

Diptford Parish Council meeting Minutes App. 1
12th January

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD HOSKING

1. We are now in another lockdown. This tightening of restrictions is due to a sharp increase in cases, partly as a result of a new Variant of the virus that spreads more prolifically (by bouncing). The danger is that NHS resources that have become stretched through staff illness may become overwhelmed. www.gov.uk for advice.

2. The good news is that two new vaccines have received approval for use in the UK and the first doses of the Oxford vaccine were delivered in early January.

The AstraZeneca produced Oxford vaccine is easier to store and thus easier to deliver, and the Government is accelerating the vaccination programme as fast as possible. The ambition is that the delivery of immunity to the vulnerable through vaccination will overtake, reduce and contain the spread of the new variant virus, however we must remember that immunity takes at least a fortnight to establish following vaccination.

The Moderna vaccine developed by a company in the US has been approved and will be available in the Spring.

3. There have been 1,717 cases of Coronavirus confirmed in Devon in the week to 7th January, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 14,995. Sadly, there were 33 deaths confirmed in the County in the week to 7th January 2021.

4. Schools are now opening only for vulnerable children and those of key workers, to be reviewed on 14th February 2021. Tuition will be delivered online. Additional funding has been made available to provide those in need with the hardware to view content on the internet.

5. The Government will be supporting families that qualify with free school meals and anyone facing hardship should contact <http://devoncf.com/apply/community-food-programme-2/>

6. A third round of hardship financing has been announced on 11th January. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-fund/>

I have not been advised of any change in the e-mail support Neil.Hawke@southwestdevon.gov.uk. and helpline telephone number (01803) 861297.

7. The Chancellor has announced £4.6 billion in new lockdown grants to support business and protect jobs.

a) The introduction of one-off top up grants for businesses forced to close in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors with grants worth up to £9,000 per-property.

i) Businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or above: £9,000

ii) Businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000: £6,000

iii) Businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or below: £4,000

This one-off grant is in addition to the existing monthly grants of up to £3,000 per month for businesses obliged to close.

- b) A further £594 million is also being made available for Local Authorities and the Devolved Administrations to support other businesses not eligible for top up grants.
8. A further reminder that guidance on how to obtain financial help is available to Parishioners through;
- a) the Citizens Advice Bureau 0344 411 1444
and soft touch signposting for businesses through;
 - b) the Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership 03456 047047
Saturday and Sunday 10:00am to 4:30pm.
9. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers throughout South Brent & Yealmpton Division who are still, nearly a year after the announcement of the pandemic, helping the vulnerable who are isolating or quarantined as a result of Coronavirus.
10. We have not been notified of any variation in the recognisable symptoms of the virus;
- a) temperature 37.8 degrees plus
 - b) new, continuous cough
 - c) loss or change in our sense of taste or smell.
- 11. Hands, face and even more space essential to contain the spread in the next few weeks as the race between virus and vaccination accelerates.**
- 12. Please remember to exercise during lockdown**
13. **Broadband.** Connecting Devon and Somerset, with support from DCMS, have just before Christmas signed new contracts with three separate suppliers, Airband, Truespeed and Wessex Internet, that will deliver full fibre connectivity to 56,396 homes and businesses across six procurement lots within Devon and Somerset in phases between 2021 and 2024. These contracts represent public funding of £36.8 million including £12.3 million from local authorities and the Heart of the South West LEP. Current total premises connected 350,631 (85.37%), this contract should increase to 95%.
14. **Recycling Centres**
- Household Waste Recycling Centres will remain open through lockdown, however the resale shops will be closed.
- The winter opening hours are;
- Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm
- Saturday & Sunday 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
15. **The United Kingdom** has now largely completed the transition and emerged from the European Union with a Trade Deal on 1st January.
- Please see Government guidance by following the Ctrl + Click links below on;
- a) How to Import
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910155/How_to_import_goods_from_the_EU_into_GB_from_January_2021.pdf

b) How to export

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927051/How to export goods from GB into the EU from January 2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927051/How_to_export_goods_from_GB_into_the_EU_from_January_2021.pdf)

16. Glad that the depression in the road between Avonwick and Diptford has been reinstated

I wish you all a very Happy New Year.