

# West Down Parish Council

## County Councillors report

February 2022

### Coronavirus Update

Currently the rate in Devon is 1219/100k population (England 1095/100k), last week cases went up 25% in Devon the increases mainly in the 0-19, 20-39 and 40-59 age groups.

There is significant spread in schools in Devon.

The incidence of very serious illness is much reduced in this wave, the population is very highly vaccinated; in the over 50's 90% vaccinated, this reduces to the 50% in the 20-30 age group and 40% in the older teenager group.

The numbers in hospitals in Devon Torbay and Plymouth is currently 270, (8% of hospital beds) with 3 patients in ICU. The numbers in hospital are now 3x that on Christmas day.

20 care homes with Devon residents have significant outbreaks, this is outbreaks with between 9-20 residents or staff.

The link takes you to the Covid-19 pages on the Devon County Council Website, it has daily updated information as to positive cases within the area, information about testing and track and trace.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>

### 20mph Speed limit requests

A new way of considering 20mph speed limit requests has been approved by Cabinet, this will help ensure that the communities that would most benefit from lower vehicle speeds are considered first.

Devon County Council's (DCC) Cabinet also identified a budget of £100,000 to process the requests for the upcoming financial year.

Currently, all requests by communities and councillors for 20mph speed limits are put onto a long waiting list. But because of the high number of requests Devon County Council is receiving a 'prioritisation system' is now needed.

Now all requests for a 20mph speed limit will be considered taking against into account

- the average speed in that community and the number of vulnerable and elderly people in that area.
- the speed related casualty collision history in the area,

- the level support for a 20mph within in the community,
- the presence of an active Community Speed Watch
- the community's deprivation index ranking.

There are numerous 20mph speed schemes in the UK. The scheme in Bristol for example has shown that lower speed limits reduce the number and severity of collisions and increase cycling and walking over shorter distances.

They can also reduce congestion by improving traffic flows, reduce emissions and improve air quality and help vulnerable road users, who feel threatened by fast-moving traffic, feel safer.

The new framework will be in place to consider schemes in the 2022/2023 financial year.

I have in the past indicated to DCC that I wanted West Down to be considered for a 20mph area, now we have this new criteria I would need the Parish Council to consider if this is something they feel would be suitable for the area. Most importantly there does need to be an active speedwatch group.

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