

S.H.D.C.REPORT FOR MAY 2020 FROM ROSEMARY ROWE.

So what can I say, we are in unprecedented times. No one could have foreseen the situation we find ourselves in. Nothing much Council wise has changed since April when I reported that we had held two Full Council Meetings via Skype.

We, the councillors keep in contact frequently via Skype, emails, tele.calls etc. With officers and members of council as well as our M.P.s for help and to exchange information and ideas. It is not a bit like being at Follaton House and having personal contact which we were so used to. However it will be useful when we get back to some kind of normality to use some of what we have been doing since 13th March to improve our services. The offices have been closed and home working is now the norm. And it keeps us pretty busy.

There have been various grants coming out from Central Government which The Council have been administrating and continue to do so. The latest one is entitled Discretionary Business Grant which is aimed at small businesses who have as yet, not been able to access any grant funding to date. This will go live on the S.H.D.C Website on May 26th and all the application details will be on there. A list of business categories suggested includes tourism (including small B. &B. `s), Food & Drink & Hospitality supply chain & The Marine sector. If anyone knows of a small business which as yet a been unable to access any financial assistance, please tell them about this latest grant available.

Car parks which had been closed in tourist areas have now reopened and car parking charging has recommenced. But to date no public toilets have been reopened because of the risk factor.

The recycling centres run by Devon County Council have also reopened.

As you can imagine The Councils finances are pretty depleted as are those of the businesses and our residents particularly with the job situation. The Council will be working on recovery plans with town centres, tourism and businesses to do whatever we can to get up and running again.

At this point I would like to thank The Parishes for all their hard work in working with established groups and starting new ones as well. To look after all those who need support and will continue to do so for a long time. To all our residents who help to look after each other through these hard times. Sadly the position we are in at present is pretty bleak .We will get through it, we must stay positive.

Take care and stay safe.

Rosemary.