

Devon County Councillor Claire Wright

Monthly Report for West Hill Parish Council – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

### **Devon County Council budget meeting sees council tax rise by 4.99 per cent**

At Devon County Council's budget meeting last Thursday (18 February) the ruling group voted through a 4.99 per cent increase in the DCC element of council tax in order to offset 10 years of austerity and a social care system in crisis.

Here's my speech, which explains more. It is however, quite political!: <https://claire-wright.org/its-budget-day-at-devon-county-council-heres-my-speech/>

### **Motion to council opposing government u-turn on use of bee killing pesticides**

I brought this motion after learning that the government intends to relax the rules on using neonicotinoids on sugar beet, even though they are proven to kill bees, which are rapidly declining. The motion will come before cabinet for a steer before being debated at the full council meeting in April. For more see...

<https://claire-wright.org/motion-lobbying-the-government-on-bee-killing-pesticide-u-turn/>

### **Education Secretary ignores Devon County Council's representations (my anti-racist motion).**

This was related to a motion I put forward last year, which was backed by full council. It urged the Education Secretary to take stronger action on persisting racist attitudes in schools among other things. Unfortunately, four months later and despite chasing, there has been no answer from Mr Williamson. For more see..

<https://claire-wright.org/education-secretary-stonewalls-devon-county-council-on-anti-racist-motion/>

### **How the pandemic is causing an explosion in unpaid carers and distress in Devon**

A piece I wrote for local press following the last DCC Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee meeting, where I asked that we reached out to unpaid carers again, following the news that distress had significantly increased

<https://claire-wright.org/how-the-pandemic-is-causing-an-explosion-in-unpaid-carers-and-distress/>

### **DCC covid-19 update**

[Devon's case number highest among 20 to 39 year olds, more cash for Devon's most vulnerable and mobile testing units hit the road soon \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com)