

AGENDA ITEM 10b

Devon County Councillor update November 2021 debo.sellis@devon.gov.uk
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Highways: General maintenance continues. Cattle grids being cleaned, road repairs and patching.

There is increasing dismay at the state of roads in some areas of West Devon, so I have submitted a motion to full WD council asking that all Devon MP's are written to and asked to seek fairer funding for Devon's highways. DCC's highway budget was cut by £20millions this year. DCC is seeking more equitable funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Team Devon, the group of DCC and all 8 District Councils attracting more traction working together in a positive way. Tavistock pavements have apparently caused some trips over the past month. Any fall or slip is potentially very dangerous & can lead to life altering adversity in some cases. I have asked the highway officers to check the state of the pavements and cobbles. If any of you see problems, please report on the www.devon.gov.uk site & please let me know too.

Tidying up pavements, footpaths and around the highways (where safe)

I have been happy to work with LiveWest with others and residents, trying to improve Greenlands and Torlands. There has been much work done, improving the recreational area, tidying hedges and paths plus we are looking into giving Torlands a good make over with some intensive gardening and clearing up. I am working on ways we can get the garden waste collected. It was great when residents were able to plant 4 Tamar Valley apples trees, which were kindly sourced by Ali Sedgwick, supported by Hilary Johnson and sponsored by all the Tavistock West Devon Borough Councillors. Alison Knight of LiveWest has been brilliant & it has been a lovely way to directly help residents.

Testament to this being possible is the hard graft put in by the officers of the Greenlands Residents Association. We are trying to establish some other residents associations in Tavistock next year. Let me know if you are interested in working with me on this.

Trains Wonderful that the Okehampton rail route is re-opened & WELL DONE to all the people who made it possible! I have been keeping up to date with Cllr Andrea Davies who is the Cabinet member at DCC or Climate Change, Environment, and transport.

Extra bus service will hopefully benefit our community too.

118 Bus Service: Tavistock - Okehampton. Operated by Dartline.

From the 20th November 2021 the timetable and route for the 118 bus service will be enhanced so that it allows passengers to interlink their travel with the Dartmoor Line at Okehampton Station. This follows joint working between the Council and GWR. The Dartmoor Line will operate with a temporary timetable until the 12th December 2021, when it will transition to a permanent timetable. To follow suit and optimise the bus-train connectivity, the 118 bus will operate a temporary timetable for the same period. This will be replaced by a permanent timetable on the 12th December 2021 which will include operating on Sundays. The Sunday service will also include a further rail connection to the Tamar Line at Gunnislake Station. The Council is supporting the enhancements to the 118 service by using new government funding allocated in early 2020. Detailed information and DCC Press Releases regarding the Dartmoor Line and 118 bus service can be found on the following three web pages.

[The Dartmoor Line - Opens 20 November](#)

<https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/latest-news-service-updates/>

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/new-bus-service-being-launched-to-connect-with-okehampton-rail-services/>

category.

Economy:

Workforce fund Devon will be receiving £2.4M as part of the [workforce recruitment and retention fund](#) to invest in supporting the workforce recruitment and retention in our adult social care providers. Workforce recruitment and retention is one of our key challenges and this fund will provide an additional resource over the winter period. We are currently working to identify how we can make best use of this fund and have the most impact.

Successful bid to the UK Community Renewal Fund Devon County Council has been successful in a bid to the UK Community Renewal Fund. The collaboration project between Adult Care and Health, Adult and Community Learning, and Employment, Economy and Skills teams called 'Ability not Disability - co-designing an employment pathway' has received £613,000. The funding will support an innovative programme of employment activity for disabled individuals within the county. The programme will extend a pathway to work approach for those with an ongoing barrier to employment and a disability. The programme will use a '[Kickstart](#)' model but with wrap around support for people with disabilities. The outcome of the programme is to enable more people with disabilities to enter the world of paid employment.

If you know anyone who might like to join the Devon Caring profession... share this advice.

Fairtrade Our Fairtrade group continues to meet, and Tavistock has its Fairtrade status updated. I hope you will all see the Fairtrade Xmas tree.

Health and Wellbeing Community Event Thanks, must be extended to our WDCVS, Karen Nolan, Billie Burnett, and their team. With nearly 30 stalls from statutory & volunteer local groups, the event was excellent for networking, showing their wares and for thanking everyone who gives their time.

Education I have been very happy meeting some of the new local headteachers. There is much to do to help our students. The impact of the pandemic has affected many & children are in some cases really distressed & requiring more special attention. I am glad there the local Childrens' Centre, the library and the schools work well & I am advised that the community fair was an excellent arena to re-ignite connections which have been diminished due to lockdown. Life in general has been very busy. I was honoured to represent the Chairman of Devon County Council at the West Devon Borough Council Civic Service where a wonderful service was enjoyed. And the Tavistock Town Council Civic service. The Remembrance Service and the new design of the Guildhall project makes a wonderful area of reflection and remembrance.

I have been happy to support lots of local groups with my Locality budget. The Guildhall, Tavistock Embroiderers, Rotary Xmas meals, Tavistock schools and others. I hope you all enjoy Xmas and wish you good luck, health, and happiness in 2022.

Kind regards

Debo Sellis