

West Devon Borough Council Update

Cllr Mandy Ewings

November 2022

The appeal for a single unit on Barley Market Street (the parking unit behind the council offices) has been dismissed by HMI.

Very sadly **Robin Musgrave** has passed away, he was the Cllr for Bere Ferrers joining the council in the 1990's. His funeral for those who may be interested is Friday 18th November at St Andrew's church Bere Ferrers at 14.00hrs

Cost of Living Crisis, officers instructed to take immediate steps to progress support payments to families in receipt of Council Tax Reduction. Families with one child will receive £90 with two or more children £160

Extended funding for the next two years to Tavistock Ring and Ride, Young Devon, West Devon CVS, Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA), who organise sporting events mainly in schools for the whole of West Devon, World Heritage Site (WHS steering group) and **Citizens Advice** who will be receiving an extra £10k for the two years in recognition of the important work that they are doing during the Cost of Living Crisis.

There has been an acknowledgement of **s.106 monies** needing to be spent before the expiry date, when the unspent monies would have to be returned to the developer.

Devon Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan, need to assess the financial and resource implications required to show how it would contribute to delivering the Devon Carbon plan.

Springhill temporary accommodation redevelopment project, Cllrs requested further detail of the "at risk" spend concerning the Springhill project and raised concerns that the Contract to redevelop the site had still to be let. I requested that as the site is unsightly it needs some work to stop it from becoming an eyesore. Officers undertook to improve the appearance.

Alleged Breach of Planning at the Plymouth Road car wash site. A decision has been made not to expediate the matter.

I attended a training session led by **the Joint Local Plan team on the Climate Emergency Policy** I attach the slides for information i.e. no planning application received after 30th November 2022 will be able to have gas or oil boilers, any applications currently in the system has until June 2023 to be built otherwise they have to comply with new planning policy/building regulations.

I attended a meeting of the **HotSW LEP Scrutiny Board** in October when the **Devolution Deal** was discussed with the slides attached for your information. The Government have singled us out as one of nine areas in the country. Devon, Plymouth and Torbay to be devolved with no elected mayor, negotiations are expected to recommence this Autumn with April 2023 as a target date for devolution to be implemented.

Budget setting has commenced for the 23/24 financial year, with the usual cost cutting exercise being gone through. The current interest rate increase bad for many with mortgages, good for those with savings, has allowed the council to be above target for Treasury Management which will ease the current budget gap of £137k