

AGENDA ITEM 10b

WEST DEVON MEMBER MAY 2022 UPDATE - CLLR JEFF MOODY

Council Tax Energy Rebate

3,750 West Devon Residents who pay their council tax by direct debit and are eligible for the Government's £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate have already been paid last week. The Borough Council is amongst the prompt councils in the United Kingdom to make the first payments of the £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate to those households in Council Tax bands A to D who paid by Direct Debit on 1 April. To date, the Council have issued 3,750 payments, which was paid to residents' bank accounts last week. Those who are eligible and have different payment dates for their direct debit throughout April will receive similar payments soon. For those who do not pay their council tax by Direct Debit, an application form is live on the Council's website and they will begin processing these payments from May.

Council Initiative to support Landlords to achieve minimum energy efficiency standards

The Council has outlined its commitment to ensuring homes across the Borough support the health and wellbeing of residents with the launch of an initiative to help longer-term let landlords meet the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES). The support package on offer includes grants to help landlords improve the energy efficiency of their property so they meet a minimum EPC rating of E. Ways to improve the energy efficiency of homes can include draught proofing, roof and wall insulation or replacement heating systems. The Council in partnership with Tamar Energy Community will work with landlords to meet these standards and will be investigating properties that do not. Over the coming weeks they will be contacting households and landlords who live in or rent these properties. Landlords should also expect that minimum energy efficiency standards will become higher than the current minimum standard. There is an expectation from government that all domestic properties should be aiming to achieve at least a C rating by 2030 to reach climate targets. Other support to help landlords also includes the ethical lettings service, SeaMoor Lettings. SeaMoor Lettings is run by the Council and offers lower charges to landlords than standard lettings agents with the aim to offer lower, more affordable rental costs to local families. If the necessary improvements are not carried out or there is not a valid exemption, it may lead to landlords being issued with a penalty. If landlords are concerned about the energy rating in their property, there are options available to help them achieve the best energy ratings possible.

Lets Talk Teenagers

After the success of the second series of the online sessions will be held in June after the first Let's Talk Teenagers sessions piloted earlier this year, These sessions are an opportunity for parents and carers of teenagers to hear about the challenges young people are facing today whilst being offered tips, techniques and resources to explore for more help and support. Funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Safer Devon Partnership, South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership and Teignbridge Council for Voluntary Service, these evening, 90 minute sessions will be running on consecutive Wednesdays at 7.00pm on the 15th, 22nd and 29th June. See more at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-teenagers-june-2022-tickets-337133002887>

UKRAINE GUESTS UPDATE –

WDBC have been notified of 41 host properties that will be occupied by 157 Ukrainian guests. This will be 80 adults and 77 children. The Council have currently been notified of 57 guest arrivals in our area. These numbers will grow every week with new information being made available from Devon County. Some have been resident for over a month now so the first monthly arrears 'Thank You' payments will be made to hosts from next week. Some of the areas of help WDBC have been offering guests and hosts are welcome payments, support in applying for welfare benefits, national insurance numbers and school place and the Council have also supported 19 guests in receiving free membership to Fusion.

Tidy Tavi Ukraine Fundraising

Tidy Tavi Community Litterpick Group is very pleased to announce that the volunteers have managed to raise in excess of £2500 following two fundraising events, a Just Giving page and bucket

collection in Bedford Square. The 1st event being one of Steve Hipsey's famous Mega Quizzes held at the Stannary Arms, King Street Tavistock and a 24-hour litterpick over Easter Sunday/Monday and set out in groups to collect litter from many outlying areas of Tavistock and housing estates. Thank you to Steve Hipsey for all his hard work organising both events and to TASS and Cathy Hipsey for providing a coordination centre for the 24 hour litterpick.

Tavistock Ring and Ride

Tavistock and District Ring and Ride are seeing their numbers of users continuing to increase, although it has been a challenge to build confidence of service users to begin travelling again following Covid, especially the more vulnerable groups which the service is aimed at. Within the last couple of months the scheme has launched some new leaflets, making it clearer how to access the service and the available routes. These have been distributed throughout the area. They have also tried to encourage users to recommence travel to vital appointments by promoting the service in the local press. The latest leaflet, including timetable and how to access the service can be found on the Tavistock Ring and Ride webpage.

Tavistock Household Waste Collections

From time to time over recent months FCC household waste collections have been adversely affected by staff shortages and reliance on agency staff, staff absences due to Covid and the national driver shortage. This has resulted in some missed/late waste collections in some areas of West Devon but FCC crews aim to recover any missed collection by the end next day. West Devon officers are working very hard with FCC managers to closely monitor waste collections and are updating ward members on a daily basis. I am pleased to report for some time now there has been minimal or no disruption to waste collections in Tavistock. Residents affected by missed collections should continue to use the WDBC online 'missed collection' reporting page on the WDBC website where residents are reminded to report missed collections at the end of the following day giving FCC time to return to collect. Officers will continue to work closely with FCC and keep WDBC members regularly updated and minimise inconvenience for residents.

Tavistock Rugby Club

West Devon Borough Council has allocated £40,000 of Section 106 funding to Tavistock Rugby Club to help them purchase land which the club uses for pitches and training. Securing the land will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the rugby club. The purchase has also been part funded by Sport England to the tune of £35,000 and the club itself, who have contributed £11,650, a contribution of £860 from Tavistock Town Council and £200 from Devon County Council. Supporting the club in this way aligns with the Borough Council's own "Plan for West Devon", its long-term vision for the Borough, by investing in sports and recreation provision that will have a profound and lasting benefit here in West Devon. The money for the project was secured through Section 106 (S106) funding relating to the Embden Grange development on Butcher Park Hill. The Council also supported the club with a further £14,000 last year from Section 106 funding, for clubhouse improvements, along with helping towards the purchase of a container unit to convert into an additional changing room.

Tavistock Housing Development Planning Application

A new planning application for a housing development has been received by WDBC from Mount Kelly Foundation Governors for the refurbishment of Hazeldon House (former Kelly Preparatory School) to form a single dwelling, the demolition of former classroom blocks and the erection of 10 open market dwellings. The application (4004/22/FUL) can be found on the West Devon Planning Portal online and will come before the TTC DM Committee in due course.

If any members have any questions or comments regarding the contents of the report please feel free to contact me by email

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