is eligible for a 30-mph speed limit, but at present it is unlikely one will be implemented. To try and slow traffic down the PC paid for and installed the “20 is plenty” signs but these have no legal significance. As all road users are legally required to drive according to the road conditions it is quite reasonable for people to keep to 20 in the village. If a 30-mph limit were introduced, it is unlikely there would any active enforcement by the authorities.

C&R construction has been visited by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the PC and they have issued a memo to all staff asking them to drive at 20 mph in the village, but they cannot enforce this.

The PC also installed a sign near C&R construction advising that HGV’s going to Hawkridge Dairy cannot use that road to get there, and Hawkridge Dairy insist none of their vehicles use the roads through the village.

DCC tell us the amount of money available to carry out this work has been affected by the government’s cap on Council Tax rises, and the growing burden on DCC to provide adult and children’s social care. As a result, a lower priority is being given to minor roads in favour of A and B roads. Potholes are a continuing problem, and the most efficient way of flagging one up is go on-line at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>. This can be used for overflowing drains, and any other highway issue.

If anyone has any ideas on actions which could be taken then the Clerk Coldridgepcclerk@btinternet.com or Andrew Green andrew@chilverton.co.uk or any other Parish Councillor would like to hear from you. Do come along to our next Parish Council meeting on the 20th July when we always start with an Open Forum session when your views can be aired. You don’t have to stay for the PC meeting which follows on.