

Summer 2020



Mid Devon Matters

Welcome

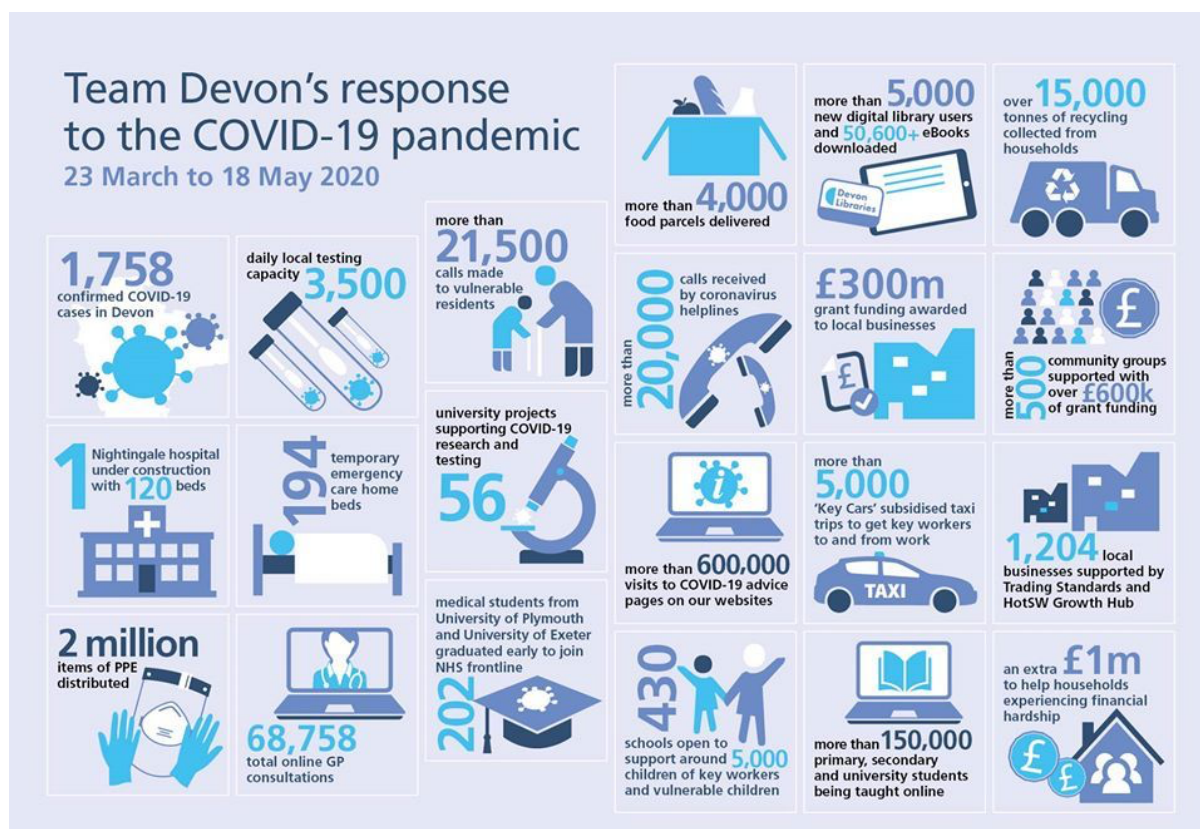
The sun has thankfully been shining a lot in the past few months but despite this fortunate weather this does not feel like a summer edition newsletter, when we can shout about community events being staged through the district or look forward to the Mid Devon Show.

However, this edition of Mid Devon Matters is packed with positive stories about the work all councils have been doing collectively, throughout the county, to ensure we are all part of a Team Devon approach to supporting our communities through this time.

How has Devon responded to the COVID-19 outbreak?

As a county, Devon has displayed great cooperation since the lockdown was announced on 23 March. Throughout the pandemic, we've worked tirelessly to keep our residents, communities and businesses updated and supported. With the restrictions gradually easing and plans being made for how the county will recover, it's important that we continue to work together and maintain the effort everyone's made so far to keep us all safe.

Here's some of the things we've achieved in partnership with multiple agencies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:



The Local Resilience Forum is a multi-agency partnership made up of representatives from local public services and other relevant agencies who work together to ensure our communities are supported, informed and protected.

Worried about Devon's economy post-COVID-19?

'Team Devon' has pledged to rebuild the county's economy to be stronger, more inclusive and sustainable with the publication of a prospectus for its COVID-19 Economy and Business Recovery Plan.

'Team Devon' is a public and private sector partnership drawing in expertise from business, education, skills and public sector organisations, and has developed the plan with the backing of business representatives, Devon's County, District and City Councils, the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, Dartmoor National Park and Devon's MP's.

With post-COVID-19 economic forecasts predicting Devon to be the fourth-worst impacted county in England, the prospectus outlines how we can respond to the crisis and rebuild our economy. It aligns activities to address our hardest-hit areas, communities and business sectors, and takes forward emerging new opportunities to capitalise on our significant assets, including of note, a set of measures to achieve a greener economy.

The programmes and projects listed have the potential to create 30,000 new jobs, 80,000 new training places and secure investment of £550 million, which in turn will generate £2.8 billion of additional economic output over the next three years to level-up our economy, achieve national productivity rates and providing a prosperous future for all our communities.

To read more, visit our [news page](#). The full prospectus can be viewed on Devon County Council's [webpage](#).

Changes to how you shop in Mid Devon



Team Devon COVID-19 Economy and Business Recovery Prospectus

July 2020

Our Town Centres Are Open For You

Support Your Local Shops & Markets
Follow their safety instructions and check opening times.

The town may feel a little different - keep an eye out for new signs and one-way systems; follow the guidance.

Please be kind and patient. Everyone is working to keep you safe.

Keep your distance from others around you at all times and wash your hands as much as possible.

Public conveniences have been adapted and are open.

European Union European Regional Development Fund HM Government Mid Devon DISTRICT COUNCIL **SHOP LOCALLY & SHOP SAFELY**

With support from the European Regional Development Fund, a number of our much loved high street shops have now safely reopened across Mid Devon. If you've yet to venture into any of our larger towns, note that circulatory systems are now in place to help you shop safely:

- In Tiverton, the Pannier Market now has separate entry and exit points on all sides; next to Boots, pedestrians are asked to keep left and at Westexe North there is a one-way system to and from the shops.
- In Cullompton, from Station Road (Forge Way) car park, a one-way system is in place leading to the shop beside Clarks Court, returning via Higher Mill Lane.
- In Crediton, from High Street (St Saviours Way) car park, pedestrians are asked to keep left in Silbury Place to the shops, and on their return.

These measures will make it safer for visitors and should help to kick start our local economy. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms however, must remain at home and make arrangements to be tested. Don't visit the high street if you're unwell or you've been in close contact with someone displaying symptoms.

For more information, visit our news and information webpages:

- [Reopening your town centre - changes to how you shop](#)
- [Help to reopen your business safely](#)

Shop local to support our High Streets and get two hours daily free parking over two months

To support the reopening of our High Streets, we're offering two hours free parking throughout **August and September** at any of the following car parks:

- Market Street Car Park, Crediton
- Station Road Car Park, Cullompton
- Market Place Car Park, Tiverton

Offer applies anytime within the daytime charging period, **8:00am to 6:00pm from Saturday, 1 August until Wednesday, 30**

September for any of the above mentioned car parks (no return within the same charging period, unless a paid ticket is then purchased). A 'free ticket' must still be displayed on arrival by entering the last 3 digits of your car's registration number and pressing the green button on the ticket machine to print.



Parking concessions for NHS staff and Social Care Responders

All concessions for care and health worker permit holders still apply. If you work for the NHS or as a care worker, you can park for free in all our [car parks](#). For more information, visit our [COVID-19: Parking advice](#) webpage.

Prefer not to use coins to pay for parking in our car parks? Make contactless payments instead!

If you wish to eliminate contact with our ticket machines during the Coronavirus period, you can pay for parking in any of our [car parks](#) using RingGo. RingGo allows you to make contactless payments using just a payment card and a phone by calling **0203 046 0010** or a smartphone by downloading the RingGo App. To get started, visit m.myringgo.co.uk to register.

For more information and to watch a video on how to use RingGo, visit our [COVID-19: Parking advice](#) webpage.



Missing your local play area? We've now reopened them!



Since the latest round of lockdown restriction were announced, our Property Services team have been working non-stop, carrying out inspections and adding COVID-19 safety signage to over 100 of our individual play areas.

If you intend to use any of our play areas, to ensure your safety and that of others, please:

- Supervise your children carefully
- Adhere to the social distancing advice
- Wash your hands after use
- Don't use if you've been diagnosed with, or have symptoms of Coronavirus

See our [Parks and play areas](#) webpage to find your nearest play area.

'Devon Together' newspaper to be delivered to households across Devon this week

'Devon Together' is a one-off partnership newspaper produced by Devon County Council (DCC) containing information on services and the next steps Devon is taking in the continuing efforts against COVID-19.

It's intended for those less likely to be accessing news and information digitally and will be delivered to around 300,000 households over the next week or so.

To view a copy of the newspaper online, visit DCC's [news page](#).



COVID-19 community response update



Operations at our Shielding Hub are gradually winding down as the requests for Government food parcels have reduced from approximately 10 to 15 a week during the early stages of the pandemic, to around only 3 over the last two weeks.

To date, we've processed a total of 447 requests for food and financial assistance through our Shielding Hub, of which we've delivered a total of 235 emergency food and top-up food parcels.

All operations are now co-ordinated from our Leisure Centre at Exe Valley in Tiverton and will continue until 25 July, at which point emergency food referrals will be diverted to CHAT, although systems will remain in place in the event that a local lockdown is required.

For more information, visit our [news webpage](#). If you're shielding, classed as vulnerable or having to self-isolate due to testing positive for COVID-19 and in need of an emergency package of food, there's still time to request this by calling our Community Support Hotline on **01884 234387 Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 5:00pm and Fridays 8.30am until 4.30pm**. You can also make a request via email on covid19.support@middevon.gov.uk. Similarly, call our hotline if you've been affected financially by COVID-19 and need a grant to help with essential household expenses.

Waste services update

Most of our waste services have continued as normal throughout lockdown. Garden and food waste collections were quickly reinstated in early April, followed by the delivery of waste containers and bulky waste collections in May. An update on the resumption of textile collections,

along with the addition of small electrical items will be coming in due course, so look out for this by subscribing to our [Bins and recycling news](#) topic.

Over the next few weeks, we'll be collecting your recycling using 12 new RomaQuip collection vehicles that we purchased as part of a [joint fleet venture with Exeter City Council and national provider Specialist Fleet Services Ltd \(SFS\)](#). The new vehicles are more environmentally friendly and will enable us to collect more materials over a greater area.



How to dispose of COVID-19 infected waste

- **KEEP YOUR WASTE AND RECYCLING INSIDE FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS** before putting in your waste storage area.
- Store personal waste (like used tissues) and disposable cleaning cloths securely in rubbish bags.
- Place these bags within a second bag, tie it securely and store it in a separate room from where you are self-isolating.



- Keep the bags there for **AT LEAST 72 HOURS** before putting them out for collection on your correct collection day.
- Recycling and garden waste can be placed in your usual bin/boxes.
- **PLEASE CARRY ON RECYCLING.** It is vital that those self-isolating keep using the correct bins. Overfilling your black sacks may result in spillages and loose rubbish in the streets.
- Where possible please place your waste and recycling at the kerb side as close to 6:00am as possible on the day of collection and not before 6:00pm the evening before your collection.

Housing Services update



Throughout the pandemic, our Housing Services team have made 2,977 calls to vulnerable tenants to ensure they're safe, well and have access to essential food and support. Similarly, two of our friendly Neighbourhood Officers, Ceri and Sharon, have been busy maintaining that all important face-to-face contact by stepping up 'neighbourhood walkabouts' around our estates and checking-in with tenants to ensure they're adequately supported, all the while maintaining social distance of course!

Following changes to their working practises, our Housing Repairs team have also continued working, completing around 1,600 emergency repairs by the end of June, of which approximately 500 were completed within the first month of the lockdown.

They've also released a [short film](#) explaining what tenants can expect during a repairs visit to keep them safe, which has been really well received, as well as carrying out a number of [disabled adaptations to support hospital discharges](#).



Nathan, one of our Repairs Operatives who's been with us for five years, noted that the new routine and donning of PPE was unusual, but also welcomed by people, especially those who were vulnerable or sometimes just lonely.

Nathan said:

"We have a good system in place that enables me and the tenants to feel safe. I would arrive and let them know I was there, they would then open the door but wait in another room until I'd finished the job. Many people hadn't seen anyone for weeks so there was also an element of welfare to many of the jobs. People were happy to see us and felt we were there for them and to protect them."



Every Mind Matters

Discover
simple steps
to look after
your mental
health

NHS

every mind
matters

Needless to say, the Coronavirus outbreak has impacted most people's lives one way or another. As a consequence, it's perfectly normal to experience feelings of anxiety or stress, so it's important we take care of our mental health just as much as our physical health.

The [NHS Every Mind Matters](#) website has lots of useful advice and tips on looking after your mental health whilst staying at home or coping with anxiety as a symptom of the outbreak. You can even start your own online action plan called '[Your Mind Plan](#)' to help take simple, practical steps to combat stress, boost your mood and regain that sense of control.

If you feel you're struggling to cope, visit the [NHS Mental health helplines](#) webpage to get help and talk to someone. If you're feeling cut-off because you're shielding or self-isolating, visit our [webpage](#) to get in touch with your nearest community support group.

Devon climate emergency update



Due to COVID-19, the discussion and development of policy recommendations to decarbonise Devon known as the 'Citizens' Assembly phase', has had to be postponed until the end of the

year. It was originally intended that the recommendations from the Evidence Gathering phase would be presented to the Citizens' Assembly in the spring of 2020.

Ellie Rowlands, Communications Lead from the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group, said:

“COVID-19 resulted in a delay in the Citizens' Assembly. But, in the most tragic of circumstances, it has also given a glimpse of how a more sustainable Devon might look, feel and sound.

“The lockdown resulted in a reduction in Devon's carbon emissions by 23%. The reduction in road transport and energy use has had an immediate and profound impact on emissions.

“Now is the time to capitalise on the reduction in emissions and work to build back better. The Devon Climate Emergency Response Group have been discussing how it could support a low-carbon COVID-19 reset.

“From supporting the current shift to active travel, focussing on upskilling the agriculture and tourism sectors for a sustainable future or supporting employees to work from home more in the future, multiple avenues are being explored to ensure we build back better.”

Mid Devon District Council Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Cllr Elizabeth Wainwright, added:

“All council officers have been working tirelessly in recent months on the COVID-19 crisis, and it has pushed back many plans. But, it has also brought into focus our priorities and our capacity for quick action, collaboration, and care.

“Post-COVID-19, there are opportunities and funds that could help us 'build back better', and as far as our powers as a District Council allows us.

“We're creating a climate action plan [for Mid Devon] that builds on our conversations and work so far ... and is synchronising with Devon-wide work, including via the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group.”

For more information, visit devonclimateemergency.org.uk. If you have any innovative ideas of your own that you feel would help Mid Devon reach its net-zero target by 2030, please get in touch with Cllr Wainwright at ewainwright@middevon.gov.uk or via her Facebook page [@CllrEWainwright](https://www.facebook.com/CllrEWainwright).

Stay fit at home with online challenges from Mid Devon Leisure



Mid Devon Leisure's doors may be closed, but you can continue to stay fit at home by watching their online fitness classes. A series of popular workouts, including a 28-day challenge, have been filmed featuring experienced instructors and is available for anyone wanting to stay fit from home.

To take part, visit middevonleisure.com/daily-fitness/ or follow **@MidDevonLeisure** on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). Be sure to also subscribe to our [Leisure news](#) topic to keep up-to-date on all things Mid Devon Leisure-related.



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