

Chulmleigh Parish Council – February Newsletter

If you would like to have this Newsletter by email, please contact Sue Squire .

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The next Police Surgery will be on Monday, 10 February 2025 in the Town Hall between 10am and 12 noon, subject to operational duties.

Davy Park. This is an area for everyone to enjoy in safety and without worry. Unfortunately when the weekly play area inspection is carried out, there is always litter scattered around, despite a litter bin being provided, and more worryingly, broken glass which obviously is a danger to people and the grass cutting contractor.

Davy Park is included under North Devon Council's Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which covers the whole of North Devon.

This means that No Dogs are allowed in the park. There are signs to this effect but sadly these are ignored by some dog owners, even when challenged.

When the railings at the entrance have been refurbished, there will be other signs to reinforce the PSPO and it would be hoped, and indeed expected, that dog owners will respect this, especially when there is a dedicated dog walking area in the town at the Pavilion.

Community Speedwatch. Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join with the support and supervision of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices.

Registered keepers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted – initially with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour. Repeat offenders will receive a visit from the local police, irrespective of where they live. Beyond these friendly gestures, focused enforcement and criminal prosecution follow based on the collated evidence.

Speedwatch activity is not about interfering with neighbours' behaviour; it is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in their local community.

If you are interested in this topic and / or wish to talk further about getting a Speedwatch Group in operation in Chulmleigh, please speak to a Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk, details above. Full training and support is provided by the Police, there has to be a minimum of 4 people to form a Group, one of which needs to be the coordinator to input the details from the Speedwatch sessions.

Road Closure. Monday and Tuesday, 10 and 11 February from Ford Cross to Bonds Cross for the repair of post and rail fencing around the culvert. Diversion signs will be in place.

How to Register for Neighbourhood Alerts. To register for neighbourhood alerts, typically you need to visit your local police force's website, navigate to their "Community Alerts" or "Neighbourhood Alert" section, and fill out a registration form with your personal details including email address and location to start receiving updates about local crime and incidents in your area; most services allow you to choose the type of alerts you want to receive.

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Registering with Devon and Cornwall Alert Registration is free, simple and easy - just use the simple sign up feature on the home page. Once you have verified your account by responding to the verification e-mail, you have instant access to the Devon and Cornwall Alert website.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service has a consultation running until 9 April 2025 on how they respond to Automatic Fire Alarms. They say:

'Last year, our crews responded to an average of 16 false alarms every day due to automatic fire alarms, placing an unnecessary burden on the Service's resources and our ability to be ready and available for genuine emergencies.

In the last five years, we have been alerted to more than 55,000 automatic fire alarms, out of which just 42 needed the hose reel jet from one of our fire engines, which is less than 0.08%.'

We're looking at how we can reduce the number of automatic fire alarms we attend to make our Service more efficient, and make sure our firefighters are able to respond to genuine emergencies.

More detailed information about the consultation, and a link to a public survey for feedback, is available on our website www.dsfire.gov.uk/about-us/AFA-consultation. There will also be opportunities to question and answer events.

We want to make absolutely clear to our communities that any change is only in our response to an automatic alert and we will always attend if someone has reported a sign of fire. We will also always attend single domestic properties, such as houses, or where there is a known night-time sleeping risk. We also have a number of high risk buildings where we will also maintain a response. Details of these can be found in our consultation document.

Encouraging children to express their emotions for Children's Mental Health Week

It's Children's Mental Health Week next week, Monday 3 to Sunday 9 February. It's an initiative launched by the children's mental health charity, Place2Be, with the aim to give a voice to all children and young people in the UK.

The year's theme is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'.

The charity has published a range of free resources for families, and schools, and is encouraging people to take part.

The free resource pack for families includes top tips about encouraging children and young people to keep a journal to describe how they're feeling and what they're thinking; making time and space for reflection; using imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people to recognise their feelings; to practice mindfulness; and keeping communication open.

They also have other useful advice to help parents to support their children, from Frequently Asked Questions to downloadable packs.

To find out more, [visit Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week website](https://www.place2be.org.uk/childrens-mental-health-week).

The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday, 5 February 2025 in the downstairs room of the Town Hall, starting at 7pm.

At the start of the meeting, there is always a slot called Public Session, which is an opportunity for members of the public to have 3 minutes each to speak to Councillors about issues in the Parish that concern them.