

READER'S PICTURES

■ Barry Quick, sent in this picture of Ipplepen village taken from Moor Road, saying: 'I just can't stop taking photos of the amazing autumnal colours.'



WINNER'S POST



by JOHN BALMENT

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Never forget the price paid

THIS Sunday will mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

It was at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month that finally saw the end of more than four years of fighting with the signing of the Armistice.

While millions of servicemen lost their lives on both sides, millions of families were also torn apart with the loss of loved ones.

No family was immune from the tragedies of the Great War and there were those who lost not one, but two and three sons.

Among the thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen who were lucky enough to return home, for many their suffering did not end on November 11, 1918. There were those whose lives were turned upside down by shell shock and the horrors of war they had witnessed.

They had lost brothers and friends as they fought side by side and those who were wounded and returned to Blighty often had a long recovery battle and many never pulled through.

For those suffering trauma there was no counselling in those days to help them, they just had to get on with it.

I didn't realise it, but diseases, such as Spanish Flu, took a heavy toll on life and cost countless lives for many years after the end of the Great War.

For all those brave souls who gave their lives we owe them so much.

We must never forget them and at Remembrance services across Teignbridge on Sunday we have the opportunity to show our appreciation.

OPINION

Developers use sweet words to hide bitter truth

Those who have read George Orwell's 1984 will be familiar with Newspeak, a language created by the Government to banish 'unhelpful' thoughts and phrases.

In this world there is no word for 'bad' (merely 'ungood') and the word 'free' has no meaning at all beyond the sense that a dog may be free of fleas.

Orwell's point was that a totalitarian government will use language to restrict ideas, not broaden them, and instead of telling us the truth will use words and phrases that cut off our access to reality.

It may seem like science fiction to compare anything as ponderous, plodding as cudgel-handed as Teignbridge Council to the fictional State of Oceania, but the developers TDC is allied to could teach the Ministry of Truth a good few lessons in subtle propaganda. These people are masters of telling you what they want you to hear.

Those that attended the 'public consultation' at Buckland FC on Friday, October 29 had the chance to study a map of the planned development at Langford Bridge, where London firm CEG and Teignbridge Council want to put up another 450 houses.

The map looks eerily similar to other maps we have seen at various points of 'consultation' along TDC's endless quest to carpet everything between Newton Abbot and Abbotskerswell in concrete.

The first thing that strikes you is that nothing about it strikes you. Nothing seems to have changed.

MULLONE'S MUSINGS



by LIAM MULLONE

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Only by consulting the key do you realise that the areas zoned for 'residential housing' (ie, most of it) has been shaded green. Yes, green.

The areas reserved for educational purposes are... another shade of green. And there are areas where they're not sure - 'possible' industrial or mixed use areas. They have been helpfully shaded green while they mull that over.

There are other, nicer, things that developers like to add to such maps - cycle networks that will never materialise, recreation grounds that eventually get de-budgeted. Obviously these things are shaded green because they are 'green'.

So in the end we are asked to understand a massive building project - in essence a very concretey-grey affair - by looking at a vast swathe of green.

It is surrounded by the green of the countryside, of course, despite the fact that all this countryside has been condemned to concrete by other plans and consultations.

We know for a fact that everything on the map is about to become a graveyard for nature and beauty but... it just looks lovely and green.

And the words. 'Langford Bridge'

will be a 'village' of 450 homes. It will sit right next to the 'village' of Houghton Barton, which will bleed into the 'village' of Wolborough Barton.

There will be new 'villages' as far as the eye can see and beyond. At what point does a surfeit of villages merge into one achromatic plague of concrete? The answer, according to TDC, is never. They just get more and more villagey.

Sometimes developers will use the word 'town' if they can olde-worlde it a bit.

Houghton Barton will, according to Bloor Homes, have a 'market town atmosphere'. Of course it will. Looking at the plans for factory-poured, concrete-panelled tenements one can almost smell the market-day manure. It'll be the sort of place dairy farmers would bring their cattle on a Sunday, back in the days when dairy farmers looked after cows rather than speculated on land values.

And all these 'developments', including an awful lot of 'improvements' to our roads and verges (ie making country lanes very slightly bigger by destroying the verges) will be 'communities'. You can't argue with the word 'community', can you? A new community here, a new community there. We're all going to be a lovely big community in an atmospheric green-shaded market-town village of 'enhancements' and 'prospects'.

And by 'public consultation', you shouldn't read 'shameless exercise in deceit'. Not at all.

Liam Mullone is a contributor to www.newtonsaysno.co.uk



VIEW FROM WESTMINSTER

ANNE MARIE MORRIS MP FOR NEWTON ABBOT

Westminster week

THE autumn Budget was published by the Chancellor last week and included several key announcements that will positively impact the constituency.

A £675 million Future High Streets Fund is being made available to support councils in implementing plans for the transformation of their high streets. Businesses rates for small businesses will also be cut by one third for two years.

This is for retailers with rateable value of under £51,000, saving up to 90 per cent of all shops up to £8,000 each year, and building on previous reductions worth more than £12.5 billion. A tax on sales generated in the UK by big tech firms was also announced which will help to level the playing field between high street and digital shops.

I was happy to see social care be given a £800 million boost which recognises the immediate pressures local authorities are facing in providing care. The boost is made up of £650m grant funding for adult social care in 2019/20, £55m extra for the Disabled Facilities Grant in 2018/19 and £84m over the next five years for up to 20 councils with 'high or rising numbers of children in care'.

The funding will enable local councils provide greater support for older people with care needs as well as help more children to live safely at home. This extra investment is very welcome but a long-term funding solution for social care is still needed.

In the Budget I was pleased to see a commitment to work beginning this November on the essential works at Dawlish to strengthen the cliffs and protect the sea wall. It is vital that these works are undertaken as soon as possible to secure the line.

The Public Accounts Committee last week took evidence on improving children and young people's mental health services. I was a lead committee member questioning representatives from the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and Health Education England. Ten per cent of five to 16-year-olds have a mental health condition, with this figure expected to rise when new data is published at the end of year.

Therefore, it is vital that NHS has provision in place to handle the situation. The Government has committed to providing 'parity of esteem' for mental and physical health services but there is still some way to go in order to achieve this.

Teignbridge matters

On Tuesday, I chaired the first session of the APPG on Rural Health and Social Care's Parliamentary Inquiry into issues facing rural health and social care.

We welcomed eight witnesses to give evidence including representatives from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Public Health England, the Royal College of GPs and NHS trust representatives. Also present were a number of observers from a range of organisations including charities, rural groups and universities.

It was an incredibly illuminating and productive meeting, generating a depth and quality of discussion of the highest calibre. The group identified a number of key themes going forwards including, the importance of appropriate definitions, the availability of the right level of expertise in rural health and care settings and the need for more analysis into the underpinning determinants of health and care. The next session will take place in January 2019.

On Wednesday, I met with Cllr Andrew Leadbetter, cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Health Services on Devon County Council to receive an update on adult social care services in the constituency. We discussed a number of issues including the current problems with recruitment and retention within the sector.

Potential solutions to this issue include the Proud to Care campaign. Proud to Care South West is a partnership of 16 local authorities and Health Education England working together at a regional level to raise the profile of a career in care and health.

My next surgery is on Friday, November 16 at 2pm in Newton Abbot. Call my office on 01626 368277 to arrange an appointment.