

**November 2021**

**Cllr Jess Bailey**

**PROPOSED QUARRY AT STRAITGATE**

I anticipate that this matter will be decided at Devon County Council's development management committee in County Hall Exeter on 1<sup>st</sup> December and that the agenda will be published on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. As you are aware, this is a matter of huge concern to residents of West Hill as well as Ottery St Mary and the wider community. In order for the parish council to make representations to the committee it will need to register in advance – please contact democratic services officer Gerry Rufolo on [Gerry.rufolo.devon.gov.uk](mailto:Gerry.rufolo.devon.gov.uk) for details.

**B3180**

You will recall that I requested a report on the B3180 be brought to the Highways and Traffic Order Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> November. I have asked that the HATOC report contains full information in relation to SCARF including raw data, times and location of data collection, details of who participated in the SCARF review and minutes of that review.

Speeding and heavy usage by HGVs are particularly concerning to residents in West Hill and the proactive B3180 Action group. Again, if the Parish Council wishes to make representations to the committee please register in advance.

**SIGNAGE INDICATING NO THROUGH ROAD IN TIPTON ST JOHN**

I have written to Mike Brown our Neighbourhood Highways Officer to request that in future signage at the end of Lower and Higher Broad Oak Road is put out when the road at Tipton St John is closed preventing through traffic. It is frustrating for residents to drive all the way to Tipton St John to find that access is not possible. The roads have recently been closed in Tipton St John due to the replacement of a gas main.

I have asked Mike to remove the redundant signage from the works which were carried out on West Hill Road in September.

**BEAVER CONSULTATION**

As you will be aware there is currently a beaver consultation being carried out by Defra, with a deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> November. As well as providing a response to Defra, residents can show their support by signing Devon Wildlife Trust's e-petition in support of safe return of beavers to the wild. [Wild beavers need a safe return \(wildlifetrusts.org\)](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org): Devon Wildlife Trust have been instrumental in the re-introduction of beavers by managing a highly successful trial on the River Otter, the first in the country. I was very concerned to learn that the beavers are under threat from the sewage. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-10152185/Englands-wild-beaver-colony-threatened-sewage-spills-experts-say.html>

**CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT AGAINST ME – I WILL NOT BE MAKING A PUBLIC APOLOGY FOR SAVING TREES**

As you know, East Devon District Council's Monitoring Officer has published his decision in September that I have brought my office of councillor into disrepute when I was saving trees. I was required to apologize for not respecting the authority of the police. [decision-notice-mo2021-c09.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#).

I am very thankful for the huge amount of public support that I have received in response to the finding against me.

I have now notified the Monitoring Officer of my decision not to accept the finding or make a public apology.

I always listen to my conscience and strive to act in the best interests of the residents I represent. I was doing just that on 16th January when trying to save wonderful and mature trees.

As an elected representative, I know just how much trees mean to the community, and the intense sense of

frustration at the destruction which takes place frequently at the hands of developers. I am pleased that the two trees in question remain standing.

I am being publicly reprimanded by the Monitoring Officer for not obeying the police and leaving Ash Hill Road sufficiently quickly when asked to do so. However, I was carrying out my legitimate work representing the public who elected me. It may have been lockdown, but I still had a job to do as an elected member. In my view there were clear and legitimate grounds for being present and I did in fact leave without any fine or caution being issued by the police.

I am not frightened to stand up for what I believe in, and am willing to be accountable for my actions. I will not be deterred either by this complaint against me or the subsequent finding of the Monitoring Officer - which is in my view incorrect.

I have therefore formally notified the Monitoring Officer that I do not accept his finding and am refusing to make a public apology. It would not sit well with my conscience to apologize when I genuinely feel I have done nothing wrong.

As I have not agreed with the finding against me or been willing to make a public apology, the Monitoring Officer will now instruct an external investigator to review the decision and decide whether it should be upheld

## **COVID IN DEVON**

The Covid Local Outbreak Engagement Board met on 21<sup>st</sup> October and I participated in order to ask questions. The meeting was live streamed and can be viewed here [Home - Devon County Council Webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](#)

I am very concerned about covid rates in Devon amongst school aged children, in particular amongst secondary school aged children. The figures provided as part of the answers show extremely high covid cases amongst secondary school children in Devon which have increased significantly since the start of term. For the week ending 16<sup>th</sup> October the rate was 2686.7 per 100,000.

Below are the questions that I asked prior to the meeting and the written answers that I received.

Despite the written response to question 1, I was not given a verbal answer (how many 12-15 year olds had been vaccinated since the start of term), but was told that I would have an answer by the end of the week. I have not yet received one, so I have chased again. I am pleased that 12-15s can now access vaccines through vaccination centres but it is very disappointing that so many children will have been infected with covid before having the opportunity to be vaccinated first. I believe it was a significant error on the part of the government to restrict the vaccinations to being delivered via the School Age Immunisation Service rather than allowing 12-15s to be vaccinated at vaccination centres as well. Nationally I believe the vaccination figures for this cohort is very low – at around %.

The verbal answer that I received in relation to question 4 (booster vaccine): “The Booster Vaccination take-up had not been as high as hoped. There were plenty of empty slots and enough capacity to give boosters, however there had not been the numbers of people coming forward to receive them. 42% of those eligible had received their booster vaccination, appointments were still available for those 58% who had yet to receive it. Devon County Council and the NHS were working on communications to the community to encourage”.

The pressures on the NHS were portrayed in bleak terms.

“The South West had seen an increase rate in Covid admissions into hospitals, which had been steadily increasing since September, with high predicted rates for the winter season. The Chair of the Devon CCG advised that hospitals could just about cope with 150 Covid beds if other services were cancelled; however

projections showed that increasing to 200 covid beds would be more than hospitals could cope with under current resources. All other non-Covid services were experiencing extreme pressures and facing an increase in demand. The NHS was under more pressure now in comparison to last year and previous lockdowns, with the combination of the flu season and Covid cases putting extreme pressure on NHS workers and resources. It was also noted that the number of people waiting for routine operations had also risen significantly, with an extra 2,000 patients now having waited longer than a year for their appointments”.

The next Outbreak Engagement Board will take place at 10 am on 18<sup>th</sup> November and will be livestreamed too. I would urge anyone who would like to submit a question to contact Devon County Council democratic services a few days in advance with the questions:

[karen.strahan@devon.gov.uk](mailto:karen.strahan@devon.gov.uk) / [stephanie.lewis@devon.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.lewis@devon.gov.uk).

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**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BAILEY**

**Re: 12 – 15 Cohort and Vaccinations**

Please advise the number and percentage of children in the 12-15 year old cohort that have been vaccinated each week against Covid by the School Age Immunisation Service Virgincare in Devon since the vaccine was approved on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**REPLY BY THE CCG**

The CCG will reply verbally

**2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BAILEY**

**Re: Covid Infection in Primary and Secondary Aged Children**

Please advise the weekly number of primary and secondary school aged children who have tested positive for covid in Devon since 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 and please provide the infection rates per 100,000 from this date. (Simon Chant are you able to provide this information)

**REPLY BY DCC**

This covers those with a specimen date after the 1<sup>st</sup> of August reported up to today (which will align with the national Coronavirus tracker when it updates tonight) – it is based on school ages for the 2021/22 academic year (primary school = DOBs from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 to 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2010; secondary school = DOBs from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005).

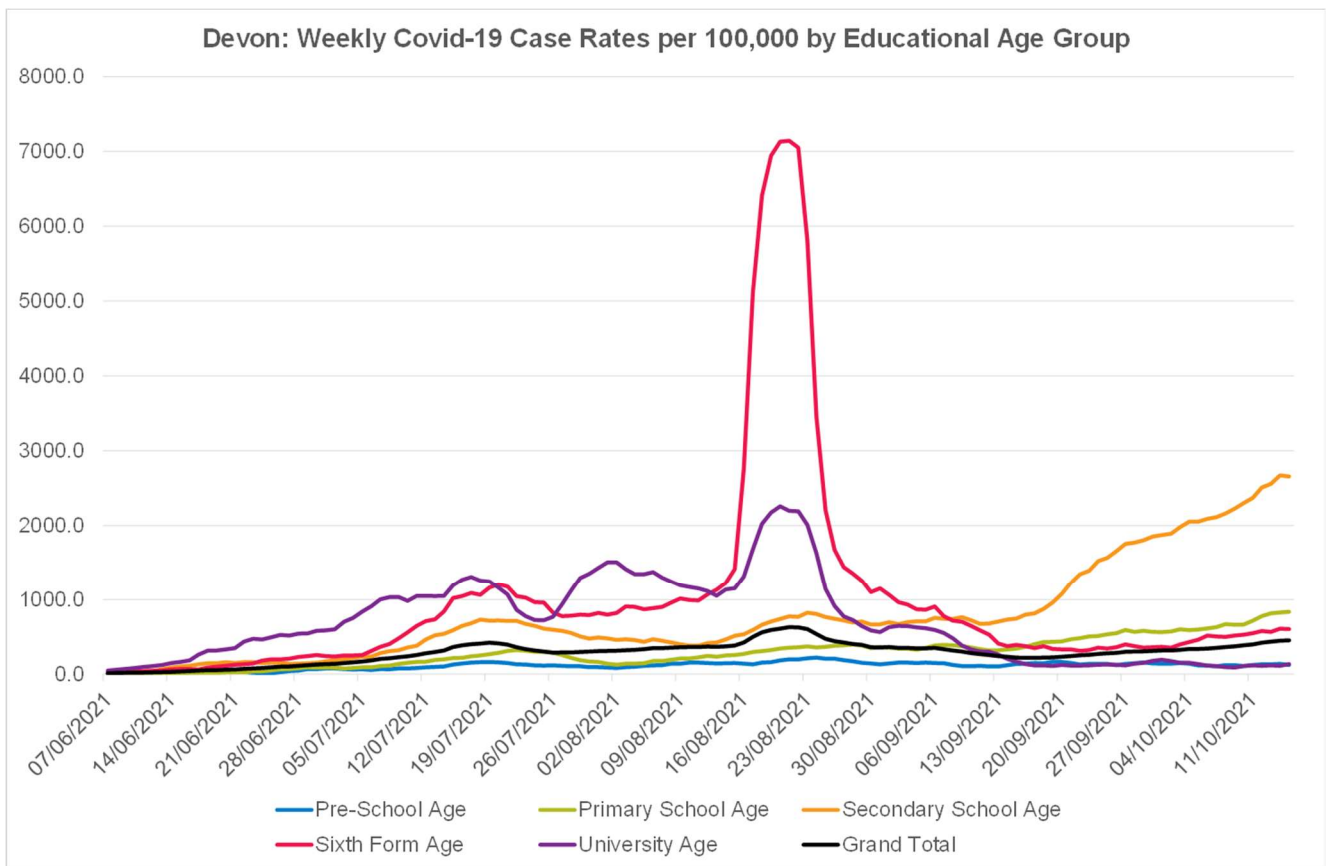
Weekly Tables (1<sup>st</sup> August onwards)

Week Ending	Primary School Age	Secondary School Age	All Ages
7th August 2021	106 (173.7)	191 (445.8)	2,822 (348.1)
14th August 2021	153 (250.7)	198 (462.2)	3,002 (370.3)
21st August 2021	215 (352.3)	331 (772.6)	5,088 (627.6)
28th August 2021	242 (396.5)	296 (690.9)	3,265 (402.7)
4th September 2021	198 (324.4)	302 (704.9)	2,800 (345.4)
11th September 2021	203 (332.6)	288 (672.3)	2,160 (266.4)

18th September 2021	262 (429.3)	375 (875.4)	1,794 (221.3)
25th September 2021	326 (534.2)	670 (1564.0)	2,250 (277.5)
2nd October 2021	348 (570.2)	809 (1888.4)	2,562 (316.0)
9th October 2021	403 (660.4)	953 (2224.6)	3,010 (371.3)
16th October 2021	540 (884.9)	1,151 (2686.7)	3,778 (466.0)

**Overall Totals (including cases with a specimen date after the 16th of October)**

Primary School Age = 3,204 cases (5,250 per 100,000 population) Secondary School Age = 6,004 cases (14,015 per 100,000 population) All Ages (for reference) = 33,952 cases (4,188 per 100,000 population)



**3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BAILEY**

How many Devon schools have received CO2 monitors from the Government and what percentage of Devon schools does this represent?

**REPLY BY DCC**

The Council doesn't have this data as it is managed between schools and the supplier.

However, the DfE confirmed last week that since the start of October, a regular supply of CO2 monitors has been established. These will be dispatched to eligible settings over the remainder of the autumn term and this is being managed directly between the supplier and individual establishments.

Currently there are no official figures on what has been distributed however conversations with schools have confirmed that there have been deliveries to the bulk of Special School and Alternative Provision schools and deliveries have started to the mainstream sector.

**4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BAILEY****Re: Vaccine Immunity**

In relation to the waning of vaccine immunity, is there a backlog of Devon residents who are entitled to a booster but have not yet received it? If so what is the level of backlog? What is the weekly rate of Devon residents becoming eligible for the booster in comparison with the weekly rate at which Devon residents are receiving their booster vaccine?

**REPLY BY THE CCG**

The CCG will reply verbally



