

Jonathan Hawkins - November Report

Covid

As we enter the last month of 2020, Tier 2 as we can all see and experience is having an effect on us all

Let's hope that the vaccine gives us a light at the end of this tunnel

Families and vulnerable residents

Both Devon County and South Hams are there to help, with many grants and assistance These are available on line

In Dartmouth we are lucky to have so many helping our residents. Dartmouth Community Chest, Dartmouth Caring and Dartmouth and district Food Bank A big thank you to all those volunteers who help ensure our community gets help when they need it

County will announce in the coming days a central Government scheme to help families over the Christmas holidays, February half term and next Easter

Devon County has been given over £2 million to help families on free school meals and is hopefully going to extend it to all families on Universal Credit

These families will be given vouchers of £15 a week and £30 Christmas week

They will be able to use them in the big 5 supermarkets, it is hoped that these will be extended to the Coop and local shops as well

Details are still to be finalised

I know Mr Mayor you have first hand experience and I do in a little way from volunteering at the Food Bank that we have many in our community that need help at this time

If you know of a anyone who needs help and is having difficulty accessing help please me know

Business

Again County and District have a number of schemes that can help provide assistance These are available on line, having our own business the next 3 months are I fear going to be very very hard

South Hams have a campaign asking customers this year to shop local, and buy your presents in the South Hams

I know I am going to buy mine locally

South Hams recently launched their Covid Compliance Officer Scheme

District has 3 Officers who will be visiting communities and Businesses to offer help and advice on how they can ensure their businesses are safe for their customers and staff They are their to help, but with our Environmental Officers have powers if required

With this in mind South Hams also has a grant available to towns from the Re opening

High Street safety Fund

With Cllr Compas we have put a bid in for £11,700 which will provide money for a campaign over December, January and February to promote a welcome to Dartmouth shopping and emphasising on we are a safe centre to shop
This will provide 2 weekends of free parking in Mayors Avenue in February

Highways

Duke Street and Mayors Avenue and a section of Embankment have been resurfaced and more works in Townstal will take place over coming months

I am meeting Highway Officer Lisa Edmonds next month
Swannaton Road and jawbones will be raised as well as repairs out on Castle Estate

Health and Well Being Centre

Pleased that this got planning permission last week, and work to build to start in the new year
This £4.75 million pound Centre will provide much improved modern facilities all on one site
The campaign for an MIU and beds continues and I will raise these when ever I can as a Governor at the NHS Trust

Leisure Centres

All South Hams Centres are open again thank fully
We have had a number of meetings concerning Dartmouth's centre with Fusion and indoor Pool trustees
The Pool Trustees
Particularly over pricing and they maybe asking the Town Council for assistance with a grant to reduce pool family charges

Recycling Centres

This will be open over Christmas
Bottle and Magazine recycling banks
If you see these are getting full please report to South Hams via the internet or phone no on them

Finally a very Merry Christmas to you all and let's hope for a more health and prosperous 2021
Most importantly stay safe