

DECEMBER 2020

Please see my December report which is a collection of reports from various dept.

Highways

Volumes of work across the Highways teams remains really high, and the recent wet weather has seen a significant number of problems on the network. our gully cleaning policy is under scrutiny as we experience a combination of leaf fall and an extended period of wet weather.

With the recent lockdown, traffic flows on our A road network have again fallen, during the week by about 30% and at weekends by about 40%, compared to the equivalent week in 2019. With schools remaining open the morning peak flows are virtually unchanged; the main changes are during the daytime and evening periods.

Schools

As you know schools have been fully open since the autumn term started. Teachers and staff have done an amazing job in organising their school, round the COVID 19 guidance and restrictions. COVID 19 cases were low to start with, but since the return to school after half term cases have risen.

Schools are experiencing extra costs, including:

- 1, Supply teachers
- 2, Heating and Water (following COVID 19 guidance)
- 3, Extra cleaning and support staff
- 4, For Special Schools especially, extra PPE costs

NHS and Adult Care Services

As I am sure you are all aware, the Nightingale opened this week. It is a 'precautionary measure' but is an indication of the rising numbers of covid patients in our hospitals. The Nightingale is a SW facility – covering the 4 Devon

Hospitals and Cornwall. Staff are coming from each of the Devon hospitals. An initial 8 patients have transferred. Wards will open in multiples of 24

The new care home testing pilot scheme in Devon.

This is a small-scale pilot involving eight care homes in Devon and we are one of three Local Authorities (also Hampshire and Cornwall) who were selected, based on low prevalence rates. The aim of the pilot is to examine the role of how testing of visitors, alongside other existing infection prevention/control measures, maximises safety. It will run for four weeks from 16 November to 13 December 2020. Homes received training through online webinars on 12/13th November before commencing the pilot on 16th November.

Feedback from the homes has been mainly positive, reporting that the process is simple to follow and meaningful contact whilst wearing full PPE is appreciated. Relatives and residents have been very emotional with the pilot bringing hope and a glimpse of the new normal.

Infrastructure, Waste, Development and Rail November 2020

Rail – Dawlish Work has now started on Phase 2, amazing bit of kit there called a Wavewalker - if you visit Dawlish. you can't miss it!

Marsh Barton - No funding was announced from the New Stations Fund for Marsh Barton, however we will continue to press for this.

Okehampton - National Infrastructure Strategy has been published. - Restoring your Railway states... *The government will also deliver on its manifesto commitment to spend £500 million to restore transport services previously lost in the Beeching cuts of the 1960s, including restoring rail links to Okehampton in Devon.*

Cullompton - *Feasibility funding for the first ten schemes has been announced, which will provide a basis for decisions on further development* one of which Reopening **Wellington and Cullompton** railway stations;