

County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date of Report: 5th July 2023
Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington
(incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)
South Hams District Councillor for Dartington & Staverton

Devon County Council: key issues

Important public highways consultation: last few days to respond (by Thursday 13th July):

Notification Issued on behalf of Councillor Andrea Davis, Peninsula Transport Chairman

Dear stakeholder,

You may already be aware that National Highways have published a number of key documents in relation to the next Road Investment Strategy (RIS) period (2025-2030). The documents relate to the future of the strategic road network (SRN), which encompasses motorways and major A-roads.

The Department for Transport will now undertake an 8-week public consultation process on the SRN Initial Report. This will inform DfT's draft Road Investment Strategy and National Highway's draft strategic business plan.

Peninsula transport has been engaged in the development process to date. We are now reviewing the documentation and will set out our full responses in due course but we encourage those living, working and travelling within the peninsula to also have their say. We have placed the links below for those interested in responding. We recommend you respond directly to the consultation, but please also send any comments to us that you would like the STB to consider, you can do this by emailing info@peninsulatransport.org.uk.

Useful links:

Future roads (landing page): <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/futureroads>

SRN Initial Report: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/SRNIR>

Connecting the Country: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/connectingthecountry>

Environmental Sustainability Strategy: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/ESS>

DfT's consultation page: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/shaping-the-future-of-englands-strategic-roads>

South West Peninsula Route Strategy Initial Overview Report: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/media/5flpixmap/r18-south-west-peninsula_acc.pdf

Birmingham to Exeter Route Strategy Initial Overview Report: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/media/es1b5v5h/r19-birmingham-to-exeter_acc.pdf

London to Wales Route Strategy Initial Overview Report: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/media/4uimxxgn/r20-london-to-wales_acc.pdf

Jonathan Helmn. Transport Planning Officer, Strategic Planning and Infrastructure, Plymouth City Council

Here's a link to Totnes Town Council's submission to this consultation, if this helps with your submission or you would like to simply write in expressing support as an adjacent parish or Councillor.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NxuNFdQ0uEteOceOEvlbomB3J1SL7qeUwzrUqP4P7gw/edit?usp=sharing>

DCC Summer Programme for 2023 Holiday Activities & Food Programme is now live, it is for Primary & Secondary age range and is split into localities so you can see what is happening in each area. There are exciting opportunities for the primary & secondary age range including, surfing, paddleboarding, canoeing, sports, laser tag and many more.

Link to Summer Programme <https://devon.cc/haf-summer23> Please share in your networks.

Free activities and meals available to eligible children over the school summer holiday. That's why we're inviting children aged five to 16 years old, who receive benefit-related free school meals, to take part in a range of exciting activities over the school summer holidays. Once again, we have teamed up with over 60 different activity providers across Devon to offer a great range of indoor and outdoor activities as part of the Government-funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which offers free activities and healthy meals during the school holidays. Activities range from sports such as football and kayaking to other activities like gardening, outdoor treasure hunts, and craft sessions. Some providers are offering special visits from storytellers, magicians, animals, and trips to local attractions. And this year, there are more places available for secondary school aged children and young people, with activities including go-karting, climbing, trampolining, high ropes and surfing."

KEVICCs Proposed sale of site: No updates and no notifications of acceptance of any of the bids made.

Highways Issues: (see also Highways Performance Dashboard at the end of this report)

Priority locations for highways works: I have been asked to invite proposals for the draft programme for next year's repairs. As your Devon County Cllr., I can submit proposals on your behalf this coming September, for the first draft repairs programme for 2024/25. If you are aware of any sites that are particularly important to Town / Parish Councils, or for which you are receiving lots of correspondence please submit them (ideally no more than 2 per parish). Due to restrained budgets and existing priorities there are no guarantees of being included in next year's programme, but I'm told that those that are important to the local communities will be given a degree of priority.

Highways disruption continues with Wildenet and Airband continuing their programmes. Many complaints have been sent in to DCC Highways team, but their role is to coordinate as best they can, although there is a real race to get all this work carried out as much as possible during the summer months and better weather. Wildenet do provide notification via Highways, but Airband are far less helpful. I've asked at DCC for this to be improved.

Highways works Coordination – disruption and issues with roadworks and fibre broadband installation. Along with many Parish Councils I have been receiving complaints from members of the public and others about the severe disruption with all these works taking place so close to each other at the same time. Further to the issue being raised at Harberton PC last month regarding the apparent poor coordination of directed diversion routes also being closed off, the Highways team did address this further to my request.

Unfortunately, the dry weather is better for carrying out all roadworks, so with maintenance very behind and many repairs outstanding, plus the installation by 2 separate companies of the fibre broadband services, we have difficult times, with roadworks ahead still to come. **You can check for the roadworks programme in this area at this link:** <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/traffic-information/roadworks/live-roadworks-information/>

Devon's 20's Plenty Campaign: My motion to DCC to implement across the County has been tabled but is currently awaiting a return to Full Council for decision with a Cabinet recommendation. Meanwhile this is some information on the county wide campaign. There is a map (continuously expanding) of the parishes in Devon that have supported 20's Plenty and written to DCC requesting they change their default policy from 30mph to 20mph. There are likely to be more as they are being added all the time:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1yyGDauH8ekqP1zMRdF3fiNDt2swB4WU&usp=sharing>

A webinar is coming up, run by Adrian from 20's Plenty, specifically for town and parish councils: Thursday 6th July @ 7:30 <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsfumhpjltGNMyeIC5Y1oLtUOga9LqAMcS>

Speed and other Highways surveys

In response to requests from some Parish Councillors and residents I requested Speed (SCARF) surveys on some roads where vehicles exceeding the legal limit for the road was perceived as happening. This is the note from the Highways team and the two sets of results that have been sent to date: The Highways team reported:

"I am emailing as two of the sites have been surveyed and the data has been returned and validated. A summary of the data taken is below. The A385 Bridgetown Hill site has been delayed due to the current W&W work, but is in

A385 Station Road:

Date	Westbound			Eastbound			Both Directions		
	Ave 7-day daily flow	85 th %ile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)	Ave 7-day daily flow	85 th %ile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)	Ave 7-day daily flow	85 th %ile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)
w/b Sat 13 th May 2023	7,998	30.9	24.4	9,828	33.2	28.4	17,826	32.6	26.6

Dukes Road:

Date	Northbound			Southbound			Both Directions		
	Ave 7-day daily flow	85 th %ile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)	Ave 7-day daily flow	85 th %ile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)	Ave 7-day daily flow	85 th %ile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)
w/b Sat 13 th May 2023	524	27.2	22.1	514	27.7	22.5	1,038	27.4	22.3

These results indicate a good level of compliance with the posted speed limit so are a really positive outcome. To assess the speed data we use the 85th %ile and mean speed in both directions and the data taken indicates that neither site need further action.

the programme for when they have cleared the road space. These results indicate a good level of compliance with the posted speed limit so are a really positive outcome. To assess the speed data we use the 85th %ile and mean speed in both directions and the data taken indicates that neither site need further action. I hope this information is useful and may suppress the perceived and widely reported issue of speeding in the Town."

New Speed camera at Keviccs: This has been installed as part of the Zero tolerance campaign on speeding across Devon. These two way cameras have been installed in other towns in locations known for speeding problems.
<https://visionzerosouthwest.co.uk/four-new-high-tech-speed-cameras-for-high-risk-roads-in-devon-cornwall/>

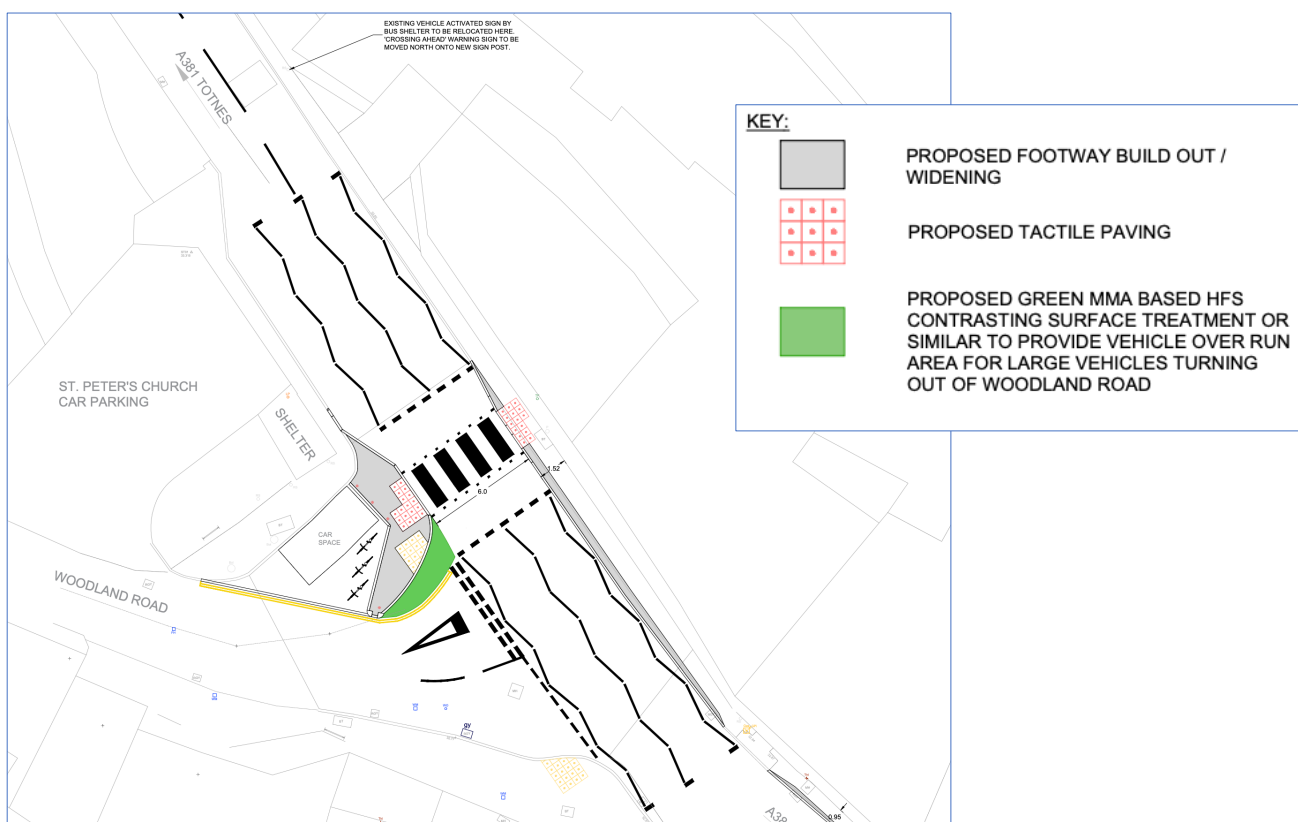
Road markings and parked vehicle at North end of Brutus Bridge. As previously reported, this vehicle (being used for advertising) remains in situ despite the (poor quality) road markings that have been recently painted in around it as part of the waiting restriction programme. I have reported this in and raised the matter again at last week's HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee) meeting where I was informed that DCC Highways cannot demand that a vehicle with tax and insurance be required to be moved! I've challenged this as it's an eyesore that many people have complained about over the years and it seems incredulous to me, that this is apparently permissible but prevents scheduled roadworks. (I've pointed out that Temporary Prohibition of Parking is currently being applied elsewhere to enable roadworks).

Monitoring wires in Totnes roads: I have been approached by a number of people asking about some traffic monitoring happening on Heaths Way and by Western Bypass. The interesting response from Highways was as follows:

"I am not aware of the surveys so have forwarded your enquiry to our Traffic & Highway Data Team. There are numerous reasons others may be undertaking these types of surveys so they may not originate from them or even DCC, if they are related to a development we often aren't told they are being installed. I have heard back from our Data Team in relation to the survey 'wires'. It is not something they are aware of or have organised. The reported "wires" are almost certainly pneumatic tubes which have been installed by a traffic survey company (MetroCount) at the request of someone else, usually a developer. Because these are privately paid for, we don't have the right to the results."

(Anecdotally I've been informed that this monitoring was being carried out on behalf of the developers at Baltic Wharf).

Proposed changes to location of zebra crossing at Harbertonford. DCC is currently consulting with the Parish Council, with a view to public consultation being the next step.



Highways Issues at The Plains, Totnes. This is National Grid works, an enforcement case has been raised at South Hams District Council regarding concerns about this.

Blocked Gullies on Fore St., Totnes:

Further to complaints raised at Totnes TC, regarding four drains in a row in Fore St., that many people agreed had not been cleaned out and had been blocked for a number of years, this was reported in to the Highways Team as they cause a problem during heavy rain which just runs further down the street and becomes a river, threatening some of the lower shops. This has received a positive reply:

"I have logged requests for the 8 gullies on Fore Street, between Station Road and the arch. I have also raised two requests for the gullies on the linking footpath between Fore Street and Ticklemore Street."

Installation of Poles for Fibre Broadband provision in proximity to Listed heritage buildings – Week Hamlet.

Complaints have been raised regarding Airband's programme of installing 9 meter high poles in the heart of this hamlet within meters of some of the many listed building there. A copy of a recent appeal by Airband, that was dismissed by the Inspectors regarding similar proposals for installations that were refused by the LPA in Cookham, Berkshire were sent in with the concerns and complaints from residents and parish Councillors. The difficulty is the permitted development rights given to the installers that means they can over ride LPA's when it comes to telecommunications poles whereas masts can be refused. I am pressing for underground trunking to be required.

South Hams District Council – Key Issues

SHDC has offered Teams Virtual meetings with Town and Parish Councils:

Tuesday 11th July 2023 10.30am – 12 Noon: Meeting about developing Active Travel routes: Session to outline the purpose and process involved in a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and look at the district wide data that informs it. This meeting will not go into detail on places as we will have these discussions with those who request them following on from this. The meeting will also be recorded and shared for anyone who is unable to join the time proposed.

Wednesday 26th July 2023 at 6pm. This week the South Hams District Council Executive discussed plans to develop a new corporate strategy

<https://mg.swdevon.gov.uk/documents/s30426/Setting%20Priorities%20for%20the%20New%20Council.pdf> .

"The Council wishes to set ambitious and challenging policies to address the issues facing our communities, working towards a vision for South Hams as a place with the best environment for people and for nature and which is resilient in the face of an increasingly uncertain future. We know that we cannot do this alone and are therefore very keen to start conversations with Towns and Parishes. To start the conversation, we are proposing holding a Town and Parish Forum meeting online on Microsoft Teams"

It is hoped that a representative (or two) from each Council is able to attend the meeting and hear from Councillor Brazil (Leader of the Council) and fellow District Councillors about our ambitions as well as having an open discussion about how we can work together with you and our communities to achieve our collective ambitions. Please contact Neil Hawke neil.hawke@swdevon.gov.uk if you have any questions.

South Devon Freeport. Further to my tabling a motion to the new Council to review and reconsider their involvement with the South Devon Freeport, a meeting of the new Executive was held where this review was agreed by the Executive and a full-scale review has been scheduled including a full audit review. Further to this review it will come back to Full Council for SHDC to reconsider its position. I was then asked if I was willing to withdraw my motion, which I did on the basis that this review is comprehensive and thorough.

Full Council 28th June 2028. The following motion was approved by the Council:

- It recognises the urgent need for community energy generation projects and the need to create the legislative environment in which they can succeed.
- It fully supports clauses 272 and 273 of the Energy Bill and urges government to speed the passage of the Energy Bill or, in recognition of the importance of clauses 272 and 273, to allow the Local Electricity Bill to proceed separately and at speed.
- It will write to our local MPs and the leaders of all the UK political parties emphasising the importance of community energy projects and the urgent need to expedite changes to legislation to make them viable.
- It will seek to partner with other Local Authorities both directly and through the LGA to lobby parliament to achieve the legislative changes.

- It will publicise, through all suitable media channels, the importance of the need for changes to legislation to allow community energy projects to succeed.'
- It will write to the Heart of South West (HOSW) Local Enterprise Partnership and request that the installation of the vital Grid Network Link at Hinkley is brought forward as a matter of urgency to enable more renewable energy projects to come forward and not left awaiting the commissioning of Hinkley C nuclear power station, which could take years.

Sustainable South Hams was granted £40,000 to enable its programme of sustainable projects and activities that will support SHDC and its residents to reduce their carbon footprint, enrich understanding and behaviour towards wildlife and habitats and help SHDC reach its climate and biodiversity targets. <https://www.sussh.org/about>

A partnership forum is being established to include a number of SHDC Members and representatives of environmental groups and specialists to work together on achieving the climate and biodiversity actions and targets towards Net Zero.

Composting at SHDC. Much of the £200,000 set aside a couple of years ago to provide some match funding to Town and Parish Councils to support local community composting initiatives, currently remains unspent. It is my intention to put this opportunity to good use and encourage everyone who can and is willing to compost their biodegradable waste including garden waste, making wormeries etc and getting involved locally.

Community Composting: As the newly appointed Executive Member for this role, I have agreed to support and work with a new programme of public events and activities being developed by a small group from Sustainable South Hams, including 'Dr Compost' Nicky Scott. These initiatives have already started and I'll be able to promote and report further in September. In the meantime this is the link to project on their website: <https://www.sussh.org/sub-categories/compost>.

DCC Members Visit to Holsworthy Anaerobic Digestion Plant. 20th June 2023

Despite some very fruity smells on arrival, this proved to be a very interesting visit. This will be a very useful reference for my new role as SHDC Executive Member with the portfolio for composting; a role I intend to use as widely as possible to press for far more local community and individual composting, and far less transporting of biodegradable materials across the county. This will not only help reduce our collective carbon footprint in South Hams, but also make good use of materials that people can turn into compost for their own gardens, patio pots and window boxes, and providing a choice from paying for garden waste collection.

This photo shows the food waste lorry emptying its load on arrival where all the plastic and biodegradable bags are removed prior to processing the food waste. **THE MESSAGE FROM THE SITE OPERATORS WAS THAT IT IS MUCH BETTER FOR THEM AND THEIR MACHINES IF PEOPLE DON'T USE ANY BAGS IN THEIR FOOD WASTE BINS**, just a couple of sheets of newspaper is much better and can then be easily composted. (ALL bags are treated the same at the plant, so a waste of money too if you are paying extra for compostable etc bags).



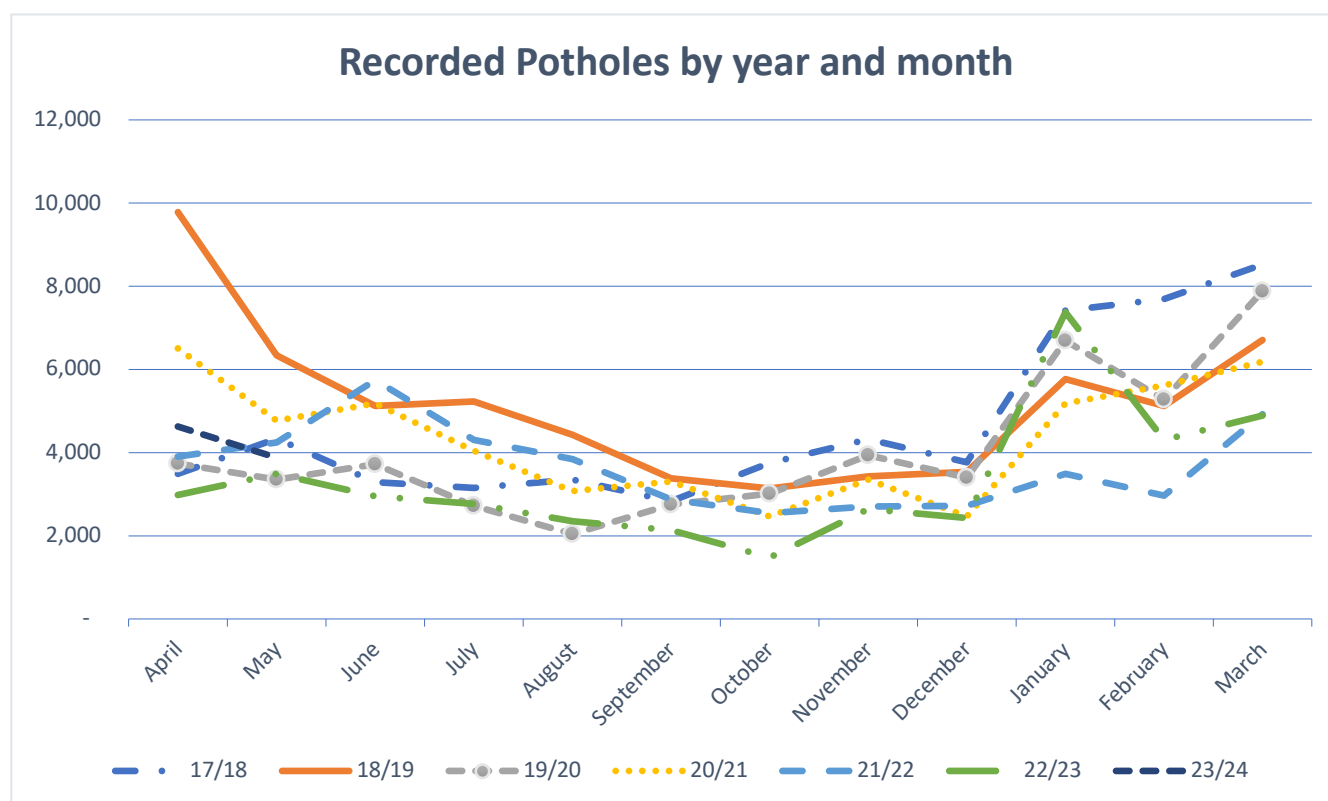
Totnes Town Council Climate & Ecological Emergency (CEE) Forum. Next meeting Tuesday 18th July at 6.30pm - 8pm, in person at Totnes Guildhall and hybrid with Zoom access at this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81347699786> Meeting ID: 813 4769 9786. We will be discussing community composting projects and the South Hams Ward & parish profiles of CO2 emissions from different sources of fossil fuel usage (see attached spreadsheet kindly provided by Bigbury Net Zero).
Check Climate Hub online events page for actions on Climate Change at this link: <https://totnesclimatehub.info/events/>

Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Highways Performance Dashboard – Briefing Note.

Number of potholes recorded across the Devon network per month/year

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	Avg
April	3,489	9,782	3,741	6,505	3,904	2,981	4,627	5,004
May	4,329	6,339	3,344	4,764	4,248	3,493	3,877	4,342
June	3,293	5,120	3,713	5,179	5,743	2,948		4,333
July	3,148	5,225	2,719	4,040	4,301	2,759		3,699
August	3,352	4,423	2,041	3,071	3,845	2,343		3,179
September	2,831	3,378	2,745	3,297	2,874	2,132		2,876
October	3,750	3,137	3,013	2,465	2,546	1,477		2,731
November	4,316	3,434	3,931	3,349	2,697	2,648		3,396
December	3,766	3,533	3,393	2,465	2,723	2,432		3,052
January	7,408	5,770	6,694	5,181	3,493	7,376		5,987
February	7,687	5,121	5,269	5,619	2,972	4,308		5,163
March	8,523	6,706	7,884	6,190	4,914	4,888		6,518
Total	55,892	61,968	48,487	52,125	44,260	39,785	8,504	44,432



Gully Cleaning Programme - As of 4th Jun (17% through the financial year)

Location (based on Milestone depot)	Total Programmed	Gullies Attended	Gullies Cleaned	Gullies Left to clean	% Complete
Honiton	39,669	3,080	3,049	36,620	8%
Exeter	27,604	3,605	3,456	24,148	13%
Rydon	17,419	2,927	2,707	14,712	16%
South Hams	12,953	2,103	1,927	11,026	15%
Okehampton	20,773	3,537	3,510	17,263	17%
Merton	16,248	1,688	1,588	14,660	10%
South Molton	23,219	2,568	2,344	20,875	10%
Total	157,885	19,508	18,581	139,304	12%

Grips, Easements & Buddleholes Programme - As of 4th Jun (17% through the financial year)

	To be Cleaned	Cleaned	Left to Attend	Complete (%)	Programmed (m)	Cleaned (m)	Additional Cleaning (m)
South	12,462	8,947	3,515	72%	47,814	45,836	5,305
North	14,302	10,112	4,190	71%	38,723	27,031	1,011
West	15,807	13,916	1,891	88%	82,502	78,004	8,067
Torridge	26,991	15,768	11,223	58%	62,910	51,928	6,879
East	41,498	27,842	13,656	67%	72,715	69,192	4,029
Total	111,060	76,585	34,475	69%	304,664	271,992	25,291

Planned Replacement of Parish Road Markings - As of 12th June 2023

Location	Status
Axminster	Programmed
Bovey Tracey	In Progress
Broadclyst	Programmed
Bushell Ward - Newton Abbot	Programmed
Colyton	Programmed
Cullompton	Programmed
Dartington	Programmed
Dartmouth	Programmed
Exminster	Programmed
Ilminster	Programmed
Kingsbridge	Programmed
Kingsteignton	Programmed
Mary Tavy	Programmed
Newton Poppleford	Programmed
Northam	Programmed
South Molton	Programmed
Staverton	Programmed
Tavistock	Programmed
Tedburn St Mary	Completed
Topsham	In Progress