

WDBC Report to Tavistock Town Council July 2024

At the Annual meeting in May Cllr Debo Sellis, member for Tavistock Southeast was elected as Mayor of West Devon Borough Council. At the same time Cllr Ursula Mann(Tavistock North) joined the Hub taking the Climate and Biodiversity portfolio along with Cllr Jane Elliott (Chagford)who is the Hub member for Community Wellbeing. Four of the nine Hub members are elected members for Tavistock. I was elected to attend the Devon Rail Forum Meetings which happen twice yearly, my attendance will fit well with my membership of Oke Rail and Tavy Rail where I am appointed by Tavistock Town Council.

In May I attended the opening of the refurbished Tavistock Athletics Club's running track at Tavistock College. WDBC provided £36,010 of Section 106 funding to help complete the project.

WDBC have recently introduced the West Devon Housing Offer which aims to tackle a problem that many residents face - a shortage of properties they can afford. It provides funding and support to help communities research and form community housing groups such as Community Land Trusts, kickstart housing projects, connect with Registered Providers (of social housing) and deliver homes where there is a real need.

The eagerly awaited Report of the Devon Housing Commission of which WDBC has taken an active role will be released on 19th July. It clearly recognises the challenging housing situation in Devon and looks at ways the issues can be addressed.

Children in care have been offered free access to leisure facilities in West Devon. WDBC have teamed up with Fusion to offer children living in care and care leavers up to the age of twenty-five free access to their leisure centres in West Devon with the aim of helping them to live healthier and more active lives.

The Chewing Gum Task Force, administered by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, will help West Devon Borough Council clean up gum and reduce gum littering. WDBC are putting plans in place to remove the chewing gum that blights local streets after receiving a grant to tackle the issue.

The Tavi Pride event was a great success with WDBC councillors and staff in attendance, showing support for the entire LGBTQ+ community across West Devon.

Cllr Anne Johnson

West Devon Borough Council

Tavistock South-west

18th July 2024