

## **Cllr Henry Riddell March 2024 Report**

A few things to note this month.

### **LORP:**

I attended the celebration event in Lime Kiln Car Park, Budleigh to celebrate the completion of the Lower Otter Restoration Project. the extension to a National Nature Reserve neighbouring Budleigh Salterton, making the Otter Estuary Nature Reserve the third in the new King's Series of National Nature Reserves.

The Otter Estuary becomes the latest in the "King's Series" celebrating the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The National Nature Reserve extension brings together the existing 1159 hectares of Pebblebed Heaths, a nationally important lowland heathland.

The event was very well attended. The plaque to commemorate the project was unveiled by Tony Juniper from Natural England and The Nature Minister Rebecca Pow MP.

### **Budleigh Salterton Youth Project:**

As I spoke about back in January's meeting, we held our open morning for the Budleigh Youth Project. We got several ideas of ways that we can expand the reach of the project.

I am currently with some other volunteers organising a Youth Disco Night hopefully to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September but I will confirm the date and send out more info/posters once its confirmed.

### **South West Water:**

As we all know South West Water have been failing in their responsibilities. On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, I supported the 'Sewage & South West Water' motion being put forward at Full Council. I made a speech highlighting the issues that South West Water are causing in our Ward. There are several actions from the motion so I will attach the full motion wording at the bottom of my report.

### **Banking Hubs:**

Since becoming elected back in May, lots of residents and local businesses have told me of their frustration with the closure of bank branches.

I am very aware of the demographic and the vulnerable people in Budleigh Salterton and the surrounding villages and for some a trip into Exmouth or Exeter is just not possible. Myself and Simon Jupp have written to LINK to ask them to undertake a formal assessment of banking provision in the town.

I will keep you all updated on any progress and if anyone would like a copy of the letter please let me know.

### **West End Kiosk, Budleigh Beach:**

Please find below a statement from EDDC Officers regarding the West End Kiosk at the bottom of Steamer Steps that was damaged in the storms:

“The Council is currently considering the best way forward bearing in mind the damage to the kiosk inflicted by the storm and expects to have something more definitive to report within the next two weeks. The Council is very aware of the concerns being expressed about the current condition as we approach Easter and we look forward to the beaches becoming busier.”