

County Councillor's Report, September 2020

Covid-19 Situation

Although we have had a consistently low level of infection in East Devon over the last three months, a recent small group of cases in Seaton and Axminster - resulting from residents returning from overseas holidays, rather than tourists in our area - reminds us all that the pandemic is not over. Despite the failures of the Government's national track and trace system, Devon's Public Health team seems to be dealing effectively with local issues.

As cases pick up nationally and schools (rightly) return, it is vital that everyone, including younger people, maintains social distancing and wears face masks in crowded spaces outdoors as well as in indoor environments.

Grammar School transport

Following contact by Colyford residents, I took up the question of how Colyton Grammar School will manage travel to school in the new situation, and Mr Harris, the headteacher, has given me the following information:

1. Students will be advised to wear face coverings when walking to and from the bus stop
2. The arrival of the buses in the mornings are usually staggered and there will be staff on the main road, in Elm Farm Lane and at the crossroad (Gully Shoot, Whitwell Lane, Stafford Lane, Elm Farm Lane) to supervise students
3. At the end of the day we are staggering the departure time by 5 minutes to allow for the west bound students/buses to depart first and then the east bound
4. Again, at the end of the day there will be staff at the bus stops, in the Elm Farm Lane and at the crossroad
5. Where Students are being collected from school parents are advised not to arrive in the car park before 3.50pm to allow the students who use buses to clear the lanes

The school will, of course, be following Government guidelines.

Effects of climate change on infrastructure

I have been working with the chair of the residents' group in Manor Gardens, Seaton, to deal with repeated flooding at the junction with Fore Street and its effects on their private road. I have met with South West Water on site to discuss their responsibilities in this situation. With flooding getting worse because of climate change, the issues are of wider relevance.

Effects of increased visitor numbers

I have raised concerns about the continued closure of toilets at Seaton Hole and alleged 'camping' in parking bays on Seaton seafront.

Online meetings

There have been no County meetings during August, but it has been decided that all meetings will continue to held online until at least the end of 2019.

I am not attending indoor meetings, but I am available to meet constituents in outdoor settings where necessary, as well as discussing on the phone or by email.