

Division members report to Buckerell PC, 17th May 2023 - DCC Cllr
Phil Twiss

Another mixed bag of items and things this month, all of them important to a greater or lesser degree, but an indication of the vast wide range of issues and topics Devon County Council deals with on behalf of all residents in the County.

Have your say on climate change

People across the region are being asked to give their views on a regional strategy that will help ensure that that Devon as well as Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly can make the changes needed to cope with the worst effects of climate change.

From Tuesday May 9 residents are being consulted on the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly ahead of its publication later this year.

To effectively respond to the climate crises, it is vital that strategies are put in place to deal with both the cause of rising greenhouse gases and their effect on our communities, also called Mitigation and Adaptation.

Mitigation focuses on tackling the causes of climate change to make the inevitable impacts of rising global temperatures less severe by reducing the emission of greenhouse gases to net-zero.

Whereas Adaptation is the process of adjusting to the impacts of climate change that we are already seeing and can be expected in the future.

The draft Adaptation Strategy has been delivered by the Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly Climate Impacts Group, with the assistance of RSK, an engineering and environmental consultancy.

The Group is a partnership of strategic organisations, including local authorities like us, chaired by the Environment Agency. The draft Strategy specifically looks at climate impacts which require, or which would benefit from, working in partnership.

The Strategy accepts that significant climate 'shocks' are inevitable, and as the world grows warmer, different places, depending on factors like geography and population, will be affected in different ways.

You can view the Adaptation Strategy, a series of 'short-reads' and respond to the consultation at <https://www.climateresilient-dcios.org.uk/>

The 2023 'BIG FIX'

Running throughout the whole of May, The BIG FIX has one aim – to fix and breathe new life into as many broken things as possible.

The event, coordinated by the DCC waste team, sees skilled menders fix broken items such as electronics, garden equipment, clothing, jewellery, clocks and much more to give them a new lease of life.

Due to its huge success, The BIG FIX event is going nationwide for a third time – so far 43 Repair Cafés in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England have already registered.

Through the BIG FIX we hope to save people money, not only by repairing old items but also passing on skills to fix their own items in the future.

Repair Cafés are increasing in popularity as people are becoming more budget and environmentally conscious. They are organised and run by volunteers who offer their time and skills to help mend broken items and keep them in use for longer. Volunteers also help greet visitors, supply tea and coffee and restock supplies of cakes and other tasty treats.

Last year, 50 Repair Cafés and 580 volunteers took part in the BIG FIX, mending 1,100 items and saving 31 tonnes CO₂e. Over 830 cakes and biscuits were served alongside 1,000 cups of tea and coffee!

The BIG FIX 2023 is taking place across May to enable as many Repair Cafés as possible to take part.

Locally we have repair cafes in Axminster, Blackdown (Hemyock), Broadhembury, Honiton and Sidmouth. See <https://www.recycledevon.org/reuse/repair-cafe> for further details.

Is your child's vaccination programme up to date?

Data published by the UK Health Security Agency shows that uptake of vaccinations offered to 13 and 14 year olds at school fell during the coronavirus pandemic, leaving many young people now unprotected from life-threatening diseases.

Though improving, uptake of vaccines that protect against tetanus, diphtheria and polio, and against meningococcal disease are well below pre-pandemic levels.

Other routine adolescent immunisation programmes show similar impact from the pandemic, with uptake not yet back to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Public Health Devon say that uptake of adolescent vaccines by young people in the county is generally good compared to the rest of the UK, with take up levels for most vaccinations above the national average.

Nationally the aim is to vaccinate at least 95 per cent of children and young people who are eligible for jabs to protect them against Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR), and Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping cough, and Polio (DTaPIV).

Steve Brown, Devon Director of Public Health says, “Your GP surgery should be able to check whether your child has had both doses of the MMR vaccine, or you may be able to access their vaccination record online through GP online services.

It is never too late to catch up on any missed doses of MMR vaccination.

Whilst booking your child’s MMR vaccine, check if your child is due other vaccines. They may be able to have them at the same time.”

ENDS