

County Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date: 8th July 2025
Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington
Cabinet Member for Climate & Biodiversity (incl Transport)
(incl. Harborton, Harbortonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)
South Hams District Councillor for Dartington & Staverton
SHDC Executive Portfolio Councillor for Waste and Composting

Devon County Council (DCC) key issues:

There has been considerable induction and training for new and re-elected County Councillors. This included a full council and the senior leadership team 'away day' at Stover Country Park where the different political groups were invited to outline their wish list.

The Green & Independent group's top priorities for this new council and for consideration as part of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) included:

- Hold a review of all services to bring them back in-house to make better connections between Councillors, officers and the management and delivery of services more direct and take out the 3rd parties and agencies that are costly and not always good value. This could release a lot of funding for other projects and programmes. Commissioned services should be the only used when absolutely necessary and to meet short term needs.
- Safer streets to encourage walking and cycling, getting people out of cars and onto public transport and doing so by dramatically improving the services as an overarching theme
 - 20mph where people live, work, play and go to school as a policy available to all towns and parish council to bring to their area, without the need for fatalities to determine need
 - 30 & 40mph speeds on approach roads into residential areas
 - School street status – where the road is closed off near a school entrance during arrival and departure times (to prevent poor parking and drop-offs that put many children (especially smaller ones) at risk from passing cars.
 - Air Quality Management Action (AQMA) Plans actioned: emission particulates measured and monitored and the evidence used to address air quality issues and improve health & wellbeing.
 - Trees in streets for air quality, heat shade and to sequester carbon
 - Active Travel Routes identified in the LCWIP process prioritised for implementation of pedestrian crossings within towns and villages and new non-vehicular – all access routes routes between neighbouring towns and villages to support health benefits for all and provide disabled people with better and safer routes.
 - Wider Investment in Public Transport
 - Invest in small EV buses to create links for rural areas with their local towns and public transport links for school students, commuters, shoppers and provide evening services to reduce car use for local journeys and reduce the use of taxis for schools children.
- Childrens' and Youth Services:
 - Return to universal access to youth clubs, activities and events for young people across the county (perhaps using the TRAYE model in conjunction with town and parish councils); this could reduce our need for so many targeted services, mental health referrals and help counteract some of the negative impacts of social media.
 - Promote the recruitment of in-house foster families and carers, children's homes and social workers rather than use agencies
 - In conjunction and partnership with Town Councils consider setting up Family hubs in towns to provide a one stop shop to access Local Authority services that are delivered locally.
- Implement Devon's Carbon and Biodiversity plans:
 - Invest in Renewable Energy – via the Pension funds. Divest from fossil fuels shares
 - Invest in social housing – passive home standards that save carbon and money

- Nature & Wildlife: Support and Implement '30 x 30' (The Wildlife Trusts are calling for at least 30% of our land and sea to be connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030)
- Implement Nature Recovery Plans
- Ban the use of pesticides on all Devon's land – including highways and farm estates
- Plant more trees

Devon County Council's new Cabinet held its first meeting 25.06.25. Some of the new portfolio holders had been invited to provide an introduction to their intentions and how the new administration will be seeking to improve childrens' services, highways' management and the finances. They were strong speeches. The draft 20's plenty policy will be presented and debated at the forthcoming Cabinet meeting on July 23rd

Local Highways items:

20's Plenty – New 20mph routes in Totnes proposed to fill in current 30mph gaps. A public consultation on the draft map will be carried out by Devon County Council with a view to implementation during this financial year.

Totnes – Littlehempston All Access Path. No updates at present except that I understand the path is now on the planning application with SHDC

Swallowfields, Totnes Parking issues. An open meeting was held Saturday June 28th 10am – 2pm. Scores indicating preferences are to be notified to residents and then to DCC officers.

Waiting restrictions: Further to approval at South Hams HATOC 08.07.25, Devon Highways will be advertising the following proposals. Members of the public will then be given the opportunity to make comments on any proposed changes that are advertised. The 21 day public consultation is carried out by notices on the roads affected, in the local press, on the County Council's website and by postcards sent to adjacent properties. Any comments submitted during the consultation period will be summarised and brought to a future HATOC meeting for a final decision.

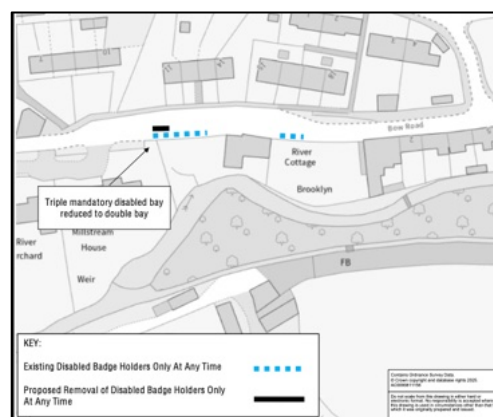
Plan Reference	Location	Parish/Town	Proposals	Statement of Reasons
ENV6240-472	Blackpost Lane	Totnes	Introduce no waiting at any time.	To prevent obstructive parking.
ENV6240-568	Westward Close	Totnes	Remove existing zonal residents parking and introduce a residents parking bay.	To define extent of residents parking and improve access to garages.

Proposed reduction of mandatory disabled bay on Bow Road, Harbertonford

In order for a disabled bay to be marked the applicant must meet these criteria:

- Hold a blue badge
- Be the driver, or regular passenger, of the vehicle the space is needed for
- Have a vehicle based at their property and the driver must also be resident
- Not have access to off-street parking at or near their property
- They must also sign and return a declaration to confirm that they meet this criteria.

DCC are proposing to reduce this disabled bay from a triple to a double as they only have signed declarations from two residents who wish to use a disabled parking space here.



Update on application to DCC for Vehicle Activated signs in Totnes: Reply from Highways Team:

"It is DCC policy that the purchased VAS are not permanently located, so we would recommend the purchase of a single mobile VAS (MVAS) unit to be deployed around the proposed locations.

With reference to the three locations we have the following observations;

- 1. You have named the first site as Plymouth Road but we assume you mean the A385 which is marked on the plan? If that is the case, there is already a permanent VAS at the brow of Bridgetown Hill within the 30mph section as you approach the Blackpost Lane junction. We do not see the need for a second VAS in such close proximity to the existing which could be confusing to drivers having the 2 units in close proximity?*
- 2. Western Bypass – The proposed location within the plan has a speed limit of 40mph. There is limited street furniture along this section to attach a VAS too on the left hand side as you approach Totnes. This presents potential safety issues for the installation, checking and removing of the MVAS so this needs to be considered.*
- 3. St Katherine's Way – No issues with this location.*

There are differing speed limits in place for the proposed locations, Plymouth Road (A385) being 30mph, Western Bypass being 40mph and St Katherine Way currently 30mph with an upcoming change to 20mph. Therefore, the Town Council would need to purchase an adjustable speed MVAS unit.

DCC do not promote the use of VAS units that display the actual speed vehicles are travelling at (Speed Indicator Device – (SID)) as this can unfortunately encourage the opposite desired effect. We do permit the use of MVAS which show the speed limit and the happy/unhappy face emoticon.

Would it be worth holding off the use of the MVAS unit until the 20 mph scheme has completed.

I have attached a fact sheet to the enquiry where it sets out the principles for community funded VAS and also the information required for approval of installation."

My response: Thank you for your reply and views. A couple of points that may have been misunderstood:

- Plymouth Road is marked on the map (at the end close to the town boundary - near Follaton House) and a VAS sign is sorely needed to remind drivers to reduce speeds. The local speedwatch group have recorded a lot of speeding vehicles.
- Bridgetown Hill - there is a longstanding VAS unit at the boundary, so just marked for information; sorry that should have been clearer

Local Traffic Works:

Emergency Roadworks in Totnes near Redworth junction / by Totnes tyres. These are gas works that excavations found that old power lines also underground needed replacement. They are estimating completion by 14th July'25

TTRO2563894: TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC

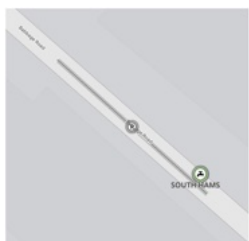
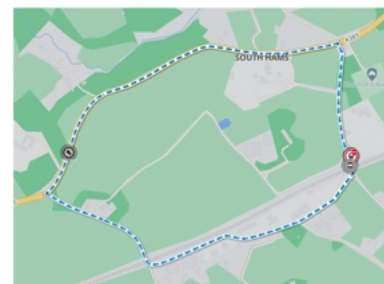
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From **SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Until SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025**

(both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 23:00 and 07:00 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads.

Roads affected - **TIGLEY CROSS TO RAILWAY BRIDGE, DARTINGTON** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via – RAILWAY BRIDGE TO VENTON OAK - VENTON CROSS TO VENTON OAK - A385 VENTON CROSS TO TIGLEY

CROSS - TIGLEY CROSS TO RAILWAY BRIDGE – VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - CLEAR VEGETATION FROM BRIDGE FOR EXAMINATION. For additional information contact:

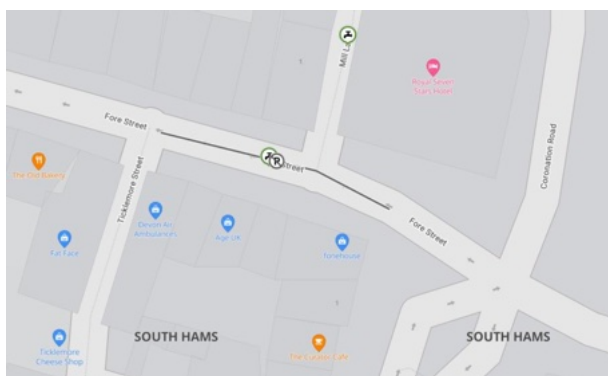
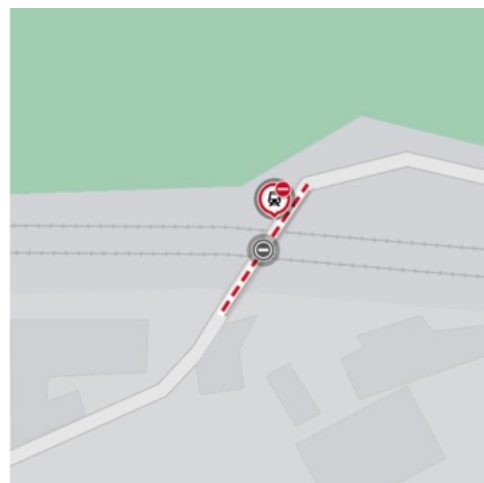
SUNBELT RENTALS Telephone: 03700 500792



TTRO2563981: **TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF PARKING.** DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From **MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Until WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2025** (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 18:30 and 07:00 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to park or wait on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - **BABBAGE ROAD, TOTNES** THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable -

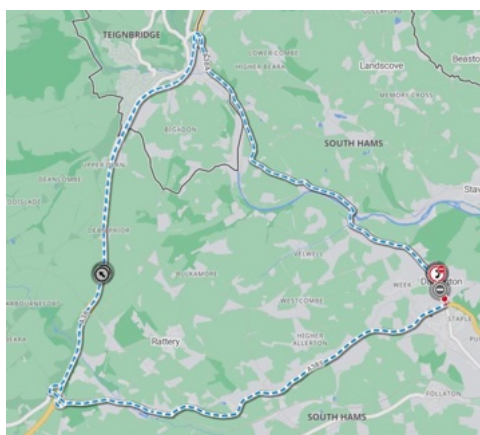
PARKING RESTRICTION FOR REPAIRS TO DEFECTIVE SECTION 81. For additional information contact: KIER ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST WATER. Telephone: 01726 224400

TTRO2564011: **TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC & PARKING.** DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From **SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Until SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2025** (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 23:00 and 07:00 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed or wait on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected -**LANE FROM HIGHER GROVE TO LOWER ASHRIDGE FARM, HARBERTON , AT NETWORK RAIL BRIDGE.** THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - CLEAR VEGETATION FROM BRIDGE FOR EXAMINATION. For additional information contact: SUNBELT RENTALS (ON BEHALF OF NETWORK RAIL) Telephone: 03700 500792



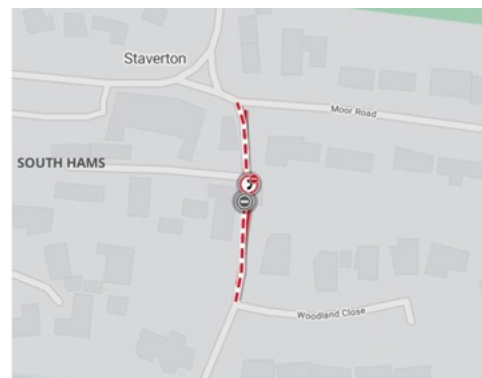
TTRO2564097: **TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF PARKING NOTICE** is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. From **TUESDAY 26 AUGUST 2025 for a maximum of 18 months. Anticipated Finish MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2025.** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to park or wait on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected -**FORE STREET, TOTNES , PARKING SUSPENSION FROM NO. 2 FORE STREET TO JUNCTION OF TICKLEMOOR STREET.** This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - PROVIDE NEW WATER CONNECTION. For additional information

contact: KIER ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST WATER. Telephone: 01726 224400



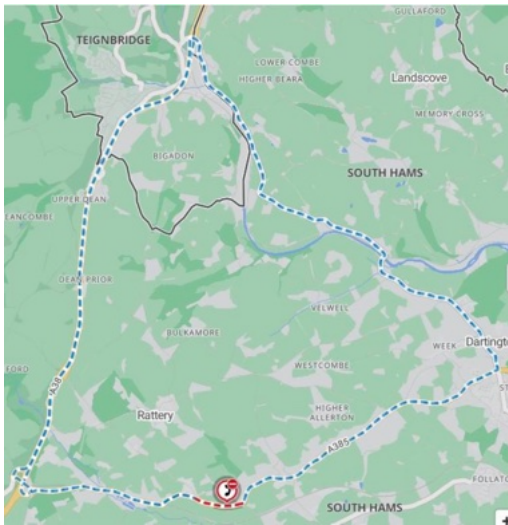
TTRO2564150; **TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC** DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From **MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Until WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2025** (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 21:00 and 06:00. No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected -**HUXHAMS CROSS TO SHINNERS BRIDGE, DARTINGTON.** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - A385 - A38 - A384 - VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable ROAD CLOSURE IS REQUIRED FOR THE SAFETY OF ENGINEERS FOR ACCESSING THE UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES FOR CABLING AND DESILTING WORKS. For additional information contact: SUNBELT RENTALS Telephone: 03700 500792

TTRO2564289: **TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC.** DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From **THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Until FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2025** (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 08:30 and 15:30 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected -**MILL LANE, STAVERTON , FROM JUNCTION WITH MOOR ROAD TO JUNCTION OF WOODLAND CLOSE.** THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. This temporary restriction is considered



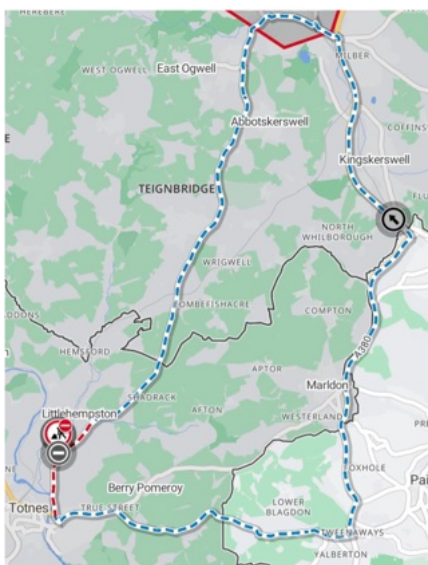
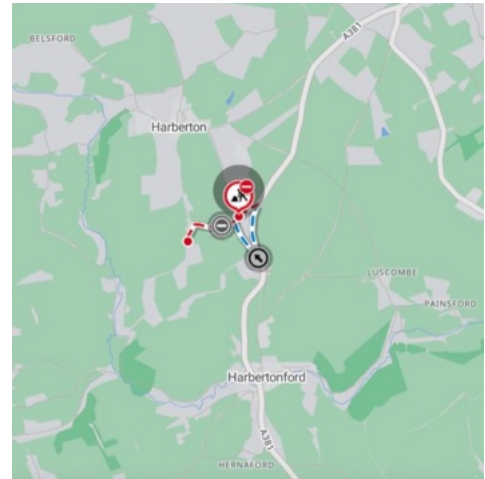
necessary to enable - CHANGE A TELEPHONE POLE. For additional information contact: SUNBELT RENTALS Telephone: 03700 500792

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC



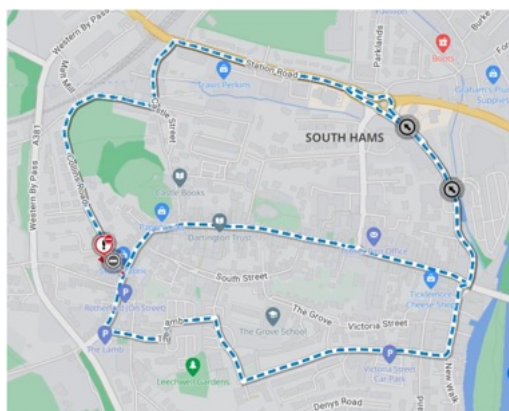
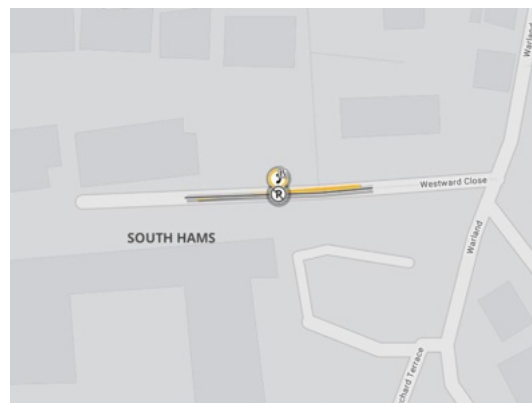
TTRO2564381: TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From THURSDAY 17 JULY 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Until SATURDAY 19 JULY 2025 (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 19:00 and 05:00. No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - A385 CHERRY TREES TO VENTON OAK, SOUTH BRENT AND DARTINGTON. The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - A38 - A38 DART BRIDGE JUNCTION - A384 - A385 - VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - ROAD CLOSURE IS REQUIRED FOR HOIST ACCESS TO CHANGE A TELEPHONE POLE. EXCAVATION IS REQUIRED. TM TO PROVIDE SAFE WORKING AREA THROUGHOUT. For additional information contact: SUNBELT RENTALS Telephone: **03700 500792**

TTRO2564406: **TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC & PARKING.** NOTICE is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. From THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER 2025 for a maximum of 18 months Anticipated Finish WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2025 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed or wait on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - ROAD FROM ROLSTER BRIDGE CROSS TO ENGLEBOURNE, ENGLEBOURNE TO A381, HARBERTON. The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - A381 LANGRIDGE CROSS TO BROCKHILLS CROSS, BENNETTS CROSS TO BROCKHILL, AND VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - DEVON HIGHWAYS - PATCHING WORKS. For additional information contact: MILESTONE INFRASTRUCTURE. Telephone: 020 3307 8051



TTRO2564307: **TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC** DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: On **WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2025** for a maximum of 5 days **Anticipated Finish WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2025** Between the hours of **19:00 and 07:00** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - **A381 NEWTON ROAD, TOTNES & LITTLEHEMPSTON** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - A381 > A380 > A385 & VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING, ROAD MARKINGS & SIGN INSTALLATION, VEGETATION CLEARANCE AND ROAD RESTRAINT MAINTENANCE For additional information contact: GLENDINNING LTD Telephone: 01392 465348

TTRO2563419: **TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF PARKING.** DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: **On FRIDAY 25 JULY 2025 for a maximum of 5 days Anticipated Finish FRIDAY 25 JULY 2025** Between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to park or wait on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - **WESTWARD CLOSE, TOTNES** , (OPPOSITE 1 WESTWARD CLOSE TO OPPOSITE GARAGES AT SIDE OF 4 WESTWARD CLOSE) THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **PARKING SUSPENSION FOR TELECOMMUNICATION WORKS TO CLEAR BLOCKAGES** For additional information contact: CIRCET Telephone: 0800 085 9194



TTRO2563606: **TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC NOTICE** is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. From **WEDNESDAY 23 JULY 2025** for a maximum of 18 months Anticipated Finish **FRIDAY 1 AUGUST 2025** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - **COLLINS ROAD, TOTNES** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - COLLINS ROAD, LOWER COLLINS ROAD, CASTLE STREET, STATION ROAD, CORONATION ROAD, FORE STREET, HIGH STREET, CISTERN STREET, THE LAMB, HEATH WAY, ST KATHERINE'S WAY, THE PLAINS, CORONATION ROAD, SATAION ROAD, CASTLE STREET, LOWER COLINS ROAD, COLLINS ROAD. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable -**ROAD CLOSURE REQUIRED FOR INSTALLATION OF A NEW ELECTRICITY SUPPLY** For additional information contact: **NATIONAL GRID (PLYMOUTH).** Telephone: **01752 506134**

LGA conference 2nd – 4th July in Liverpool. I attended for all 3 days and went to numerous sessions, workshops and conference exhibition stands, all very interesting and helpful to my Councillor role. Some sessions I attended:

- **Extreme & Unpredictable: Building Climate Resilience in people and places:** workshop sharing useful ideas and good practice in response to:
 - How are we going to adapt and protect and adapt council services and local infrastructure?
 - Which communities are most at risk and do we build resilience in them?
 - What are the priority next steps for local government?
- **Housing reimaged:** Fresh ideas for local delivery + A showcase of practical support
- **Kiely Bros: Preventative pothole treatment:** how prevention can transform highways maintenance.
- **Local Roads – looking after our most valuable asset** – included presentation on how AI can boost productivity
- **Prisoners Building Homes:** An innovative approach to delivering affordable housing. Included overview of Dragonheart modular passive housing
- **Learning from those who have been through it** – Reform in Local Government: from the big issues to the things you didn't know you had to think about!
- An open session of the (LGA) **Local Net Zero Delivery Group:** sharing ideas that have been successful
- **NALC: Power shift: stronger parish and town councils in the age of devolution and reorganisation**
- Conference plenary; **presentation by Angela Rayner MP**, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. She said she 'has our back' and she is pressing for insourcing of services, i.e. a return to in-house services to reduce costs and improve value for money and management.
- **Leading Through change and challenge in children's services**
- **Test Learn and Grow: Reforming public services and improving outcomes**

South Hams District Council matters:

South Hams District Council is collaborating with Sustainable South Hams to host a festival next summer 2026 to celebrate and create a Rally for Nature.

An open meeting is being held for Town and Parish councillors and community groups who would like to be involved:

Tuesday 15th July 2025 at Follaton House. 11am – 1pm. Please register to attend (free) at this link: <https://www.sussh.org/events/south-hams-rally-for-nature---community-session>



“Want to be involved in an exciting opportunity to help shape a South Hams-wide rally for nature?”

The aim of the programme is to help people connect with nature and the beauty of the South Hams and in so doing increase awareness of and care for our beautiful surroundings.

This is a collaborative initiative with South Hams District Council, and we want the rally to be infused with creativity, imagination and local voice from the very beginning. The hope is that as well as creating some new events specifically for the rally, that many existing projects and activities can be incorporated and promoted as part of the celebration: a coordinated events programme will have greater impact and influence more people.

On Tuesday 15 July 2025, we will be hosting a session at Follaton House to ask communities:

- *What might a region-wide rally look like?*
- *Whether there’s appetite to host events in your community*
- *How local communities and groups might want to be involved?*

Your input will be vital in directing the vision and values of this celebratory programme and ensuring that it’s rooted in local needs and ambitions.

We hope you’ll be part of this journey to celebrate and strengthen your community's relationship with nature.”

Local Government Reorganisation information meeting for Town and Parish Councillors. Thursday 17th July 4pm – 5pm at Follaton House (council chamber) and on Teams.

Planning matters:

Planning application 1496/25/NMM; Non-material minor amendment to planning consent 0292/24/VAR for the addition of pedestrian gates into ecological corridor for plots 57, 58, 69, 72 & 73, replacement of small section of hedgerow with Devon hedgebank & raised finish floor level for garage at plot 57.

Further to my previous report, I raised this as an off-line matter at SHDC DM committee in June and it was agreed to write to the Planning Inspectorate about the concerns of their appeal decision that seems to have been the instigation for this further application for a variation of condition. It was agreed that a site meeting would be useful to consider this application and to check other matters of concern that have been raised regarding the developments on site at St. Mary’s.

Transition Homes at Clay Park; at long last despite all the setbacks, this development of 39 new homes with community facilities is finally underway and will offer 100% social rental housing managed by Aster Homes. The formal launch is due to take place on site on July 25th.

Community Composting in South Hams. To assist Community Composting groups who are struggling to identify the type of machinery that would be suitable to do some of the heavy works at community composting sites, a networking event was held at Follaton on Thursday 19th June. A number of CC groups, both some up and running as well as those starting out were represented at this event. SHDC agricultural and

landscaping machine operators provided a briefing and insights into various and different scale machines that can be useful.

Networking event and Community Composting site visits Weds July 30th at 6pm. A visiting tour of other up and running community composting sites is being arranged for Wednesday 30th July at 6pm visiting sites in Stoke Fleming, Dartington, Marldon and another site to be confirmed. Please arrange to car share if possible and let Ruth at Sustainable South Hams know if you'd like to attend: <ruthlw@sussh.org>

Totnes Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 15th July The Climate Hub**. We will discuss the findings of biodiversity survey carried out on Castle Meadow (24.06.25) which was part of the "Big Devon Meadows Count". More information about the Big Meadows Count at this link: <https://moormeadows.org.uk/big-devon-meadows-count-2025/>
These monthly meetings usually take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm at Totnes Climate Hub). All welcome.

Caring Town Youth Strategy 2025 now published and being implemented - Their next steps are to request for it to be considered for formal adoption by Totnes Town Council and to begin the setting up of a Young People's consultation/implementation group. A copy of the strategy - that Caring Town commissioned TRAYE project to research and draft – is attached separately with this report.



Moor Trees 25th anniversary event 4th July'25 – I attended. They have produced an interesting impact report – copies available at this link; <https://moortrees.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MT-Impact-Report-2025-spreads-lo-res.pdf>

The July edition of the Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) newsletter: [Devon Resilience Innovation Project \(DRIP\) newsletter](#) DRIP is a project running from 2021-2027, working with 19 partners in 36 communities across Devon to increase community flood resilience. For more information about DRIP please see their website: [Home - Devon Resilience Innovation Project](#). More information about the specific projects we are running in communities can also be made available.

Public Consultation on Flooding. Closes 29th July at 11.59pm

DEFRA are seeking views on our proposals for changing the way flood and coastal erosion projects are funded. They are proposing to stop using the current funding formula entirely and replace it with a simple 2-step process. We would like to mainstream investment in natural flood management and make better use of property flood resilience measures. Most projects in delivery from April 2026 will use the new funding rules.

“As part of the consultation [‘Reforming our approach to floods funding’](#) there are links below to register for some webinars that Defra are running on the consultation. The webinars will provide an overview of our proposed approach to floods funding and the two associated Calls for Evidence. There will be opportunity for you to ask questions and give informal feedback. Please note that any feedback which you would like to be considered in response to the consultation should be submitted through the link [here](#) and above as feedback given in these webinars will not be analysed as official responses.

There will be 3 webinars – (all the same). You can attend as many as you wish. To register your attendance, please click the link(s) below. When registering, you will be required to let us know your name, contact email, and organisation name (or if you are attending as an individual member of the public). (webinar 1 has passed)

[Webinar Two](#) – Thursday 10 July, 14:00-14:50. [Webinar Three](#) – Monday 21 July, 14:00-14:50”

The Government has decided to abolish Healthwatch Network. They have issued the following:

"Healthwatch Stakeholder Briefing - National Review on Patient Safety Published"

For Information – The latest Review of Patient Safety Across the Health and Care Landscape, commissioned by DHSC and run by Dr Penny Dash, has been published, with key details highlighted below:

- *The report calls for a more strategic, streamlined, and accountable approach to delivering safe, high-quality care and highlights the complexity of the current system.*
- *It recommends reducing duplication, improving user experience, and placing patients at the centre of care decisions.*
- *Notably, it proposes disbanding and restructuring Local Healthwatch, merging its core feedback-gathering and user engagement functions into Integrated Care Boards and local authorities.*
- *It also recommends transferring Healthwatch England's strategic role to a new Directorate for Patient Experience within DHSC to embed patient voice more directly in national policy.*
- *The Government has accepted all recommendations and will pass legislation to enable it 'when time allows'.*

A link to the full review, a summary of what it means, and our response is available to read [online via our Healthwatch website](#). The changes will take time, so until then we remain in place and continue to champion local voices in health and care. We'll keep you informed of any key updates throughout and are extremely grateful for all of the support we've received so far."