

GREEN NEWS

HEAVITREE AUTUMN 2022



CLLR CAROL BENNETT



CLLR CATHERINE REES

HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXETER

The next stage of Exeter's new 'Local Plan' will be consulted on between 26th September and 21st November. This is your chance to put forward your ideas on where housing and development in Exeter will be built over the next twenty years.

Your Green Councillors want to see genuinely affordable housing, the use of zero-carbon technologies, green spaces, and facilities within walking distance. Get involved by going online: <https://exeterplan.commonplace.is/> or email planning@exeter.gov.uk. If you don't have access to a computer, contact your Catherine or Carol to share your views.



PUBLIC LOSE VALUED WALKING ROUTE



Cllr Bennett at the building site, Hamlin Gardens

As part of the construction work to build new Council housing in Hamlin Gardens, Heavitree's Green Councillors realised that the popular crossing into Hamlin playing fields, over the Northbrook stream, has been cut off.

Councillors Catherine Rees and Carol Bennett investigated and were told that the new development will fence off the access to the crossing permanently.

Catherine says,

"We know, from talking to people from across Heavitree, how much people use and value this crossing for getting to the playing fields and the allotments. We are concerned that the City Council hasn't considered the impacts of removing this access."

Carol says,

"The council claims to be promoting walking and access to green spaces, so removing this crossing makes no sense."

Catherine and Carol are already looking into ways in which this decision can be reexamined to keep the crossing open to the public.

GET IN TOUCH

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HEAVITREE HOEDOWN!

Volunteers from the Heavitree Green Party team turned out to remove weeds in the gutters of Homefield Road. A resident had expressed concern about the weeds potentially blocking water flow after heavy rain.

Councillor Carol Bennett says:

“Exeter City Council sprays pavements with a highly damaging weedkiller, glyphosate, twice a year. Greens have been campaigning to stop this widespread use as glyphosate which is especially dangerous when it gets into water courses. Other councils have adopted more environmentally-friendly approaches to tackling weeds”.

The team removed 4 bags of weeds from gutters along Homefield Road and Regents Park.



Heavitree Green volunteers with Councillor Carol Bennett.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL BUS PARKING ON STREETS

Responding to residents' complaints, Councillor Carol Bennett reported illegal parking of a Devon County Council van and asked about the rules on parking the council's fleet vans. The Council responded promptly, saying that the van would be parked elsewhere. Within a few days, the van was back. In response to Councillor Bennett, the County fleet manager said: “There is no policy regarding parking DCC vehicles in residential areas. They are not operated under an operators licence so therefore they can park there as long as they are parked legally.”

Carol said,

“I understand how frustrating this is for residents, but there seems nothing can be done, other than reporting vans which are not parked in line with the Highway Code”.

BE A WHEELIE NICE NEIGHBOUR



Your Heavitree Councillors often hear from people who live in streets where wheelie bins are a problem. The Council asks that wheelie bins are back ‘in their properties’ by 8pm on collection day, but many bins are left out all week.

Councillor Carol Bennett says:

“Bins can only be collected from the front of homes, and no longer from back alleys, so they can block the pavement if left there. Over the summer months, they have caused smells and attracted vermin.”

“We do understand that moving a bin a long distance, especially on a hill, can be difficult so we are asking neighbours to try and help”, said Carol.

How you can help:

- Please take your bin off the street on collection day if you can.
- Can you do a little extra to help any neighbours who you know are unable to easily move their bins?

If no one can help you, you can contact the council to discuss your case as they have an assisted waste collection service. See <https://bit.ly/3Bc6Uej> or phone the City Council on 01392 277888 & ask for the waste collection department.

There has been some recent fly tipping in Heavitree. Don't forget that you can report that to Exeter City Council <https://bit.ly/3QibhbW>

COST OF LIVING: WHERE TO GET HELP

Please don't be afraid to ask for help: Citizens Advice Exeter offer free independent advice <https://www.citizensadviceexeter.org.uk/> or free helpline 0808 278 7845 (Monday – Friday, 10am – 4pm).

Other sources of help can be found at <https://exeter.gov.uk/benefits-and-welfare/help>

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