

**DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL – 9th February 2021 Appendix 1**  
**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD HOSKING**

1. Coronavirus Vaccinations. The race to vaccinate and ensure we stay ahead of virus variations continues and those receiving their first vaccine dose is now beyond the 10 million mark in England. Vaccination facilities are expanding daily.  
  
The number of cases globally now exceeds 103 million with 2.3 million Coronavirus related deaths. Tighter lockdown regulations were announced in several Postcode areas to combat the South African variants.
2. There have been 478 cases of Coronavirus confirmed in Devon in the week to 4<sup>th</sup> February, a significant decline from the second peak, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 18,460. Although the number are declining, there were sadly 29 deaths confirmed in the County in the same week.
3. Testing remains an important element of pandemic containment, particularly for some of the new variants. Area testing is being rolled out in a few locations. Self-referral is required in the event of symptom development, and testing capacity is being increased across the country (County Hall and Home Park are now testing centres).
4. Case numbers are beginning to fall again across the country and we await the outcome of the review of lockdown measures promised on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021. You will be pleased to hear that the number of cases in the Diptford in the week to 4<sup>th</sup> February was less than three per 100K.
5. The current indication is that Police and Crime Commissioner and County Council elections will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
6. **Immunity takes at least a fortnight to establish following vaccination, and the possibility of those who have been vaccinated still spreading the virus is not yet known. Hands, face and even more space is still essential to contain the spread in the next few weeks as the race between virus and vaccination accelerates. Please stay at home unless your journey is essential.**
7. The Devon County Council Active Travel Report was presented to the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee last week. I raised the lack of financial assistance for the proposed traffic free route between Bittaford and Ivybridge and proposed a new DCC policy for Active Travel for larger villages and small towns and the Scrutiny Committee agreed to propose this to Cabinet. A policy will assist the County in lobbying Central Government for funding.
8. **Libraries**  
  
A Choose and Collect lifeline library service recommenced in Ivybridge on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – email - [ivybridge.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:ivybridge.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) or visit the website [bit.ly/Jan21-Lockdown-Update](https://bit.ly/Jan21-Lockdown-Update)
9. The Budget proposed by the Cabinet of Devon County Council this year is £578.5 million, an increase of 6.6%, which will require the maximum permitted increase of 4.99% in our Council Tax precept. The Budget will be considered at the Full Council meeting on 18th February 2021.
10. Gara Bridge. Disappointed to advise that due to storms the Gara Bridge proposal has been postponed until the new Financial Year. I will follow this up and determine whether the plans are now approved by all relevant authorities.