

Members/Officers,

One of our most valued assets locally is that of our tremendous Holsworthy Community Transport (HCT- Tel: 01409 259001). It has respect county-wide and I know just how much so many of us in our town of Holsworthy and surrounding parishes appreciate its services. Of late there has been lots of changes to ensure the service is up-and-running again and the Ring & Ride service re-started on 3 September.

The nature of the business says so much about where we live. Sarah and Jane who own 'Food on the Go' in The Square now give up their time to support as volunteers and I want to say a big thank you on behalf of us all. A very special thanks, too, to recently retired, Les Slade, who has been with HCT for many years. Les has helped so many and we wish him a very happy retirement. On a sad note, HCT has lost, recently, two members of the team – Jeremy Dickson and Keith Hunkin – volunteers who will be missed greatly and most fondly remembered. Our great thanks go out to all alongside; colleagues who make such wonderful provision possible.

I will, purposely, make this 'Update' brief as there is a particular message that I wish to share with you at this time. It comes not directly from me but from the Chief Executive at Devon County Council, Dr Phil Norrey, and, it reads, "Coronavirus is still a very real threat to us all. You may have heard England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Jonathan Van Tam, describing the latest "big change" in coronavirus infections across the UK as a "great concern" and that he believes we are in for a "bumpy ride over the next few months" if people did not adhere more stringently to the social distancing rules.

Your health, safety and wellbeing, and that of your family and friends, remains our first priority and, with this rise in the incidents of COVID-19 across the country, it is absolutely vital that we do all we can to protect ourselves and our loved ones. We are also very alert to the fact that we have an ageing demographic in Devon and that older people can be particularly susceptible to the virus."

I relate very strongly to these sentiments and ask that we all remain especially vigilant in these testing times.

With every best wish, as always.

Barry