

Bid to Levelling Up Fund

WDBC submitted a bid to the Levelling Up Fund for the WD Transport Hub which would have released funding for the building out of the Parkway Station. As reported previously, the bid was unsuccessful. A meeting was held last week between WDBC; DCC and government representatives from Dept of Transport, Dept for Business, Energy & Industrial Society and Dept for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. The purpose of the meeting was for officers to be given feedback with a view to gaining some understanding as to why our bid was unsuccessful and how any future bids could be improved. I was hoping to have some information to share with you but, at the time of writing, I haven't heard what the outcome of the meeting was. If anything comes through before the Parish Council Meeting, then I will be happy to provide a verbal update to Councillors on Tuesday.

Planning

Over the Christmas period, I became aware that the works to the hedge on the Persimmon development on Exeter Road was not in conformity with the approved Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. There was a condition of the outline planning consent that, in the event of full consent coming forward, the hedge should be translocated rather than grubbed out and replaced. This is now with the planning enforcement team.

With regard to IT, the existing servers are in the process of being migrated to a faster and more reliable server platform. This means that the planning portal won't be available to the public between 7pm & 8pm on Friday 4th Feb.

Covid

With the announcement that the country will be moving back into "Plan A" with regard to Covid measures, WDBC will be taking a sensible and pragmatic approach to the re-opening of the offices with a number of face to face staff briefings being planned.

WDBC remains on track with the Government's timescales for the administering and payment of the Hospitality and Leisure Grants (HLG). The scheme, which opened in the first week of January has paid out £503,369 (from 156 applications) in West Devon.

Links Meetings

On 8 December, following the Superlinks meeting with Cllr John Hart, WDBC wrote to all Town and Parish Councils asking for their thoughts on the frequency of the Links meetings with WDBC. To date only a handful of responses have been received. If the Hamlets Parish Council have not already made a response, please could you let me know your thoughts so I can be sure they will be taken into account when considering the frequency of future meetings.

Misc

Devon Community Foundation, commissioned by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, are offering short term grants (between £1,000 - £10,000) for projects and initiatives raising awareness of drug use or diverting people from becoming involved in illegal drugs activity - to find out more please visit their website here -

[OPCC Community Grants - Devon Community Foundation \(devoncf.com\)](https://www.devoncf.com)

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