

Vaccination Programme

As we approach the 19th of July and the further lifting of restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, I thought that an update on the progress of the vaccination rollout would be helpful to members and whilst we are nowhere near out of the woods just yet as the school holidays are rapidly approaching, bringing with them the anticipated very large influx of visitors and like all of us I hope that every day brings us closer to a more normal state of affairs for the majority of our population and learning to live with the virus

- The vaccination programme across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay continues make progress with all adults now being offered the vaccine. To date over 1.5M doses have been given across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay with 679,000 people having received their second dose. The local NHS delivered the 'Grab a Jab' weekend in late June enabling all adult to make walk-in appointments; plans are being developed to repeat this over the summer. There was also a walk-in clinic at the Devon County show last weekend and DCC Staff were offering lateral flow tests to show visitors.
- Proof of vaccination can now be demonstrated using the NHS COVID Pass service where you can view and share your COVID Pass for event trials and travel abroad.
- Following a central government public consultation, from October 2021 [people working in CQC-registered care homes must have two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine](#), unless they have a medical exemption. It will apply to all workers employed directly by the care home or care home provider, those employed by an agency, volunteers and those coming into care homes to do other work, for example healthcare workers, tradespeople, hairdressers and beauticians, and CQC inspectors. A further consultation will be launched on whether to extend this new requirement to other health and social care settings.

Superfast Broadband

As the digital megabit age is finally reaching our rural areas, (albeit not fast enough in too many cases) it highlights the importance of addressing the challenges our small rural businesses face in gearing up for the opportunities this will bring. The attached recently published paper is a very interesting read on how they might compete with larger, better resourced organisations

Rural Affordable Housing

The topic of the affordability of housing for local people is a very live and pertinent one today as people look to inward migrate to our part of the world, many as a result of new ways of working due to the pandemic with less physical time spent in the office or other workplace.

This is reducing the supply of homes in all sectors and making it much more difficult for local people to compete in with buying or renting homes with affordable schemes for local people increasingly important. The attached Parish Councillors guide to affordable rural housing highlights the issues.