

District Councillor Georgina Allen

Full Council Report – May 2025

Local Government Restructuring

I have been to several meetings about this over the month, one by the South Hams society, which the leaders of Torbay and Plymouth councils attended and a couple put on by outside council bodies. The main gist of the conversations was that nobody knew what would happen, where the borders would be, how the merging of rural and urban would work and how housing numbers would be allocated. Having a majority of Lib Dem councillors at Devon might well alter the situation, but again nobody knows. The only body who seems even mildly enthusiastic about the idea was the leader of Torbay council. We should know soon what the government has decided though.

Energy Local

I've had a few chats with people from the Community Energy group, who have obtained funding to put solar panels on the blue buildings on Steamer Quay and are hoping to extend out of Totnes, to offer community energy to other areas. Hopefully having Lib Dems and Greens with more power at DCC might see these kinds of initiatives spreading.

South Hams Festival

I have had several conversations with people about the possibility of the South Hams festival next year being centred on the rivers. I am submitting a paper about it and hope that there will be enthusiasm for this.

Parking

There have been several issues arising out of the new parking app (and price rise) as well as permits not being honoured – hopefully just teething issues and will be resolved

Archaeology and Planning

Following on from the destruction of the eel well under the new care home on the Brutus site, we have had another archaeological issue being raised in planning about the Roman road at Sherford. I am going to write to the head of planning to ask for more clarity about the fate of some of the archaeological findings at planning.

Devon Wildlife Trust

I have had a meeting with the CEO of Devon Wildlife Trust to discuss the possibility of extending the temperate rainforest taking shape at Bowden, through Totnes. I will let you know how this develops