

**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD HOSKING
DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL – 14th July 2020**

1. The most recent revision of the bus timetable for the area is accessible on the following link
http://www.devonbustimetables.info/south_hams_new/
2. Pleased to report that our Neighbourhood Highways Engineer has put the remedy of the depression in the road between Avonwick and the old Station on the Schedule of works. There is also a TRO notice with regard to patching works between Avonwick and Kerswell Cross.
3. A request has been made for an update to progress with design works for the damage prevention exercise at Gara Bridge.
4. I received reports from a resident concerned about the confirmation of Permitted Development Rights for the creation of 4 new dwellings that would use the junction at Bradridge Cross. I endeavoured to promote improved visibility through the reduction in height of a hedge to the northeast of the junction, however the County Solicitor's department advised me against intervention.
5. A note that I will welcome an application for Locality Funding from a suitable community project for a sum in the region of £500, with a reminder that applications must be received before the end of September this year and the money spent by the new Year (as it will be an election year).
6. The Devon County Council outturn is showing a small Revenue surplus of £33,000. This is a very satisfactory result for a challenging period of account, and we all hope this will continue to the end of the financial year.
7. Ivybridge Library is due to reopen on 27th July 2020. They are currently operating an online order and library collect book borrowing system.
The membership of the e-books service has increased from 300 to 2,300 subscribers in the period of Coronavirus.
8. The restrictions for people shielded from Coronavirus has relaxed since 6th July. As a consequence we will be ceasing the Food Box Programme from 31st July.
This scheme supported 2.2 million people nationwide including 33,000 in Devon.
9. Devon County Council have now published their Local Outbreak Management Plan that will become operational in the event of an identified outbreak of Coronavirus. We all hope we will not have to use it.
10. Devon has been very fortunate to date in that the number of reported cases has been just 1,100 and 125 have succumbed to the virus. We hope to keep it that way.
Compulsory wearing of masks in shops and supermarkets is due to be introduced from 24th July.
11. There has been a greenlight for many categories of business to reopen this month and more to follow. A new package of financial measures designed to maintain as much employment as possible and kickstart the economy has been announced by the Chancellor and all businesses are recommended to consult new guidance released on the now familiar websites.

12. The Devon County Council meeting on 23rd July will now be a virtual meeting only following advice from the Local Government Association.
13. Regrettably as we emerge from the Coronavirus restrictions the police report an increase in;
 - a) Domestic Abuse
 - b) Antisocial behaviour

A request that you all remain vigilant and report those little things that do not seem quite right including safeguarding issues with regard to children.

14. A Councillor kindly reported a slippery road in the Neighbouring Parish of North Huish last month. This has been referred to the appropriate Highways Officer.