

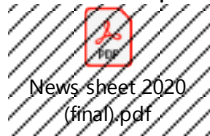
AGENDA ITEM 10b

County councillor update July 2020

I have been asked to make the report shorter. I will not be giving you as much information as a consequence.

Jan Horrell Tavistock Library reports: "I am pleased to say that Tavistock will be one of the first library buildings to reopen on 20th July.

We will initially be open from 10am - 12pm and from 2pm - 4pm on Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri and Sat offering adults and children the opportunity to select books, DVDs and audiobooks from the shelves. Public computers will also be available, and this service has been in high demand in the first 4 libraries to open. We will continue to offer Choose and Collect and Book Delivery services."



Highways:

The last few months has been particularly busy for the highways service as they have been working on

- The active travel
- The re-opening of the High Streets work with District Councils
- The additional maintenance monies from Government
- The backlog of Licence Requests
- And lots more

Communications this week, working in collaboration with the Police a newsletter will be delivered to around 300000 Devon homes to update on matters pandemic. Aiming to reach our communities, and, especially those most isolated and lonely.

Fairtrade - Nestle recently announced that it would no longer use Fairtrade Cocoa and Sugar for Kit Kat bars. There is a petition about Nestle and KitKat. Here is the link: <http://chnng.it/wj84wfGmHf> If you wish to sign it and share with others. **Nestlé have told us that from October they will stop using Fairtrade cocoa and sugar for KitKat bars.** For those cocoa and sugar farmers, **the timing is terrible.** With the global health and economic crisis threatening their future, co-operatives representing **27,000 farmers** now face **losing almost £2m of Fairtrade Premium each year**, along with the security and power Fairtrade has offered over the past ten years. Tavistock has recently re-registered as a Fairtrade town (we are still awaiting the road signs being erected. I used my County Councillor grant as did Tavistock WDBC councillors.

☑ **Adult Care and Health Services** shows a net overspend of just under £5.7millions, after a carry forward request of £731,000 which relates to the Better Care Fund. The overspend is mainly the result of price and activity pressures for older people and disabilities.

Amenity site @ Crowndale There have been no reports of any serious issues with most residents being sensible, patient and reasonable. I continue to make steady progress with my ambition to

secure a new amenity site for our ever-growing town. We are so near the top of the list! (only been trying since 2009!) fingers crossed please!

With lock down and restaurants / hospitality being closed kerbside waste has increased significantly. Green waste too with all the gardening!

Young people / Education: Schools and Children's centres have remained working and teachers, support workers, parents and children have had to work around changes. If anyone wants the stats, ask me and I will send the link / graphs. There have been

- **Children's Services** is an overspend of £4.4 millions.
 - o Children's Social Care the overspend is £1.5 millions- The main cause has been a greater number of children with complex needs requiring enhanced packages of care within supported accommodation provision
 - o Education and Learning General Fund has an overspend of £2.8 millions. The most significant adverse variance is within Schools Transport. The personalised transport budget has seen increased costs and higher numbers of children with Special Educational Needs requiring personalised transport.
 - o Education and Learning has a year-end funding shortfall of £19.8 millions mainly due to increased demand and rising costs around high needs and in particularly Independent Special School placements. In line with requirements issued by the Department for Education, the County Council must carry forward the whole funding shortfall to the DSG budget in future years, which will be held on the balance sheet as a negative reserve.
 - o the following carry forwards have been agreed by the Schools Forum:
 - o Ring fenced schools surplus balances of £16.1 millions, other central and delegated balances of £3.6 million and the High Needs deficit of £19.8 millions.
- serious cases and domestic violence and abuse has increased too.

Life in general:

Working at least 8 hours daily sometimes more including some weekends. Lots of local cases with residents. Meetings e.g. future social housing, financial stability, (Devon has a £85.5 million deficit, recovery plans, highway issues (many), World Heritage, Tamar Valley AONB, Public Health, Action for children, Children's Centre, Tavistock Library, local CVS & GP's.

On a nicer note I have granted some Locality funds to Celle volunteer gardeners, the Tavistock Rugby Club, "Make a Difference" (which I hope it will! 😊)

As ever if you need to contact me my details are:

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