

## **REPORTS – OCTOBER 2018**

### **County Councillor Alistair Dewhirst**

The County Council and Jobcentre Plus are launching a campaign to encourage businesses to recruit more people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health needs. The national unemployment rate among people with disabilities is almost three times higher than the equivalent among people without disabilities. There are currently about 21,000 adults with a learning disability in Devon. The Council's social care services know about 3,500 of them and about 8 per cent of those are in paid employment.

The challenge is not that there's an unwilling workforce – people with disabilities want to work. The challenge, which is described by many people with disabilities, is that it's very difficult for someone with disabilities to get a job. Lots of people with learning disabilities, autism or mental health needs are put off even from applying for jobs through fear of the stigma and misconceptions that can accompany disabled candidates in a recruitment process. The campaign will highlight the wide range of support, including financial support, that is available to employers and candidates to help them with recruitment and create opportunities for people with disabilities to live the lives they choose as independently as possible.

Devon County Council agreed proposals to install Average Speed Cameras on the South Devon Highway. The £285,000 scheme to reduce speeds on the A380 was unanimously backed by the County Council's Cabinet.

Local concern has been raised about speeding traffic on the South Devon Highway since the road opened in 2015. A scheme to locate cameras at four locations on the route to enforce the 50mph limit was referred to Cabinet after the Teignbridge Highways and Traffic Orders Committee had approved the principle of the camera installation at its meeting in July. The average speed cameras were considered to be the most efficient way of enforcing the 50mph speed limit on the road in order to improve safety, while also tackling air and noise pollution. The cameras are expected to be installed by the end of the year.

The scheme is supported by the Devon and Cornwall Safety Camera Partnership, and Devon and Cornwall Police, who have stated that enforcement would be beneficial in reducing the traffic speeds on the new stretches of dual carriageway which opened in 2015.

Closure-threatened community hospitals in Devon should be used as health and wellbeing centres for local people, the county council told the NHS. Redundant community hospital buildings should be converted to health and wellbeing centres where it is appropriate.

It was felt that looking after people as close to home as possible is the right thing to do after there was cross-party support for a notice of motion to Devon County Council welcoming Health Secretary Matthew Hancock's commitment to community hospitals. He said "the era of blindly, invariably closing community hospitals is over".

Councillors agreed that the county council should work closely with the NHS to influence decision-making and ensure any community hospitals that were closed should be used as health centres for local people where appropriate.

As you know I sit on the County Farms Estate Committee and we are asking aspiring farmers to explore four soon-to-be vacant farms on the County Council's estate this month.

The holdings, which will be available to rent from March 2019 on a seven-year Farm Business Tenancy. They include:

Ten Oaks Farm, Roborough, Winkleigh

A residential starter dairy farm extending to 37.82 ha (93.48 ac)

Furze Cottages Farm, Ashreigney, Chulmleigh

A residential starter mixed livestock farm extending to 42.51 ha (105.08 acres) with an optional additional 30.56 ha (75.60 acres)

Churchlands Farm, Cadeleigh Park, Ivybridge

A residential starter mixed farm extending to 15.05 ha (37.19 acres)

Fairfield Farm, Denbury, Newton Abbot

A residential starter dairy farm extending to 51.72 hectares (127.81 acres)

Finally, Libraries Unlimited, the charity responsible for running Devon and Torbay's library service, has been named as one of the 50 most radical thinking organisations changing the UK for the better. New Radicals is a search led by Nesta (the innovation foundation) and The Observer to find the top people, projects and organisations offering innovative ways to tackle social challenges. The winners being selected by a panel of independent and high-profile judges as well as Geoff Mulgan, Chief Executive of Nesta and Jane Ferguson, Editor of the Observer New Review.

Libraries Unlimited 'spun-out' from Devon County Council in April 2016 and is one of only four public service mutual library services across the country. In less than 3 years, the charity has opened four new libraries, a state-of-the-art FabLab (a digital making space) and Business and Intellectual Property Centre, won the contract to deliver Torbay Libraries on behalf of Torbay Council and been shortlisted for the 2018 Charity Awards.

Libraries Unlimited is also one of six library sector organisations to become an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation this year, bringing additional funding to Devon's libraries to provide high-quality arts and cultural activity across the county.

At my Scrutiny Committee last week we commended the organisation for increasing footfall in our Libraries but expressed grave concern at the reduction in book issues. We asked Cabinet to add two important Key Performance indicators that LU should report to – stock issues to children and professional hours worked by LU staff.

### **Village Hall Report – Cllr Dot Simmons**

#### **AGM October 2018**

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were read out and approved.

The accounts are in a healthy position, £20,000 has been put by in an account to be used for any major unseen expense in the future.

Electricity is a high expenditure, £340 has been spent maintaining the mower which will be sold next spring

A grant from the parish council has been requested too cover the work to improve drainage and improving the drive way.

New blinds have been purchased for the hall.

Election of committee took place , Paul Church is to continue as chairman, and will continue as treasurer until a replacement has been found. Sue St Maur Thorpe

And Kevin Bowden have been made honourable members. Everybody else remained in post.

An audit of the village loft is to carried out.

Links with Combe Village Hall are being strengthened and plans are in progress to share a calendar of events to avoid clashes.

Present events planned by Stokeinteignhead village are

---Sacha Dench October 17th, tickets are for sale in the village shop or from Judy Barnes. Posters have been put up with details.

---November 30<sup>th</sup> quiz and curry night

Email Village Hall with team names

---March 16 2019

Mark Buckingham about climbing Everest

There was discussion over the noise of children on bouncy castles and it was decided to insist that bouncy castles were supervised.

Next AGM is to be 7pm Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

#### Stokeinteignhead Village Hall Committee Meeting

There was discussion on the village halls plan to plant trees on the grassed bank in memory of the WW1 village soldiers with an individual plaque on each tree

Correspondence has been received and one member of the public attending the meeting voiced their concerns about this plan interfering with the ease of landing of the air ambulance.

The committee agreed to get a representative of the air ambulance to visit the site, be given details of proposed plan and give their opinion of any impact this will make on their landing on this site .

If it is found to prevent it being suitable as a landing site another site will be found.

A professional painter and decorator is being employed to redecorate the whole of the inside of the hall

New blinds are soon to be fitted.

The treasures report showed the accounts to be healthy.

Health and safety checks are all up to date

The calendar website is up and running.

The increase in hall hire has now been finalised, starting this month, October. All charges now include full use of the kitchen and dish washer etc.

Charitable events will not be charged.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 6 November ,members of the public are always welcome to attend.

#### **Twinnings Report – Cllr Dot Simmons**

The Twinnings AGM will be held November 5<sup>th</sup> in the upper room in the Church House Inn, 7 for 7.30.

We will be very pleased to welcome any interested members of the public.

Unfortunately the French Themed meal being held by the Church House Inn has been postponed until a later date ,owing to the need for pre booking to enable ordering the ingredients hindered by poor response, for what promised to be an excellent menu.

They are going to do this at a later date.

The School children who created the top three flyers to advertise the society have now received their financial prizes and the best one will soon be printed to distribute, so nice to have involvement with the school and something we intend to continue and hopefully involving our French friends when they make their return visit in April.

The treasure hunt is now to be held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October as a lunch time event, any queries to Bernard.

The Devon Wild Life are booked to give a talk in the village hall Friday February 8<sup>th</sup>,and a hot supper will be included.

We are hoping to represent the village at the Devon Twinning Circle AGM in Teignmouth, to be held 20<sup>th</sup>October,

The group is going to put on a table display of artefacts and photos for the WW1 commemoration.

The next meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> November, which is the AGM