

AGENDA ITEM 11c

We will remember them: Tavistock College held an excellent Remembrance Service at Tavistock St. Eustachius' on the 10th November. Thanks to the students, staff, and church. The Remembrance Service this Sunday 13th was well attended and so warm! Well done to all those who organised the service.

Life in general has been busy around Tavistock and Gulworthy. Lots of leaves making slips and falls a concern to us all.

I was contacted by residents about some slippy areas, and I asked the highway officers to check for water damaged paving and manhole covers. If councillors have issues you can report via the DCC website www.devon.gov.uk

I have reported non-working streetlights in the Quant Park area and other areas.

On street car parking charging? Members can read below the eye-watering challenges Devon County Council has (as all areas) to balance the budget.

I have been advised that on street car parking charging will most likely be brought into areas which have escaped! I have resisted this since 2010, much to the annoyance of some fellow County members. I don't support this... however, let's work together and make the adage "hello change! What good do you bring?"

If we are to have this, I have said to senior councillors at DCC, that I will convene a public meeting for West Devon Borough Council Tavistock members, plus the portfolio holder for off-street car parking the leader and finance officer, the Tavistock Town Council, the Tavistock BID and Chamber of Commerce, the Blue Light service and representatives of residents who are seeking Residential Car parking permits.

This is not a comprehensive list and if members think there are others who are key, please let me know. Some residents in Tavistock have been wanting to secure parking permits over the years. When I have asked for help in securing this, I have always been told, that "if we have residents permits, Tavistock will have to have on-street car parking charging...!"

My thoughts then are, OK! If we are going to have on-street car parking inflicted on the town, then residents must be able to investigate residential car parking permits.

Many traders have been dismayed at the changing of long-stay Abbey Rise to short stay, for example, so it will be critical for the West Devon Borough Councillors for Tavistock to focus on the time frames and charges associated with the off-street car parking. Tavistock Town Council has Market Road and the Guildhall car park, so, these areas will need to be considered together.

I have given the heads up to the BID manager & we will have to work together to hopefully improve daily commerce. We have a challenge to say the least.

If councillors could think which areas in Tavistock could have an on-street parking charge, let me know.

I am told that the restrictions would be for **one hour parking and that the first half hour would be free.** I have my ideas, and I am seeking the assistance and constructive dialogue of us all.

Of note too, is the work which I have been asked to help with in establishing maps of all the short-cuts, foot paths, ginnels, and public rights of way around our area . This is supporting the Active Travel initiative.

Children and Young people: I organised a busy schedule for Children's portfolio DCC Cabinet member Cllr Andrew Leadbetter last Friday.

We met with the Abbey Rise GP Practice Manager, then officers of the Children's Centre Action For Children further on to some of the Trustees from the Tavistock Youth Café to finish with meeting the Young People of the Youth Café.

Andrew and I were able to listen to concerns, link issues and see first hand the sites where front-line care is given. I thank all the people concerned and I was glad that Tavistock appears to be really "joined up" which, apparently isn't always the case.

The benefit of the Tavistock Health and Wellbeing Alliance and the co-ordination it brings is bearing fruit.

As ever if you need help contact me on my debo.sellis@devon.gov.uk or 07765103316 My Social media site is Facebook Councillor Debo Sellis

Below are some links to topical DCC information including links to community grants:

We produced a special Care and Health edition of our Connect Me bulletin this week. It included:

- Five ways to protect under 5s this winter
- Advice to help people with stress, as it's Stress Awareness Week
- Protect yourself and your baby from viruses

Here's what else we've been doing and saying this week.

More help for communities during cost of living crisis: So far, we've given more than £250,000 to local projects, many of which are helping communities cope with the sharp increase in food prices and heating bills.

It's from our Growing Communities Fund, which this week we've opened up again for applications.

The extra funding is in response to the fastest rise in the cost of living for 40 years - the cost of food for example increased by nearly 15 per cent in the year to September.

Many of the 128 projects that we've helped so far directly help communities to cope with these financial pressures, offering local people a warm safe haven, produce food, distribute surplus food and essentials, food banks and classes showing communities how to cook nutritious meals on a budget.

Some of them - Sweetpea Small Holdings, in Exeter, for instance, which grows fresh produce and donates to local food banks - are mentioned.

We're inviting applications now from local groups and individuals. For more information contact communitygrants@devon.gov.uk or calling 01392 383379.

Councillor Mrs Debo Sellis
County Councillor for Tavistock and Gulworthy