Lifton Parish Council Meeting – 26th November 2026
Agenda item 6.1 – Highways Update

The following notices/issues have been reported to or from Devon County Council Highways since the last meeting, as follows:
ENQ262034618 - Highway Comments. Location: Road from Methodist Church to Liftondown, Liftondown. Thank you for taking the time to submit this report. What action has been taken?

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the existing speed limit on the A388 between the A30 junction, Lifton Methodist Church and Liftondown. I appreciate the concerns raised regarding vehicle speeds along this section of the A388. Devon County Council considers requests for changes to speed limits in accordance with its Local Speed Limits policy. The policy seeks to provide 30mph limits within identifiable communities, while the National Speed Limit would generally apply on sections of road between communities. Route continuity and the character and function of the road are also important considerations when determining an appropriate speed limit. The presence of street lighting does not, on its own, mean that the road should be subject to a 30mph speed limit. While a qualifying system of street lighting would ordinarily make a road a "restricted road" for the purposes of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, a road can be specifically derestricted or have another speed limit imposed by Order. Therefore, the presence of lighting alongside this section of the A388 would not in itself provide justification for extending the existing 30mph restriction. Similarly, extending the 30mph limit from Liftondown to include the Methodist Church would need to be justified by the nature and level of development along the route, existing vehicle speeds, collision history and the overall road environment. DCC guidance generally considers a 30mph limit appropriate within a recognisable town or village environment, rather than extending such a restriction along more rural sections between communities. On this basis, an extension of the 30mph speed limit as suggested would not currently meet Devon County Council's policy criteria, and I would therefore be unable to support progressing a Traffic Regulation Order for the proposed change. I appreciate this may not be the outcome you were hoping for, but I hope the above explains why the presence of street lighting alone does not determine the appropriate speed limit and why speed limits need to reflect the overall character and function of the route.

Other matters:
Update from WDBC Cllr Edmonds: Road resurfacing from Turchington to Gatherley Cottages – response from Highways: Thank you for your report.
We are aware of the condition of the road in this location. Unfortunately, the funding we are currently receiving is not sufficient to carry out all desirable works, and it is acknowledged that there are many roads across the county in poor condition.
Whilst we do not currently have the funding available to undertake full resurfacing at this location, I have requested that the road be assessed for Dragon Patching. We are unable to advise whether this treatment will be suitable until the assessment has been completed.
We are working to prioritise financial resources for the most necessary locations, which means that outside of our routine works programmes, we are only able to resolve issues that meet our defect criteria. For potholes, these need to be at least 30cm across and 4cm deep. If you are aware of any potholes that meet these criteria, they can be reported via the following website:
https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/
The road will also be assessed for any safety defects in the meantime.

Lifton Community Speed Watch Group: An update will be provided before/at the PC meeting.
Vehicle Activated Sign: The VAS at Liftondown is still faulty. Elan City has asked for the sign, solar panel and batteries to be returned to them for repair under guarantee.
Information on various local road closures/roadworks via: News Articles – Lifton Parish Council