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Full Council Wednesday 20th October 2021

Remote meetings

Once again, a Conservative councillor tried, via a question to the leader, to insist that council meetings should be held in person, not remotely. This showed again in my opinion how out of touch some councillors are with current concerns about rising rates of CV-19, and taking no account of the savings that have been made in expense claims by councillors who historically claim for petrol, meals etc for attending the meetings (the saving was over £14,000 for the first 6 months of remote meetings), that counsellors of working age are far more likely to be able attend meetings if they don't have the additional time constraints of travelling to Blackdown House in Honiton, that those with caring responsibilities can attend more easily remotely and finally the equality issue for those with either mobility problems, logistical problems, health related issues and so on for how remote meetings are much safer.

Blackdown House is particularly unsuitable for larger meetings owing to its design, lack of ventilation, also it can be very difficult to identify speakers when the chamber is full owing to the cramped layout of the room. The Leader gave both a verbal and written response to this. The current set up will continue until the end of January 2022. A report will be brought to Full Council in December 2021 about how to proceed in future depending on the health situation at the time. In the meantime it requires a change to government legislation to allow full remote or hybrid meetings to continue in future, something they seem in no hurry to do.

Motion – cuts to Universal Credit (UC) uplift

A motion was brought forward to this meeting which was about the government's decision to discontinue the £20 uplift for Universal credit recipients. There were concerns that with so many unforeseen price rises such as utility bills, petrol, food prices, rent increases and so on, this was not the time to cut the additional support for poorer families. Furthermore, for working families on UC, from next April they will be faced with increased National insurance payments. This motion came at the end of the Full Council meeting. Once again, the Conservative group, with one exception in Conservative Cllr Mike Allen, proved they are more wedded to the central party line than to their residents and either abstained on the vote or left the meeting early.

The Chair invited Cllr Millar as the proposer to speak to the motion. Cllr Millar thanked those officers who had assisted him in drafting a motion which had received cross-party support. As a motion in three parts, the intention was to actively support young people at financial risk; request that Cabinet seeks further funding to support the Council's work on poverty, and make a stand as a Council to request that the Government re-instates the Universal Credit uplift, which affects an area like East Devon very much. Since he was aware of many approaches to the Council from those facing hardship, he wanted to indicate its solidarity in helping tackle a desperate situation for many, in the hope that the Government might perform a U-turn. In the absence of Cllr Bonetta (due to temporary IT difficulties), Cllr Allen seconded this motion by stating that this was the wrong time for the uplift to go, when it could have been reviewed next spring as part of the budget process. He requested that all Cllrs review any funds available to them which could go towards helping the most vulnerable in local communities. Comments during the debate on this motion included the following:

- That funds were already available to support the Council's Poverty Strategy and a lot of work was underway.
- That the second part of this motion should be referred to the Poverty Working panel for an informed report to be compiled by officers before going to Cabinet. Council 20 October 2021
- Waiting for the intervention of more groups or meetings would delay opportunities to assist people in hardship as soon as possible.
- The period for budget setting is fast approaching and so timing is crucial to consider the direction or re-direction of funds available.
- There were concerns about the impact of multiple changes on families next year, with increases to National Insurance, increasing fuel prices, rising costs of living, the end of furlough and increasing costs of accommodation.
- The Government was setting up a Household Support Fund (£5m), some of which would go to Devon Councils via small grants for basic commodities, and available at the end of the month, but could not support the extension of existing funds such as the Universal Credit uplift. *NB – it should be noted that this is a fund that will have to be applied for individually, putting in yet another layer of bureaucracy for families already undergoing hardship.*
- £20 is a lot of money for people who need support urgently, and is the reason bodies such as Honiton Food Safe exist, founded by Cllr Bonetta and open four times each week.
- More names are being presented to Food Banks, and even if the Government do not change their view on the uplift, the Council would be being proactive rather than reactive by putting political views aside and supporting the motion unanimously.

- Poverty appears to be the ‘new normal’ instead of a crime against people. There is no morally sound reason to defend the taking away of Universal Credit uplift, when families may be forced to choose whether they have heating or food as an option, but not both.
- The uplift was a benefit to the local economy when people have money to shop on High Streets suffering after the pandemic. £20 per week remains lower than the £25 **DAILY** allowance for MPs lunches when they are in London.
- There is a widening gap between the ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’.
- Those listening to the debate may take the view this Council does not care, if it does not do all it can to tackle poverty.

Cllr Millar thanked everyone for their comments and encouraged those present to vote for the motion rather than along party lines. A recorded vote was requested and supported.

Recorded vote **supporting** the motion (cross party support including EDA, Labour, Lib Dems, Green party, Independents, 1 Conservative):

Councillors Mike Allen, Megan Armstrong, Paul Arnott, Jess Bailey, Denise Bickley, Jake Bonetta, Sarah Chamberlain, Olly Davey, Peter Faithfull, Steve Gazzard, Nick Hookway, Sarah Jackson, Vicky Johns, Geoff Jung, Jamie Kemp, John Loudoun, Dawn Manley, Paul Millar, Geoff Pratt, Val Ranger, Marianne Rixson, Jack Rowland, Eleanor Rylance, Brenda Taylor, Ian Thomas, Joe Whibley, Eileen Wragg

Recorded vote **against** the motion (all conservative councillors):

Councillors Colin Brown, Alasdair Bruce, Fred Caygill, De Saram, Alan Dent, Ian Hall, Marcus Hartnell, Stuart Hughes, Ben Ingham, Richard Lawrence, Andrew Moulding, Helen Parr, Philip Skinner, Tom Wright – abstained - 14

Following the recorded vote the motion proposed by Cllr Millar was carried.

RECOMMENDATION; that the following recommendations from the motion be approved following a recorded vote. Our Council recognises the significant impact on residents, particularly children and young people, of the deplorable decision of the Government to remove the Uplift provision for those on Universal Credit that will push many struggling families further into poverty. This Council will therefore:

- Ensure we are doing all we can to work with our partners to more visibly promote take up of Schemes such as Kickstart, and are actively signposting local businesses to two new Devon programmes, ‘SMART SKILLS’ and ‘Skills Support for the Workforce’, in order to support those at risk of financial difficulties by offering solutions to local employers, and including those aged 16 - 24 on Universal Credit, to gain employment for a minimum of 6 months.
- Request an urgent report to a forthcoming Cabinet meeting setting out potential options for directing additional resources into the Anti-Poverty Strategy to support the District in helping the most vulnerable residents this winter, in the light of unexpected rising living costs.
- Write to the Chancellor and Prime Minister (copying in the District MPs) calling for the government to re-introduce this payment as a matter of urgency to the thousands of individuals, families and their children in East Devon that will be adversely affected by this cut in financial support to the most vulnerable.

New Council Plan

The authority has published its new ‘Council Plan’. The document will act as a practical roadmap highlighting its key focusses - including making sure people can afford to live, conserving the

district's magnificent environment and supporting the creation of jobs while helping the local economy to recover after pandemic. EDDC's top three priorities include:

Better homes and communities for all:

A total of £500,000 has been set aside for a housing task force to push the building of better quality new homes, which includes more well-maintained, social and affordable housing. The authority will be focused on using its resources and influence to ensure developments are in appropriate areas where residents have everything they need to live happy, healthy and safe lives with access to the amenities they need – like open spaces, healthcare, job opportunities and leisure facilities.

A greener East Devon:

EDDC is focused on achieving carbon neutrality by 2040, looking after the area's towns, villages, countryside and coastline for future generations. The details of this work is included in its [Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan](#).

The council will also be changing all its current working practices to reduce its carbon emissions to the minimum. Another top priority is to look after East Devon's green spaces, natural environment and biodiversity, like Seaton Wetlands. Continuing its work to be one of the top authorities in the country for recycling has also been highlighted in the plan, along with supporting the work of Wild East Devon and StreetScene.

A resilient economy:

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on East Devon's economy. Through the pandemic one third of residents were furloughed, with the longer-term unemployment rate forecasted to increase. During the first half of 2020, more than 1,000 jobs were lost, with companies going into administration or relocating, including the collapse of Flybe. Many jobs that have been lost have been high value and skilled engineering roles but just as many are in the lower paid sectors.

The council's plan recognises the way people live their lives has changed, with more working from home, meaning it would like to support providers looking to introduce high-speed broadband to more rural areas. Town centres have also seen a fall in footfall, with less people working there and the increase in home deliveries, rather than local shopping. This could mean EDDC will need to review planning policies around the conversion of retail and secondary shopping areas to residential or live-work use.

EDDC's plan looks to use planning policies to support regeneration and create employment opportunities for jobs that pay residents more. Another focus will be on supporting tourism, arts and culture which all benefits the local economy.

To read more about the plan [click here](#).

EDDC's leader, Councillor Paul Arnott said:

"This council plan sets a course for the authority to follow for the immediate future. It is imaginative but realistic as our finances, like so many other councils across the country are limited and this places limitations on how many of our aspirations we can deliver. We have quite rightly prioritised delivering on our promise to get more social and affordable homes built, as we face a housing crisis across the country. We have also prioritised our actions to tackle climate change, because if we don't, as climate change champions say, there is no Planet B. And our third priority is to have manage our finances and to budget in a responsible manner and to work to create a resilient local economy across the district."

Well-being suggestion from EDDC

Autumn wellbeing: Seed Gathering Season

Getting together with friends, family or colleagues to gather seeds is a great way to spend time outdoors with the people you love and make a difference. Being outdoors in nature is known to be for our wellbeing, and who can't resist picking up shiny conkers or acorns! Gathering seeds, fruits and nuts ahead of the winter tree planting season is also a great way to help grow a greener, tree-filled future.

The Tree Council encourages everyone to gather seeds, fruits and nuts and to nurture the trees of the future. They welcome everyone to get involved. Seed gathering is fun, free and easy. You don't need to be a tree expert or have any special equipment! Collecting seeds and growing trees is also a great way to get children involved and start growing the next generation of tree enthusiasts.

Even if you're not able to get outdoors during Seed Gathering Season this year, you can get involved on social media or by brushing up your [seed identification](#) skills.

For more information and top tips see [Seed Gathering Season - The Tree Council](#) and a guide to [Growing trees from seed - The Tree Council](#).

Crowd Funding Workshops

Free crowdfunding workshops are being held next month to help anyone in need of a grant to make their local dream or project a reality.

East Devon District Council (EDDC) are holding the sessions for voluntary groups and other not-for-profit organisations in the area, including town and parish councils, which want to raise money online, in one place. So far EDDC has funded 11 community projects through Crowdfunder, so far giving out more than £51,000 in grants. If you're involved with a not-for-profit group and want to find out more, EDDC is running two free sessions to help you:

- Tuesday, 23 November from 5pm to 6pm
- Thursday, 25 November from 9.30am to 10.30am

If you'd like to book a place on either of the sessions please email crowdfund@eastdevon.gov.uk stating which one you want to book onto.

Money available is in addition to a large amount of county-wide crowdfunding money available from Devon County Council and Devon and Cornwall Police, as part of the Crowdfund Devon partnership. Crowdfunder, based in Cornwall, is the crowdfunding website chosen by Crowdfund Devon partnership. To find out more:

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/crowdfund-devon

Groups can put their project onto the Crowdfunder website and start raising money anytime, including from Crowdfund Devon. The basics of crowdfunding are:

1. A group has an idea for a project. This could be constituted voluntary and community groups, town and parish councils, registered charities, registered community interest companies or constituted not for profit organisations.
2. They fill in a form on the Crowdfunder website and make a simple video giving details about their project. Their idea is published on the online crowdfunding website.
3. They publicise this project and its presence on Crowdfunder as widely as possible; they tell their 'crowd'. The crowd can include the local community, visitors, businesses, users of the

service, local and national organisations and funders, East Devon District Council, Devon County Council and Devon and Cornwall Police.

4. The crowd pledges cash to the project, and shares information about the project more widely.
5. If the project reaches its target it receives all the funding that has been pledged to it.

Some of the fantastic projects given Crowdfund East Devon grants so far include:

- £2,000 to No Toy Left Behind, an Axminster based Community Interest Company that aims to challenge the cultural norms of consumerism by offering clean, good quality second-hand toys of giftable quality. An environmentally friendly alternative to buying new stuff.
- £4,867 to the [Budleigh Salterton Community Workshop](#) project. This project aims to create a workshop and other recreational facilities in Budleigh Salterton for the community to enhance skills, confidence and social inclusion.
- £9,000 to a [project to provide beach wheelchairs for the disabled in Exmouth](#). This will provide custom made wheelchairs to allow people with mobility issues to access Exmouth's wonderful beach and sea.

Councillor Jack Rowland, East Devon District Council portfolio holder for Finance said:

"I'd encourage people to register for these free sessions as the successful examples shown illustrate what can be achieved by crowdfunding and the additional grant from EDDC when targets are achieved."

Proposed Closure of footpath at Joney's Cross, Hawkerland

You may remember that last month a resident contacted me about how safety could be improved for crossing the A3052 at Joney's Cross on the common. Walkers will be familiar with crossing the A3052 at this point where the speed limit on the road is national speed limit, 60 mph. This crossing is difficult enough and the resident last month was asking if signage could be improved warning drivers that a popular crossing area was ahead.

Since then a planning application, 21/1392/ful, has been brought to my attention by a parish councilor from Colaton Raleigh. There are plans to improve car parking across a number of sites on the pebbled heaths and in principle I am supportive of this. However, as always the devil is in the detail.

Planning application 21/13992/Ful shows that EDDC wish to close the footpath from the Joney's Cross car park to the A3052. This footpath this allows walkers to stand on a grassed area where they at least have good visibility of the speeding traffic.



Figure 1 footpath they are proposing to close which brings walkers onto a grassy bank with pretty good visibility of traffic that might be legally be travelling at 60 mph.

EDDC instead proposes that walkers to share the current bridleway which exits onto a blind bend. Cars coming off the A3052 can come around that bend quite quickly given they are leaving a very fast road.

This application is coming to the planning committee on Wednesday 27th October at 10.00 am. I intend to be there and make my views heard. The ward counselors who have been consulted are from Budleigh and Raleigh Ward and I suspect have no actual experience of walking these paths given they live in Budleigh Salterton and Exmouth; they fully support the application. I have offered to meet them on site in advance of the meeting. We shall see if they take up this offer. By the time you read this I think the decision will have been made.



Figure 2 Bridleway they want walkers to use which exits on the blind bend.

Bridge hit again A3052 outside Woodleys Yard

This issue was brought to the attention of the parish council although responsibility lies with DCC. The issue is that, whilst two cars can just about pass at this point, an HGV and a car cannot. The damage this time was significant and may have damaged the actual structure of the bridge rather than just dislodging some of the wall.

It has been suggested that DCC install a priority set of signs either side, with priority being given to vehicles leaving the village, ie westbound, with eastbound traffic being halted at the sign (with road lines to indicate the stop point) which would have dual benefits. It would stop two vehicles crossing at the same time, but also slow traffic coming into the High Street even before they get to the VAS, speed signs and roundabout.

DCC have advised the parish council they will be repairing the bridge but questions have been raised as to whether this is good enough and more should be done to prevent accidents in the first place and to put in additional measures to protect the water course below. You would think that it would save money to put in a permanent solution rather than to keep rebuilding this bridge. I cannot imagine how much this costs each time given officer time, 'consultants' permissions etc. not to mention the nuisance of having the road closed yet again.

Should Seaton Jurassic Visitor Centre be redesigned, sold or used as another type of visitor attraction?

A number of councillors, including me, raised concerns at the start of this costly project about how it would ever earn enough to pay for itself. These concerns have now come to fruition and once again the current administration is left with the fall out of poor decisions, in my opinion, that were made historically. Owing to the way the project was funded, there are some limitations of what happens to the site going forward. This is what the press release said:

These are the options being looked at East Devon District Council (EDDC) following the closure of the venue on September 17, 2021 after Devon Wildlife Trust left. The centre will now remain closed until a decision can be made on the future of the site by cabinet next year.

The visitor attraction, which is made up of a gift shop, meeting rooms, café, office, exhibition rooms and gardens, was greatly affected by the pandemic with the number of visitors dropping from 48,000 people in 2019/20 to 18,000 (since the start of this financial year).

EDDC's cabinet were told, at its latest meeting on Wednesday, 6 October, that the building had a number of defects which would likely cost up to £200,000 to fix, all of which would need to be done before it was let to a new operator. The council are now investigating various options for what the centre could become. The first is to find a new operator who will continue to run the building as an interpretation centre focusing on the Jurassic Coast. EDDC's countryside team have suggested creating a repurposed Seaton Wetlands Visitor Centre. It would boast attractions like webcams on 'wildlife hotspots' and host events and activities for schools, similar to what is offered on the wetlands and making it a premier destination for university field studies students.

Other ideas include creating a 'wetlands experience' cycle route with hire bikes available from the centre and health and wellbeing courses and activities, working with mental health organisations and AGE UK. This could be part of a collaborative approach between EDDC's countryside team and interested parties like community organisations, charities and local businesses.

Another option being looked at is to allow the building to be leased to someone who will run it as an interpretation centre but will also make it a more general attraction not necessarily focussed on the Jurassic Coast.

The final option under consideration is for EDDC to sell/rent the site to the highest bidder to get the best financial value for it and mitigating the need to invest further if there is lack of interest, or the costs facing the council are prohibitive.

EDDC's cabinet has now agreed to set aside £45,000 until the end of the financial year to cover the ongoing running costs of the building until an alternative use can be found. This sum will cover bills like business rates, utilities, insurance, cleaning and security. It was also agreed that, if the building remains empty until next summer, that every effort will be made to ensure it can be used as a café or something similar for a short time during the tourist season in 2022.

In addition cabinet considered that there may be valuable lessons to learn from this initiative so a request was made for the audit and governance committee to consider whether an independent review by the South West Audit Partnership would help the council learn from the experience of promoting and developing the centre.

EDDC's leader Councillor Paul Arnott said:

"At the outset I wish to thank the hundreds of volunteers who gave their time so generously to try and make a go of Seaton Jurassic. I know many of them well and, long before I was a district councillor, they were openly sharing with me their concerns about both the viability and the construction of the building.

"My administration has inherited this sad state of affairs, but we will work tirelessly to make sure that the eventual outcome is a vast improvement on what exists, and out of respect for the thousands of free hours given by Seaton people doing their best we will make sure we find out and publish how this project was commissioned against the better judgement of so many people at the time."

Government restores the Dartmoor Line as services resume for first time in half a century from 20 November

- The Dartmoor Line between Okehampton and Exeter will officially reopen for year-round services on 20 November, ahead of schedule
- It is the first former line to open under the Government's Restoring Your Railway manifesto commitment.
- Tickets will go on sale on 12 October for trains running every 2 hours, increasing to hourly from May 2022
- Passengers travelling between Crediton and Exeter will also benefit from an increase in service frequency

The route will connect Exeter St Davids, Crediton and Okehampton providing a launchpad for visitors to explore Dartmoor and regional links for local commuters. Around half of services, including at peak times, will also carry on to Exeter Central.

The reopening of the route is expected to boost local businesses, the tourism sector, and provide greater access to education and work for thousands of people who live locally.

To make this possible, Network Rail's team of engineers has worked tirelessly to deliver a huge programme of work to physically reopen the line in just 9 months, including laying 11 miles of new track and installing 24,000 concrete sleepers and 29,000 tonnes of ballast in record time.

Repairs have also been made to 21 structures along the route including 4 bridges and a range of works including vegetation clearance, earth and drainage works and fencing are ongoing in preparation for the return of regular services.

More work will be carried out over the winter including further work on the station buildings to enable the restoration of the café and other facilities.

Tickets can be purchased from 12 October) from GWR (www.gwr.com), and the timetables will also go live on this date.

Train service details

Journey time between Exeter and Okehampton will be approximately 40 minutes.

Station Facilities will include new information screens, a Help Point, smartcard validation points, ticket vending machines, and a waiting room.

GWR operated services will run between Exeter and Okehampton, initially providing a service every two hours, which will rise to an hourly service from Spring 2022.

Okehampton is a historic town situated on the northern flank of Dartmoor National Park. It also marks the start of The Granite Way, an 11-mile multi-use trail connecting Okehampton with Lydford.

The new train service will open up sustainable access to various leisure opportunities in the town and surrounding areas. The bus service to Tavistock is being amended to connect with trains at Okehampton.

News released by EDDC - 15th October 2021

Exmouth new Skate Park is now open.



Work on the new skate park in Phear Park, Exmouth finished just recently and skaters were keen to use the site which is already opened it up for use.

Security fencing will remain around the edge of the site to help the new landscaping to settle in and the new grass to grow. Users are being asked to please keep off the fenced off areas as much as

possible to help prevent the new skate park getting covered in mud.

A total of £365,000 has been invested in this project, with £240,000 coming from East Devon District Council and £125,000 from Exmouth Town Council.

The design was agreed in consultation with a group of local skate park users, this is a really popular activity now, I am sure its inclusion in the Olympics in Japan will have raised its profile. The official opening event is booked for **Saturday October 30th from 12-4pm** which will include an informal competition and professional demo riders.

Exmouth to host three-evening live music event next summer

A huge music event, which is expected to attract some of the UK's hottest artists, is coming to Exmouth next summer.

'Live in Devon' will take place at the Imperial Recreation Ground, Imperial Road, Exmouth, on three consecutive evenings - Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th September 2022. The events are likely to attract more than 15,000 music lovers over the course of the weekend and bring a significant economic boost to Exmouth and the wider area.

The headline artists for each of the shows will be announced in the coming weeks. LCC Live was last in the area back in 2017 when it hosted Bryan Adams and Little Mix at Powderham Castle.

Councillor Nick Hookway, East Devon District Council's Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Sport, Leisure and Culture, commented:

It will be a fantastic opportunity to see high profile artists of international reputation staying and performing in East Devon as well as avoiding the need for residents having to make long journeys to our big cities thereby reducing our carbon footprint.

Such high-profile events will attract visitors from far and wide which will not only benefit the local economy but also spread the word that East Devon is an outstandingly beautiful place with a wonderful sense of community."

Tickets for each of Live in Devon's shows will go on sale following the announcement of each of the three headline artists. More information to follow - keep an eye on www.facebook.com/LiveinDevon

LED are offering some new and gentle healthy living events

Rusty Rackets

Rusty Rackets is a really fun session aimed at adults who have played tennis in the past and are now looking to dust off their rackets and get back on court. Also suitable for players looking to improve their techniques and tactics with a view to playing more social tennis. Rusty Rackets runs on Tuesdays 18:30 - 19:30. Call LED on 01395 223355 to book.

Walking tennis

Love the idea of tennis, but thought you were too old unfit or returning from injury? Walking tennis is a low impact slower version of tennis with softer calls and up to 2 bounces allowed. Join us for Walking Tennis on Thursdays 14:30 - 15:30. Call LED on 01395 223355 to book.

NB Of course we shouldn't forget we have our own tennis club here in Newton Poppleford which always welcomes new members and organises its own training sessions!

Walking circuits at Ottery St Mary Leisure Centre



Ottery St Mary Leisure Centre are delighted to announce a new walking circuits class run by Geneieve Temple on Fridays at 12:30-13:30. Walking circuits is a low impact class ideal for anyone with a low level of fitness, for people who are in need of rehab and for PULSE referrals who are not comfortable in a gym environment.

Call LED on 01404 814317 to book

Good Boost

This is a water based activity run in the Exmouth Pool. I rang the pool for further information about the sessions. Although the person answering the phone did not sound very sure, it sounds slightly like a more gentle cross between formalised hydrotherapy, and different to the usual exercise classes like aquarobics etc which tend to be more aggressive and 'one size fits all' in terms of exercise. This is what the advertising states:

Due to the popularity of our Wednesday 10:15am Good Boost session, we are adding a second weekly session to the timetable. The new session will be facilitated by the Wellness Hub Leader, and will run Fridays 2:00-3:00pm. This will start from next month, with the first session being held on Friday 5th November.

Any members of the community are welcome but these sessions are most suitable for people with both long or short term health/mobility/Muscular-skeletal problems. The sessions use clever technology to design personalised activities for the customer to follow using a waterproof tablet. Customers will get around 45 minutes in the water - the first 15-30 minutes will be based in the pool viewing area with help to get them set up ready for their session. Sessions costs £4.30.

Call us on 01395 266381 to book your 1st session.

Digital Skills Bootcamps

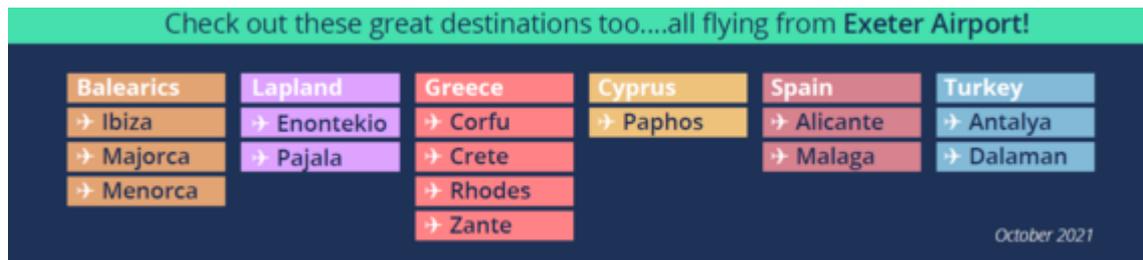
The Digital Skills Bootcamps offer free, industry designed training courses to help people build specific sector skills. These opportunities are available for adults aged 19+ who are resident in Devon. Unemployed or independent learners can use the bootcamps to re-train and gain skills to move into job roles which are very much in demand. Employers can use the training courses

to upskill their employees*, and the self-employed can build skills to grow opportunities for their business.

Find out more at [Digital and Technical Skills Bootcamps | Free Training | Train 4 Tomorrow \(skillslaunchpad.org.uk\)](https://skillslaunchpad.org.uk)

*Employers contribution of 30% of course cost

Exeter Airport restarts flights



You can fly to 28 destinations in seven countries from Exeter. This also included flights to Gran Canaria and Tenerife that are restarting mid October.

Sidmouth Beach Management Plan

I understand the controversial and unpopular sea-wall idea has been dropped from plans.

Shingles vaccine

There was a recent promotion of this for people who may not know they are eligible.

You're eligible for the shingles vaccine if you are aged 70 to 79. It is not available on the NHS to people over the age of 80 as it is considered less effective.

Once you are eligible for the shingles vaccination a GP or practice nurse should offer you the vaccine when you attend the surgery for general reasons. It is suitable for those who have already have shingles and should reduce the symptoms in the event you get shingles again. Shingles can be such a painful and debilitating condition, a number of residents may be interested in this offer.

If you are worried that you may miss out on the shingles vaccination, contact your GP surgery to arrange an appointment to have the vaccine, I am not sure how proactive our medical centre is on this one.

Do you ever wonder how our local MP has voted?

Our Local MP is Simon Jupp. I have written to him on numerous subject including my concerns about the privatisation of the NHS and particularly with regard to GP surgeries, animal welfare and in particular animal testing and live exports for the meat market, agriculture and environmental issues to name but a few. He usually replies in neutral language that follows the party line. Here is an example of his recent votes in parliament:

All votes about measures to prevent climate change:

-
- On 12 Oct 2020: Simon Jupp voted not to require ministers to have due regard to the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 when taking actions including setting up agricultural subsidy schemes. [Show vote](#)
 - On 29 Sep 2020: Simon Jupp voted not to require a "climate and nature emergency impact statement" as part of any proposal for financial assistance under a United Kingdom Internal Market Act. [Show vote](#)
 - On 5 Feb 2020: Simon Jupp voted not to call on the Government to develop and implement a plan to eliminate the substantial majority of transport emissions by 2030.
-

Here is the link to a website where you can look up his full or any other MPs voting history:

[Voting record - Simon Jupp MP, East Devon - TheyWorkForYou](#)

Local Concerns raised.

An elderly resident contacted me recently about a large commercial vehicle being parked across the front of their property completely obscuring their view outside. Given their limited mobility, I can understand their concern. Once again, there is an issue with the fact that any vehicle that is taxed, insured and has a valid MOT can park anywhere on a public road where parking is not legally restricted. It would be nice however, if some consideration could be given to householders by those who drive commercial vehicles and if there are alternative places to park that would not mean completely obscuring views to the outside, it would be thoughtful and considerate.

With grateful thanks as always to residents for helping to raise local issues so they can be addressed.

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