

Hamlets meeting report:

Having had Covid in our family very recently and two of my grandsons off school this week, I will continue to stay away from as many public meetings as I can for the moment.

Updates:

Charlottes Bridge.

The replacement sign has been installed on a separate post by DCC, but we are concerned that it might not be high enough to keep the vandals off. Time will tell.

Timber for the top handrail on the bridge has been found and the text that is to be cut into it has been agreed with Charlotte's family and the company doing it has been told to proceed. DCC will install as and when it is ready.

Parcel 3 issues:

All of the residents' concerns have been passed onto the Planning Officer as well as WD enforcement team. The mud on the road is being cleaned off with a professional road sweeping machine, and apart from leaving a very thin muddy residue in wet conditions, it is doing a good job. The weather has not been hot enough to cause any dust, so we need to be aware that this must also be address by the developer.

The site plan shows that parking for the staff / operatives is to be on site, but I am not sure if the car park has now been completed, but at my last visit, there was only one van parked on the approach road.

Kellands Lane Blockage:

There is still slow progress being made with this issue, but the main developers involved are all now in accord. Delays are now being caused by some planning issues and by South West Water and the adoption of some drainage. Any actions on site may not start before spring next year.

St James Primary School playing fields:

As we all know the recent planning application was turned down, and the finished levels on the site are the critical issue. I hope to work with the school and others to try to get this resolved, but for me, it should be DCC to step up and put right the mess they left behind.

You may be aware that there is a review of the planning department going on at that moment and this includes the enforcement side. Details of the review will be debated at the Hub meeting tomorrow.

West Devon has declared a Housing Crisis and has dedicated one of the senior officers to devote her full time to trying to find solutions to this issue. It is not just West Devon who has this problem; it is now a nationwide one.

There are two other crisis issues that are coming our way. One will be an economic one for those on lower incomes, and the other (which is actually already here), is in Health and Adult social care.

Health and Adult Social Care:

I attended a meeting recently with a lot of experts and leaders of councils around the west country, and it was unanimously agreed that what the government has done to date, is far too little and much too late, as we already have ambulances queuing to get their passengers into hospital, 75% of beds in hospital are blocked due to nowhere to send patients to, and care homes short of all levels of staffing. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that those attending would spread the word on this, and to press MPs and Government (without any Party Political bias) to make proper decisions on making the systems work again. It seems that on staffing, the government was happy to allow people from abroad to come and help in the poultry business so that we can have turkeys for Christmas, but not to help care for those in hospitals or care homes.

I asked for this to come to a special meeting at West Devon, and the outcome of this was to set up something that we could do, and that is to create a Winter Plan, so that we are ahead of the issues instead of having to catch up as we did with the start of the covid pandemic. The plan is taking shape and we hope to have this ready for the next full council meeting. One element of the plan is to provide all parish and town councils with a list of contact information of all the services we can provide to those who find themselves in difficulty.

Unfortunately we seem to have lost the bit about the overall crisis that still needs to be pushed by everyone to try to make the government make funding and staffing available before winter really sets

That's it for me.

Regards

Cllr Tony Leech