

June-July 2024- DCC Monthly Report

Cllr Sara Randall Johnson

This is a dual monthly report.

It was sad to hear that Helen Selby is moving on. Helen has been an excellent Neighbourhood Highways Officer and she will be greatly missed. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well with her promotion and thanking her for she has done to improve our road network with limited resources.

Don't lose your right to vote – remember your photo ID

There's less than a week to go until the general election. Please remember that if you plan to vote in person at a polling station on Thursday 4 July you will need to bring an accepted form of photo ID with you.

Stay safe on your e-bike or e-scooter

E-bikes can be a great way of getting around but if you are thinking of buying one new or secondhand make sure it complies with safety regulations.

There have been several serious house fires caused by malfunctioning lithium-ion batteries in e-bikes and e-scooters, so it's important to make sure yours meets the safety standards. Fires can be caused by a substandard battery, charging the battery incorrectly or damage to the battery. If you are thinking of hiring an e-scooter, the hirer should make it clear that they are not currently legal for use on roads or other public highways unless a specific scheme is in place.

Heart of the South West trading standards service has published guides for electrically assisted pedal cycles and e-scooters.

'New' bus lane will shorten bus travel times in Exeter

Work has started on a new contraflow bus lane in Exeter city centre on Monday 24 June. The work will require some night-time road closures and once completed will improve bus journey times in the city.

The new contraflow bus lane will be constructed on New North Road between John Lewis and Waterstones in Exeter City Centre. It's 0.5km shorter and more direct, creating a cut through for buses travelling along New North Road directly onto Sidwell Street and avoiding the longer indirect route along Longbrook Street and York Road, therefore reducing journey times.

Stay safe this summer

Follow our tips to help keep your family safe while having fun in the sun - or rain - this summer.

Sun safety

- When buying sunglasses, look for the UKCA/CE mark, UV rating or British Standard BS EN ISO 12312.
- Suncream should be labelled with the manufacturer's details as well as the ingredients. Always remember to re-apply regularly and after going in the water.
- Clothes for under-7s should not have drawstrings in the head/neck area.

Summer toys

- Toys should be labelled with the UKCA or CE mark, manufacturer's address and any applicable warnings such as "Not suitable for children under 36 months".
- Buy from a reputable trader, including when buying from an online business. Know who you are buying from!

- Check second-hand toys carefully for safety.
- Make sure any battery compartments are secure and batteries cannot be easily accessed.
- Rubber rings/armbands and water flotation products such as lilos should have a water safety warning saying they should be used under supervision and are not to be used in open water. Some products like armbands will be marked with the suitable age or weight range.

In the garden

- BBQs should be labelled with warnings about not using them indoors or in tents due to fire risks and dangers of carbon monoxide fumes.
- For more information on using BBQs safely, see Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service's barbecues guide.
- Trampolines for use by children at home should be UKCA or CE marked, with instructions about adult supervision and appropriate age warnings. For more safety advice see RoSPA's garden trampoline guide.

Learn more in our product safety guide.

If you have a problem with a product or need consumer advice, contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline online or tel 0808 223 1133.

ENDS