

**County Councillor's Monthly Report for Harberton Cllr. Jacqui Hodgson - Date of Report: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018**  
**County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington**  
**(incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)**

**Key Issues:**

**PUBLIC HEALTH.** The recent report to DCC Cabinet by Virginia Pearson, the Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity and Director of Public Health at DCC raised serious concerns. Ms Pearson's annual report focussed on public health issues for young people with particular reference to the impact of inequality and she reported on a rise in self-harming, referring to discussions back in 2013 in Devon schools in response to growing concerns about the emotional wellbeing of students. She also referred to a Dept of Education report (2014), that showed then in comparison with 2005 there was worse self-reported health and more psychological distress. The recommendations in this year's DCC Public Health annual report make clear the breadth of the problem:

1. To reduce the number of children living in poverty and poor housing
2. To improve the health of women before, during and after pregnancy, including a reduction in the proportion smoking in pregnancy, and the number of women who are obese in pregnancy
3. To increase breastfeeding rates
4. To improve communication skills in young children
5. To promote healthy eating through national and local strategies to prevent overweight and obesity
6. To improve oral health and dental hygiene in children, especially those from the more socioeconomically-deprived areas
7. To increase levels of physical activity in children and adults
8. To promote the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people and to prevent deliberate self-harm
9. To ensure young people have access to quality sexual health advice, education and services
10. To ensure that personal, social and health education, and sex and relationships education, are provided to all children
11. To reduce the consumption of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs
12. To ensure that all children benefit from immunisation
13. To prevent accidental injury and harm
14. To improve the primary and community care of children with long-term health conditions
15. To support adults in tackling behaviours that are associated with harm to children
16. To reduce the attainment gap between young people from the highest and lowest socio-economic groups
17. To improve the health, wellbeing and life chances of the most disadvantaged children and young people, particularly children in care, and reduce the inequality gap.
18. To improve the experience of children with special needs or long term health conditions making the transition from children's services to adult services
19. To adopt a "child health in all policies", approach, the help tackle inequality, reduce disadvantage and deprivation and improve the social determinants of health
20. To improve the collection and analysis of data about young children and young people and their families, to better inform decisions on how to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

**Ms Pearson cited Frederick Douglass, 1817-1895 "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men".**

**I highly recommend everyone to read this report, available on line at**

**<http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/aphr/devon-annual-public-health-report-2017-18/>**

Further to this the current lifetime expectancy by DCC Division was requested and is included at the end of this report.

**Totnes has a lifetime expectancy of 81.9 years** (the Devon range is from 77.1 – 85.1 years)

**REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET OUTTURN FOR 2017/18:** This contained a detailed breakdown of the position within specific service areas: (This allowed DCC to contribute £12M to the Budget Management Reserve)

- Adult Care and Health Services – net underspend of £7.5M
- Children's Services - -Overspend of £2.6M
- Communities, Public Health & Prosperity – underspend of £1.3M
- Corporate Services – underspend of £1.1M
- Highways, Infrastructure, Development and Waste – Underspend of £2.1M

## HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

**COLLAPSED WALL IN MAUDLIN RD: UPDATE.** Non – the liability wrangle continues and the debris remains in the road!

**ASH TREE DIEBACK was reported on at May Cabinet meeting** Ash dieback is a serious tree disease which is likely to kill at least 95% of all native ash trees in Devon (as elsewhere) over the coming ten years. As ash trees are the second most common of all tree species found in Devon, accounting for approximately 20% of all trees present, this represents a significant threat to public safety, as well as an environmental crisis. This impact assessment relates to Devon County Council's intended approach to the management of this tree disease from both a public safety and environmental perspective. public safety and environmental perspective. The Cabinet approved **the recommendation to adopt a planned and proactive approach to dealing with the public safety and environmental issues which are likely to result from ash dieback.**

This will require modification to the current policies and procedures employed by DCC in dealing with tree safety, as set out in the DCC Tree Safety Policy and the associated framework contracts for the surveying of trees and for tree safety works. Specifically, the frequency of tree inspections will need to be varied to ensure that infection is spotted in time and can be dealt with to limit public safety issues. However, DCC will only deal with trees for which it has legal responsibility and will expect others to take appropriate action to prevent risk or problems affecting the county highway network or DCC property. It will also require some action to be taken to address the anticipated environmental consequences of this tree disease, most notably by promoting / undertaking the planting trees to replace the huge number that will be lost to ash dieback. It is proposed that resources are made available to facilitate this approach.

In the knowledge of the likely severity of ash dieback, DCC worked alongside others to establish the Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum, which it chairs. Its purpose is to encourage widespread awareness and understanding of ash dieback and to promote coordinated approaches to action to mitigate its effects. This has included the production of a Devon Ash Dieback Action Plan, the production of other promotional and advisory literature and the staging of meetings and events.

One of the consequences of the formation of the Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum is the development of shared proposals for environmental mitigation. This has included the establishment of a partnership of organisations who have develop a funding bid, which is being linked with similar proposals elsewhere in the country through coordination by the Woodland Trust, and for which a grant request will be made through the Heritage Lottery Fund. The recommendations made to Cabinet suggest the release of funding to match-fund this bid / project. If the bid is successful, the implementation of the project will provide a practical means by which DCC might discharge its adopted responsibilities for the replacement of the infected ash trees that it has to fell. But, beyond this, it should also help to support a comprehensive programme of community engagement in ash dieback initiatives and action (particularly tree planting) across Devon.

**SINGLE USE PLASTICS: At DCC Full Council this month** there was a report of the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services. This was further to a request that DCC consider phasing out all single use plastics from the council this calendar year (a motion that I seconded last October). The latest response was that DCC will remove all avoidable, single use plastic, food and beverage packaging and tableware by 2020. I responded to this welcoming the commitment but requesting that the use of the word avoidable is removed and that investment in Devon Community Recycling Network is considered as this group would be excellent allies in reducing plastic use across Devon. DCC had for no good reason withdrawn their annual contribution to admin support for the group just last year and this had led to collapse of a number of composting groups across the County. Re-establishing their funding would help with plastics recycling and composting. The Cabinet Minister said he would report back to my questions in writing.

## Attendance at meetings etc. as elected public representative:

**Weds May 9<sup>th</sup>**                      **Staverton Annual Parish Meeting**

**Dartington PC Meeting**

**Thurs May 10<sup>th</sup>**                **Bridgetown Alive!**

**Meeting with Don't Bury Dartington Under Concrete re draft Greater Horseshoe Bat SpD**

**Mon May 14<sup>th</sup>**                **Totnes TC meeting**

<b>Tues May 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace as a representative of DCC</b>
<b>Weds May 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>DCC Cabinet meeting: see key issues highlighted above</b>
<b>Thurs May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Meeting with Community Housing Group on site at legal Traveller Site in Littlehempston</b>            Excellent model for other sites that could be developed in this area            They suggested a Traveller's Forum for South Hams modelled on the Teignbridge one that has been successful in finding solutions and broadening understanding between all parties affected.</p> <p><b>Community Safety Partnership</b> – Interesting presentation on County Lines: initiative to address the criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults</p>
<b>Sun May 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Staverton Neighbourhood Plan</b> – public consultation event. Well attended
<b>Tues May 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Meeting with CEO of Dartington Hall Trust and DBDUC rep</b> re draft Greater Horseshoe Bat SpD
<b>Weds May 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<p><b>Meeting with Totnes Cycle group rep:</b> re presentations at forthcoming DCC meeting to take forward safer roundabout proposals presented to HATOC in November '17</p> <p><b>Totnes &amp; District Traffic &amp; Transport Forum:</b> low attendance, meeting adjourned</p>
<b>Thurs May 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>DCC Full Council meeting. AGM.</b> I remain on the same committees as last year, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Management (Planning) Committee</li> <li>• Rail Partnership Working Group</li> <li>• South Hams HATOC</li> </ul> <p>Single Use Plastics: see report highlighted above</p>
<b>Tuesday May 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement (TRAYE) project meeting</b>
<b>Weds May 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Public meeting in Bridgetown with Sarah Wollaston</b> regarding drug issues in Totnes
<b>Thurs May 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Totnes Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Friday Jun 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Meeting with Totnes Skatepark group &amp; SHDC Officers</b> -redevelopment of skatepark in Borough Park
<b>Sat June 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Fawcett Devon parliamentary event</b> – panel member
<b>Mon June 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Totnes TC meeting</b>

**For Information: Current Public Consultations:**

**Greater Horseshoe Bat - Draft Supplementary Document (SPD) consultation extended to 5pm June 13<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

The new document is at this link <https://new.devon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/other-county-policy-and-guidance/south-hams-sac-spd-consultation> I'd recommend you compare this with the current SAC planning protection zone (as we don't want to lose any protection!) <http://www.devon.gov.uk/core-doc-y1-greater-horseshoes-bat-...>

**SHDC Air Quality Management Plan – Clean Air Strategy** Public Consultation (April 20<sup>th</sup> – June 20<sup>th</sup> - 5pm)  
<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3902/Air-Quality>

**National Consultation on Gypsy & Traveller Sites:** on powers for dealing with unauthorised developments and encampments. The national consultation document closes on Friday June 15<sup>th</sup> at 23.45pm; documents can be found here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/697354/Consultation\\_-\\_unauthorised\\_encampments.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/697354/Consultation_-_unauthorised_encampments.pdf).

**NB Please check my new website blog for my submissions to these public consultations. You are welcome to reiterate points and issues I raise in my responses: [www.jacqihodgson.org](http://www.jacqihodgson.org)**

## Diary Dates

Tues June 12<sup>th</sup>

**2.15pm Corporate Infrastructure & Regulatory Services meeting:** where presentations will be made by Totnes resident and myself regarding better roundabouts (further to last November HATOC meeting)

DCC Weds June 13<sup>th</sup>

**10.30am DCC Cabinet Meeting**

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### The latest life expectancy figures at birth for DCC Divisions.

The two wards with the longest life expectancy are: Otter Valley (Cllr Claire Wright) and Wearside and Topsham (Cllr Andrew Leadbetter) at 85.1 years.

The ward with the lowest life expectancy is: Ilfracombe (Cllr Paul Crabb) at 77.1 years.

District	Electoral Division	Councillor	Life Expectancy at Birth
East Devon	Axminster	Ian Hall	82.3
	Broadclyst	Ray Bloxham	82.0
	Broadclyst	Sara Randall-Johnson	82.0
	Exmouth & Budleigh Salterton Coastal	Christine Channon	81.0
	Exmouth	Richard Scott	82.7
	Exmouth	Jeffrey Trail BEM	82.7
	Feniton & Honiton	Phillip Twiss	82.2
	Otter Valley	Claire Wright	85.1
	Seaton & Colyton	Martin Shaw	82.6
	Sidmouth	Stuart Hughes	83.3
	Whimble & Blackdown	Iain Chubb	84.4
	Alphington & Cowick	Yvonne Atkinson	80.7
	Duryard & Pennsylvania	Percy Prowse	82.0
Exeter	Exwick & St Thomas	Rob Hannaford	82.7
	Heavitree & Whipton Barton	Emma Brennan	83.0
	Pinhoe & Mincinglake	Hilary Ackland	83.2
	St David's & Haven Banks	Carol Whitton	79.0
	St Sidwells & St James	Su Aves	78.5
	Wearside & Topsham	Andrew Leadbetter	85.1
	Wonford & St Loyes	Marina Asvachin	80.8
Mid Devon	Crediton	Nick Way	83.8
	Creedy, Taw & Mid Exe	Margaret Squires	83.4
	Cullompton & Bradninch	John Berry	81.6
	Tiverton East	Colin Slade	83.7
	Tiverton West	Polly Colthorpe	81.8
North Devon	Willand & Uffculme	Ray Radford	84.4
	Barnstaple North	Brian Greenslade	80.5
	Barnstaple South	John Mathews	80.6
	Braunton Rural	Caroline Chugg	81.6
	Chulmleigh & Landkey	Richard Edgell	83.6
	Combe Martin Rural	Andrea Davis	83.0
	Fremington Rural	Frank Biederman	83.2

	Ilfracombe	Paul Crabb	77.1
	South Molton	Jeremy Yabsley	81.6
South Hams	Bickleigh & Wembury	John Hart	82.8
	Dartmouth & Marldon	Jonathan Hawkins	83.6
	Ivybridge	Roger Croad	82.4
	Kingsbridge	Julian Brazil	83.4
	Salcombe	Rufus Gilbert	83.7
	South Brent & Yealmpton	Richard Hosking	83.8
	Totnes & Dartington	Jacqi Hodgson	81.9
Teignbridge	Ashburton & Buckfastleigh	Stuart Barker	82.3
	Bovey Rural	George Gribble	84.6
	Chudleigh & Teign Valley	Jerry Brook	82.9
	Dawlish	John Clatworthy	80.7
	Exminster & Haldon	Alan Connett	84.0
	Ipplepen & The Kerswells	Alistair Dewhirst	84.6
	Kingsteignton & Teign Estuary	Ron Peart	82.8
	Newton Abbot North	Jackie Hook	80.8
	Newton Abbot South	Gordon Hook	80.9
	Teignmouth	Sylvia Russell	81.7
Torridge	Bideford East	Linda Hellyer	81.8
	Bideford West & Hartland	Tony Inch	80.9
	Holsworthy Rural	Barry Parsons	81.3
	Northam	Andrew Eastman	80.6
	Torrington Rural	Andrew Saywell	82.5
West Devon	Hatherleigh & Chagford	James McInnes	82.4
	Okehampton Rural	Kevin Ball	81.2
	Tavistock	Debo Sellis	83.0
	Yelverton Rural	Philip Sanders	82.2

**Dr Virginia Pearson**  
**Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity**  
**Director of Public Health**  
**Public Health Devon**  
**Devon County Council**