

Waste

As members, we are receiving daily updates to advise if there are any delays to the waste collection service or if there have been any missed collections in the area. If any of the Hamlets Parish Councillors are being contacted about issues with the waste collection service, please do encourage your residents to report it using the online facility. Equally, if I am advised of any issues within the Parish, I will forward the details to the Clerk for onward circulation.

Ukraine

We are continuing to welcome new arrivals into West Devon with 82 guests in 30 placements as at the end of May. Some of our guests have now been in Devon for over a month and our work has naturally turned from visits for impending arrivals, to welcome visits, to see how our Ukrainian guests are settling in.

Funding arrangements have been agreed for both Citizens Advice and the CVS to provide wrap around support to our guests. The CA will provide help with employment opportunities, navigating the benefit system, liaising with schools, support with healthcare access, assistance with grant applications and some first stage immigration advice. They will also link in with the Community Groups to offer support and signpost to the CVS.

The CVS will offer advice and advocacy to the new groups setting up to meet the needs of our guests, with signposting, practical and emotional support, drop-in support sessions for families with young children and other events and activities which may provide a welcome break for both hosts and guests.

WDDB are funding these schemes for six months and will be meeting regularly to ensure the scheme meets the needs of those who need it the most.

Some of our guests have been with their hosts for over a month now, and the realities of sharing your home with a stranger are starting to show effect. Working with Team Devon we are developing a re-matching process with several hosts who have expressed interest in Homes for Ukraine scheme but not yet matched with anyone. This will enable us to have a network of properties we may be able to offer in the event a placement breaks down.

Cllr Julie Yelland
Okehampton South Ward
Report prepared 2nd June 2022