

County Councillor update July 2021: debo.sellis@devon.gov.uk 07765103316

In general:

There have been some complaints about traffic congestion and delays. We all know Tavistock is an Ancient Market Town in a bowl on a busy crossroad. The **A386 & A390** being the main busy routes. There is always going to be congestion when the system blocks in any of these areas.

The highways dept works with the utility companies and must co-ordinate works so disruption is kept to a minimum. If there is an emergency, then clearly this is likely to cause local issues & no notice of the works being done. I remind councillors, that I do not plan the programmes of works, nor do I hold portfolio for highways.

Some highway officers in Devon County Council area have resigned because of the amount of abuse they have received, particularly in Civil parking enforcement. This is not good. As councillors I suggest we remind residents (who may have only recently moved here) that the geography in Tavistock means there will be delays when putting in and maintaining utilities and roads.

The weather this year has caused damage to our roads, plus it delayed construction work, repairs and checks. Officers have seen increased pressures relating to the Ash Die Back disease and the logistical pressures of contacting landowners, & prioritising too.

The challenges securing both materials for construction / roadworks and workers increase. People want the works done ASAP, however there aren't always the physical or financial resources to do them.

I have been on my first inspection tour with the local highway officer since CV19 struck. The budget for this year has been allocated. I am trying to find some funds for areas such as Down Road, which I am receiving some comments. I am advised that the road, albeit rough is not defective or a danger. The officer would like the area to be done and it will cost long thousands to resurface. We work to find some funds.

The local footpaths are being inspected. I have asked for the Community Payback scheme to be used to make sure our cycle and footpaths are cleared. I am going to contribute £1000 from the Councillor Locality grant as this should buy 5 days of supervised teams of pay-back work. I have asked the highway portfolio holder for information about the Chapter 8 training. Perhaps some councillors may be interested doing the training.

Some areas are cut by various councils or local Residential management companies. I am receiving queries about why some areas are tidied and other left.

To remind you, only roadside / verges are cut back for safety / visibility issues. The left is uncut to promote biodiversity.

I have passed my Community Speed Watch theory test & am looking forward to working with the Police & setting up a local group. I note some councillors have done this already in Tavistock. I hope to help Gulworthy area too. Let me know if you are interested.

Active Travel

I am awaiting an update of this from DCC officer. Transition Tavistock has been excellent in keeping up with this & I thank & support them.

Tour of Britain will be in Tavistock 6th let's work together to show our wonderful town!

I have attended meeting the **Public Rights of Way, the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** , which are 2 new areas for me. I chose to step down from Homes Portfolio on WDBC and as a Vice Chairman of Children's scrutiny for personal reasons. I have the honour of being Vice Chairman of Devon County Council and have the official duty of cutting the ribbon for the Tavistock Country Bus soon. Rural access to transport being very important.

Buses:

The latest bus timetable information in Devon is now available in booklets again. It is the first time since the pandemic that we have printed the timetables, covering all the districts across Devon and all service operators.

The information in the printed booklets is the most up-to-date available, but service times can change.

The guides also remain available online as [e-books on the Travel Devon website](#).

Printed versions of the timetables are available at libraries, travel shops, bus stations and all the usual outlets. Or you can request a printed copy by emailing devonbus@devon.gov.uk

All of the information is available on the [Travel Devon website](#), and links to all timetables are available on [Devon County Council's interactive bus map](#).

Levelling Up Fund Bids ... government initiative

Expect to hear if we are successful late summer/early autumn.

West Devon Transport Hub

Working with West Devon Borough Council who have submitted a bid for a West Devon Transport Hub in Okehampton. The transport hub will include a new rail

station close to the emerging development and the junction off the A30 to the east of Okehampton. The transport hub will enable the best use of the new rail connection to Exeter, which is planned to start operating by the end of this year. Devon currently owns the necessary land. The hub will include facilities for bus connections, cycle facilities and electric vehicle charging at the car park. The aim is to provide an interchange for Okehampton and the rural hinterland stretching up to Holsworthy, Hatherleigh, and North Cornwall, which currently has poor connectivity to the national rail network. Devon County Council is contributing the land for this scheme.

Residents Associations:

I am glad that Greenlands Residents & Torlands will hopefully enjoy to fun days organised by LiveWest Housing Association. I look forward to supporting other residents in other areas of Tavistock too. Unfortunately, the CV19 delayed plans... but there are some in the pipeline! 😊



Kind regards

Debo Sellis