

West Devon Borough Councillor Report

February 2022

The year has started with the usual Covid restrictions, now they are being lifted staff are being encouraged to come into the office, but they have the choice to keep home working if they wish.

The members of the Overview and Scrutiny committee had an interesting presentation from the Tamar Valley AONB, which ended with a recommendation that planting on new developments in West Devon where practicable and appropriate should be planted with indigenous species only. This is something that the TTC DM&L committee should take on board with their comments to the Borough. This recommendation was approved at the Full Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

A housing crisis was declared for West Devon with 15 parts to the motion. Currently the fifteen parts are a wish list for which a plan should be made as to how WD will deliver on them.

WD set an increase for a Band D property of £5 the maximum it is able to without a referendum. Some Cllrs voted against the motion due to the current financial climate we are experiencing. Other Cllrs changed their minds and voted with the motion when it was explained just how much financial assistance had been given to those experiencing financial difficulties, sadly many are people in full time employment.

Cllr Paul Vachon from Okehampton has been appointed to Tavistock College Endowment Fund until the end of the municipal year 2021/2022.

There are currently concerns being raised by Cllr Andy Coulson about the decision to close the Old Exeter Rd access to the Co-Op Brook Street car park to the public. This is due to anti-social behaviour of people riding on skateboards through the car park. Cllr Coulson feels this will stop ordinary shoppers from using the access and feels if it is to be closed it should be at 15.15hrs when young people have finished their school day. No consultation has been carried out by the relevant agencies and he would like the matter to be looked into further.