

Diptford PC Minutes App. 2.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD HOSKING DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL – 13th October 2020

1. The incidence of Coronavirus has sharply increased in Devon with 648 cases confirmed in the week to 11th October. This brings the total confirmed cases in the County to 3,034. The majority of cases this week are in Exeter associated with the University, though the general level of cases is rising.
2. In the three Tiers announced by the Prime Minister yesterday Devon is currently assigned to the 'medium' alert level. There is no 'low' tier, so 'medium' is the lowest of the three alert levels which are currently being debated in Parliament before likely adoption on Wednesday.
3. Virginia Pearson advises that will mean we "stay on track with the national and local measures that we have already got in place." The measures in place at Exeter University appear to be containing the virus. We are fortunate in Devon that we still have a relatively low level of infection.
4. Fifteen schools in Devon have been obliged to isolate at least one teaching pod or group since the return to school in early September and nine were still isolating at the end of last week including Ivybridge. Attendance at schools remains at about 93%, a reduction of just 2% on last year.
5. We await the publication of the Local Outbreak Management matrix to provide details of what we should expect and how we should respond to different levels of outbreak.
6. Remember, Hands, Face, Space and the rule of 6.
7. We have now entered October and a reminder that it is time to check the Grit Bins. We are asking Parish Councils to report those that are low on grit on the Report-a-Problem webpage as soon as convenient please.
8. The Chancellor announced further measures to protect jobs in the recently announced Winter Economy Plan and please direct any Parishioners in need of financial or other support to keep their businesses running or for welfare reasons please signpost them to the appropriate authority for help.
9. We now have the draft designs for the restriction of access for large vehicles to Gara Bridge and I will be pleased to consider any observations.
10. Short Lane and Cross at the A381. I recalled following our meeting that this is just outside of the Diptford Parish boundary and wrote instead to Cllr Rufus Gilbert to make him aware of the concerns of the Parish Council. I understand from correspondence forwarded by Cllr Helen Reeve that there have been three accidents in this area in recent weeks.
11. Combeshead Cross to Bickham Bridge. I am advised that the maintenance Category of this road is 8, and the maintenance is identical for Categories 7 to 10. There is therefore no advantage in changing the classification of this road despite additional use.
12. The depression in the road from Garabridge Station to Avonwick is now in the maintenance programme, however it is too early to provide a date for the works.
13. I await your guidance as to the section of the Shorter Cross to Morleigh Road that most needs cleaning.