

Rail - Monday 25 April to Monday 9 May

- Track renewals and structures work will be taking place along the Dartmoor Line to Okehampton to support the start of hourly services in the summer
- Buses will replace trains between Crediton and Okehampton
- Trains will continue to run between Exeter and Crediton
- Parking fees now apply (apart from a 20minute drop off/collection time)

Ukraine – Accommodation checks are being made as rapidly as possible together with visits to the Ukrainians who have arrived in order to provide some essential financial support to them. West Devon is working on developing fall-back placements in the unfortunate event that a host/sponsor relationship breaks down.

Thinking about what longer term wrap-around support could look like, over the next few days, WD will be:

- Arranging a drop-in briefing session for Town and Parish Councils to ask any questions on the scheme or to share any steps they are taking to support Ukrainians on a locality basis.
- Working with Team Devon to develop a series of webinars for Hosts and Sponsors over the coming month.
- Finalising plans with the CVS to deliver signposting, linking up translators to hosts / community groups / other organisations supporting our Ukrainian guests, supporting us in facilitating regular webinars with hosts and guests
- Formally launching the Fusion Leisure Homes for Ukraine free membership offering
- Going live with our simple online form to enable hosts to sign up to receive their £350 monthly welcome payment.

DCC is the lead authority and there is a comprehensive information on their webpage which is regularly updated. West Devon have information on their website as well and if you are able to offer support to refugees other than accommodation or finance, please contact the Council using supportforukraine@swdevon.gov.uk. This could be schemes like social gatherings for refugees in the area, help with transport, childcare, job applications and other support.

Citizens Advice - WD had a presentation from CA recently. 60% of enquiries relate to debt/welfare rights and housing. Prior to the pandemic, there were 150 volunteers covering the WD area. Half of these have been lost and a recruitment campaign is running. If you know of anyone who is interested in volunteering for this very rewarding role, then please do encourage them to contact the Okehampton office, located in the Ockment Centre, to find out more.

Cllr Julie Yelland
Okehampton South Ward
Report prepared 29th April 2022