

County Councillor's Report 17th May – Coffinswell

Parents of teenage children will now have a second chance to attend a trailblazing series of webinars piloted earlier this year. The 'Let's Talk Teenagers' webinars were set up to help parents and carers understand and support their teenagers to navigate the challenges of today's world.

The first sessions were sold out and with demand so high a second series has now been planned to run next month - Wednesdays 15th, 22nd and 29th June.

The 'Let's Talk Teenagers' webinars were designed by the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership and rolled out across Devon in partnership with other local organisations that work together to keep children and young people safe, support parents and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.

Places for the courses were initially limited to 200, but a staggering 749 parents and carers attended one or more of the sessions in total, and the feedback received was highly positive.

Rebecca Hewitt, Teignbridge Council's Safeguarding Lead and Chair of the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership said:

"We were overwhelmed by the feedback from parents who said they felt more equipped to support their teens following this event. We are pleased to be able to offer the sessions again to reach even more families to raise awareness of the risks young people face and tips on how to support them."

The sessions, which cover topics such as teenage development and social and emotional changes, body image, relationships, social media and emotional wellbeing and self-care, are delivered by parenting experts Emma Stephens and Chloe Hosegrove from the Safety and Resilience Consultancy.

The project has been funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, The Safer Devon Partnership, South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership and Teignbridge Council for voluntary Service and supported by Devon County Council and Teignbridge Council. The 90-minute sessions will be delivered on Teams, and a free booklet will accompany the online event, which will be sent out to delegates afterwards. Find out more or sign up for the webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-teenagers-june-2022-tickets-337133002887>.

An ambitious programme of improvements to boost Devon's economic recovery and enhance local transport was approved by Cabinet last week. Devon are working with district councils across Devon to bid for almost £75 million of Government funding.

Cabinet approved a package of five schemes to be put forward for cash from the Government's Levelling-Up Fund and agreed to make a contribution of over £6 million towards the work. Together with contributions from individual district councils, the overall bid is worth £92 million and is set to be submitted in July.

The schemes span the county and would benefit Okehampton, Exmouth, Cullompton, Lee Mill and Newton Abbot.

The £15.4 million scheme in Teignbridge is to enhance the cycle route to Torbay via Kingskerswell and enable more people to commute by bike. The bid, is also designed to encourage more leisure trips. There will be improvements at the Penn Inn underpass, a new bridge at Langford Bridge and enhanced connectivity to and from the new residential development at Wolborough.

Finally, an eight-week consultation on the Future High Street Fund scheme to make Queen Street a more attractive, safe and healthy place for visitors and businesses has started and runs until 24th June.

The consultation, run by Devon County Council in partnership with Teignbridge, is seeking the views of local people on changes designed to overcome the fact that Queen Street pavements are too narrow in places for large numbers of pedestrians and side roads can be difficult to cross.

The proposals being put forward for consultation to tackle these issues will be summarised on the Devon County Council web page <https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/queen-street-newton-abbot-pedestrian-enhancements/>

As part of the consultation Devon will place advertisements in the MDA, produce business update and public consultation leaflets and there will be separate feedback questionnaires for businesses and the public. A public display will also be available in the Library.

Online webinars will take place at 6pm on Tuesday 17th May for residents and shoppers, and 6pm on Wednesday 18th May for business owners or representatives. A virtual 'drop-in' event from 6pm-8pm on Tuesday 24th May will also be run and where members of the project team from both councils will be available to answer questions or to receive feedback first hand.

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