

AGENDA ITEM 10b

Dear All,
Please read my latest update.

Highways:

Fortunately the **Plymouth Road Crossing by Texaco garage / A386 & Drake's roundabout** works have been completed. It was a trial to say the least for residents & vehicle drivers.

I am pleased to have numerous positive comments rather than the barrage of complaints. It is noted that some residents apparently didn't receive notification. I have asked officers to find out why this was the case.

The **Drakes 'vet / cemetery** area roundabout has received mixed reviews and I have asked for a safety audit to be done. It is clear that motorists must slow down but some choose not to & continue to drive over the roundabout. This is illegal & checks will be made.

The 18 month trial for parking by **Westbridge Cottages** from 18.00hrs to 0800hrs has started. Please note that if cars park on the pavement, the scheme will be scrapped. This experiment is as a result of my listening to residents who have difficulty parking. I hope that it will make life easier for residents & also slow the traffic speeds.

I have worked with highway officers in the hope of getting our main roads and estate roads in good order. Motorists grumble; however they grumble too if there are pot holes. Unfortunately some deep pot holes are reappearing in this heavy rain.

If you see a pot hole please report it on **Devon county Council's Road and Transport page. Report a pothole.**

Libraries:

As we are all aware, Tavistock Library is an excellent service. I am always delighted to support our library & the many events which are held there.

I am pleased that no library has closed in the Devon County Council area. This is testament to a robust stance by DCC. I include an update which I have been sent which I hope members will find interesting.

"I am delighted to attach the recently published Libraries Unlimited Annual Report which outlines another very productive year for the charity. Some of you will be aware of the recent announcement of Exeter being given UNESCO City of Literature status which was in no small part due to the role of libraries in the lives and cultural landscape across Devon.

Nationally and internationally visits to libraries and the issuing of books has been in decline. Scrutiny members have taken particular interest in this and notably around book issues to children and young people in Devon. I am pleased to say that the

latest data has seen Devon however bucking that trend with a 4% increase in lending.

Our Summer Reading Challenge – Space Race, has had a significant impact on that, seeing a 14% increase in participation from last year!

In Devon Libraries...

- 12,703 children took part in the Challenge (11,162 in 2018)
- 7,811 children completed the Challenge (6,661 in 2018)
- 268,677 library items were borrowed by children during July, August and September

Key Facts

- Participation is up by **14%** (our target was 5%)
- Completion rate is **61.5%** (our target was 60%)
- **44%** of participants were boys
- 1,366 children became new library members in order to take part
- Devon Libraries hosted **405** events attended by **9,563** children
- 169 young volunteers helped to deliver the Challenge across 41 libraries
- Young volunteers gave **1861** volunteer hours over the summer
- Library staff visited **197** primary schools to promote the Challenge (160 last year)
- The Summer Reading Challenge resources used in Devon cost £10,390 which equates to **£0.83** per participating child “

Health:

I am really pleased that finally the government is going to pay bursaries for nurse training. As a former State Registered Nurse I have written to health ministers & lobbied very hard our local MP. It is great that we are going to have significant investment in our Health Service & that staff will see 6% pay increases for nursing staff. Now the challenge is to attract more people to train as health professionals! The Tavistock **Minor Injuries Unit MIU** is due to open in January. We will all be watching this closely!

Devon County Council is training more public health nurses & I am told that this area is going from strength to strength. School nurses are key to identifying many issues & it is good that there is apparently better interaction & communication.

Education:

We are all pleased that there is more funding for schools & for children with Special Educational needs. We have lobbied for fairer funding & we have seen significant injections of cash (£18million) ... however Special Needs still requires more funding and we still lobby.

Lets hope now that the highest budget deficit in peacetime history (9.3% of GDP) in 2010 has seen the deficit reduce falling to 2% (lowest for 16 years) we will all see our services benefit.

Youth Clubs are really important and I have been happy to support our Youth café (£2000) to help fund the Summer programme of activities. The children had great

time doing lots of different activities. I enjoyed listening to their adventures. We are very fortunate that there are so many adults who help too. I have lobbied our DCC cabinet member to see if Youth Clubs might received more funding in next years budget. Fingers crossed!

Life in general.

Very busy as we all are!

Been very happy to support the **Tavistock Fair Trade** re-registering. For a small cost buying Fair Trade can achieve a significant amount for communities where education is not a given as it is in our country. Thanks to all the people who have worked towards this.

Now I must away to make decorations for the Fair Trade Xmas tree.

Kind regards
Debo

Debo Sellis
County Councillor for Tavistock and Gulworthy