

County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date: 1st June 2026
Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington
Cabinet Member for Climate & Biodiversity (incl. Public Transport)
(division incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)
South Hams District Councillor for Dartington & Staverton - SHDC Chairperson

Devon County Council (DCC) key issues:

Full Council 29.05.26

3 Cabinet Member's reports to Full Council were presented

Cabinet Member for Finance & Public Value annual report (Cllr James Buczkowski):

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s55167/REPORT%20OF%20THE%20CABINET%20MEMBER%20FOR%20FINANCE%20AND%20PUBLIC%20VALUE%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

Cabinet Member for Children's Services annual report (Cllr Richard Jefferies):

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s55165/Cabinet%20Member%20report%20for%20Childrens%20Services%20-%20Social%20Services.pdf>

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Biodiversity & Transport annual report (Cllr Jacqi Hodgson):

https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s55164/Cabinet%20Member%20Report_Climate%20Change%20Bio%20Diversity%20Transport%20May%2026.pdf

My covering statement presented to Full Council is attached with this report

Cabinet Meeting, 20th May'26:

Endorsement of the UNESCO Biosphere Strategy for North Devon;

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s55118/Appendix%20A%20Biosphere%20Strategy%202026-2036%20version%20for%20adoption.pdf>

Libraries-Update. The outcome of the public consultation about the future of libraries, feedback and next steps was discussed. Over 25,000 responses had been received to the consultation and clearly many people felt very strongly about their local libraries. Further to this a small working group had produced a vision statement, a Transformation Impact Assessment and 3 options for going forward.

The vision is at this link:

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s55132/APPENDIX%20B%20Vision%20for%20Devons%20Libraries%20FINAL.pdf>

Transformation Impact Assessment:

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s55133/APPENDIX%20D%20Future%20Library%20Service%20Transformation%20Impact%20Assessment%20May26.pdf>

The following was agreed:

- (a) that the feedback from the library consultation, particularly in relation to recommendations regarding service change or development, be noted;
- (b) that the Council's *Vision for Devon's Libraries* be agreed and to further note emerging key themes and opportunity for further development;
- (c) that following a review of the evidence presented and debate, option C be agreed in relation to weekly staffed opening hours: *(Option C – No reductions to weekly opening hours, retain weekly opening hours at 1,294 per week. No immediate change to the current schedule. Review the data from the consultation to determine if any changes are necessary to individual libraries that better suit local needs. This option will require an additional revenue budget of £500,000 per annum).*
- (d) that the area groupings and bandings as a way to categorise libraries be removed;
- (e) that the programme of Open+ implementation, to enable extended library access and to support staffed hours be noted;
- (f) that the development of a new Volunteer Strategy, working with Libraries Unlimited to develop an enhanced recruitment campaign and support programme for Library Volunteers, to enable extended library access and to support staffed hours be agreed;
- (g) that the development of a new model of Partnership Libraries, working with local councils, charities and other bodies utilising the £1,000,000 Libraries Transformation and Rural Hub Fund be agreed;

- (h) that a further £100,000 in the council’s Book Fund each year for the financial years (2026-27 and 2027-28) be invested;
- (i) that the collection of overdue book fines in Devon’s libraries be stopped from 1st October 2026;
- (j) that delegated authority for the £1,000,000 Library Transformation and Rural Hub Fund be given to the Council’s Library Transformation Programme with budget spend sign off to the Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Broadband and the Cabinet member for Finance in consultation with, the Director of Finance and Public Value and the Director of Public Health and Communities.

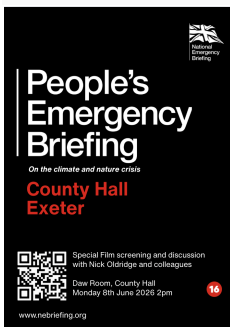
Pothole Trial: Report on the “Council’s recent Pothole Repair Trial, ran from 15th September – 31st October 2025. During the trial, an enhanced level of service had been delivered when identifying and repairing potholes that didn’t meet the safety criteria outlined within DCC’s Highway Safety Policy. The trial took place in the Electoral Divisions (EDs) of Hatherleigh & Chagford, and Barnstaple South.

Aside from repairing the safety defects, the Council also proactively repaired emerging, localised non-safety or ‘serviceability’ defects when resources permitted this. This approach recognised the efficiency and wider benefits of addressing such issues whilst operatives, equipment, and materials were already on site, therefore aiming to save resources in the longer term.

The initial trial findings were reported as well as how the trial was publicised and the impact on resources such as the highways safety inspectors and operational repair teams as well as costs, quality and safety.

It had been concluded that there had been clear successes with the trial, with lots of additional work done and they recommended that, in view of the success of the initial trial, a second extended 12 month trial, be undertaken; and that a 6 month interim trial progress report be brought to this Committee.

An Impact Assessment had been prepared and could be found at [Pothole Repair Trial 2025 – Future Considerations - Impact Assessment](#). This highlighted that whilst the trial delivered clear benefits, it was also clear that in its current format it was not scalable. Improvements to the network were thus not considered to have negative equality impacts.”



Screening of People’s Emergency Briefing at Devon County Council for County Councillors and Staff. 8th June 2026

This is the film made after the National Emergency Briefing was presented to over 1,000 people in Westminster last November. That audience included MPs, Members of the House of Lords and various other politicians as well as business people etc. This film has Chris Packham watching short summaries of the expert presentations made in Westminster and then in discussion with various people and small groups to ascertain how they felt and how they would react after these key presentations of the facts of the climate emergency. It makes very interesting viewing. This film is available free to

anyone who would like to host a public screening with a Q&A etc. The weblink also has a full set of resources and information to help anyone who would like to do this: [National Emergency Briefing](#)

To follow on from this screening at DCC, I have also arranged for monthly lunchtime briefings with key officer teams on the different topics of the Devon Carbon Plan to be provided to Councillors to encourage them to become advocates to their residents.

Extending the South Devon National Landscape

Further to my enquiries with officers, seeking consideration of an extension of the South Devon National Landscape between Dartmouth and Buckfastleigh, I have received a briefing from the Senior officer for Environment at Devon County council. Totnes Town Council have supported this request for consideration of an extension as this would provide more protection of the River Dart and the surrounding area for wildlife dependent on this important wildlife corridor and the associated corridors along feed in streams etc. The Briefing is attached. **I would welcome views from other Parish Councils in this division.**

Sale of Land at KEVICC. I was sent a letter dated 20th May from Alan Salt, Headmaster at KEVICC stating that the Secretary of State has given permission for the sites at the school estate can be sold. These are the Elmthirst lands and the Sheep Field. As the site was designated an ACV (Asset of Community Value) there is a 6 week period from that date during which any community or public interest organisation can lodge an expression of interest in the sale of any of the sites and that would trigger a 6 month moratorium on any sale to provide an opportunity for a community benefit sale. However, this does not mean that the seller has to take a lower offer once the 6-month period has elapsed.

Every year, the Council send out a Parent's Childcare Survey to parents living in Devon to find out information about their use of childcare. Here is this year's [Parents Childcare Survey](#), please complete it yourself if you are a parent of a child or young person.

To achieve a good representative response please also share it with the families that you work with, your friends and your family. Please post this on your website, in your newsletter and on social media platforms:

Have you completed the Devon Parents Childcare Survey?

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ParentsSurveySummer2026/>

It's important...your answers help to ensure that there is enough childcare in Devon!

The Early Years and Childcare Service thank you for your time.

The more replies we receive the clearer we can be about what childcare is needed, at what times, in which places and for specific ages of children. **The closing date is Sunday 14 June.** The responses, once analysed, can inform the business plans of those who wish to expand existing provision or set up new services. Our service matches the supply and demand to establish where there are insufficient places.

Twenty's Plenty where people live, work, play and go to school – update

Last September, DCC Full Council approved the following in response to my tabling a motion seeking adoption of a 20's Plenty policy across Devon:

Full Council agreed:

(a) that the Authority through the Transport capital Program continues to invest in the highest priority requests from communities;

(b) that the Authority will have a more proactive approach and continue to work with any community that wishes to see a new 20mph speed limit introduced, where it will be beneficial to road safety and sustainable travel, and if communities wish to self-fund their own speed limit;

(c) that the Community Self-Delivery Guide for Works on the Highway is amended to provide more advice to communities on the cost process for the new 20 mile an hour limits; and step by step guidance;

(d) that the website page on Working with Communities is updated to contain the revised Community Self-Delivery Guide for Works on the Highway, and that a communication is sent round to all town and parish councils, advising of the changes and inviting town and parish councils to consider if this may be of interest to their communities; and

(e) that taking into account the previous scrutiny recommendations in relation to the 20 is plenty programme and the Parish Councils who have already self-funded a programme, best endeavours will be taken for officers to review both of those programmes successes and performance within the next 12 months which could include a new speed limit policy, and take a report to the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny committee.

Further to which I put together some basic information that I remain hopeful will be formally posted on DCC website to assist Town and Parish Councils that wish to implement some 20mph speed limits in their Town or Parish: In the meantime, this essentially is the procedure:

The requirements for Town & Parish (T&P) Councils that wish to participate

DCC will welcome expressions of interest in participating in the scheme, but prior to any formal application for DCC to consider and to be eligible for DCC support to take forward a 20mph area scheme in their parishes T&P Councils would need to have carried out the following:

- Approved at P/T.Council the 20's Plenty motion
- Develop and provide a map of the area(s) they wish to have 20mph speed limits imposed
- Complete & provide the current DCC questionnaire for scoring
- Carry out a parish wide local public consultation and poll on support for their proposal- achieving at least 50% support of the respondents
- Agree to pay the cost of the Design & Safety audit work for their scheme and provide evidence of how this would be funded (e.g. via ring fenced precept funds, potentially via a rise of over a couple of years).

The next steps would be that DCC would

A Check and confirm if the application is eligible or advise on issues that could be of concern.

B Contact the T/PC and put them in contact with the Design / Safety Audit team initially for a quote that would be the basis of the contract for an SLA to take their local scheme forward (via the usual route, allocation of DCC funds, HATOC etc)

20mph speed reductions in Totnes – update

I have this week received assurance that within the next two weeks, I will receive, the draft proposals and mapped drawings prepared to be issued for public consultation. If those receive public support, this will then go forward for implementation across the town (under the DCC safety budget, not town funded)

Totnes Old Bridge – options to improve safety. Meetings with DCC officers are continuing

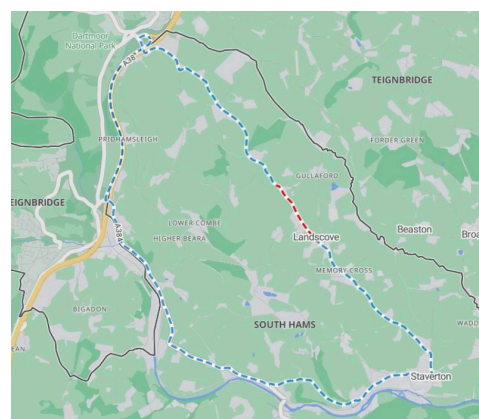
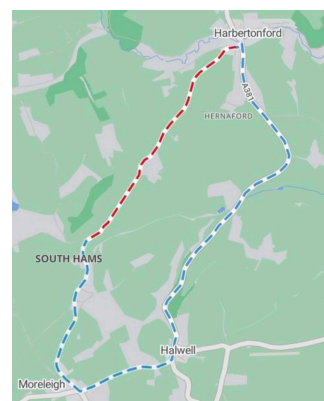
Pedestrian Crossing at top of Bridgetown Hill. An interim report of progress with be brought to South Hams HATOC on Friday 10th July

Road Works

Temporary Traffic Notice - Temporary Traffic Notice - MORELEIGH ROAD, HERNAFORD CROSS TO SPANISH LANE END & HERNAFORD CROSS TO SPANISH LANE END, Harberton (TTRO2670342)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC; DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2026 for a maximum of 5 days Until SUNDAY 19 JULY 2026 (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 07:00 and 19:00 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - MORELEIGH ROAD, HERNAFORD CROSS TO SPANISH LANE END & HERNAFORD CROSS TO SPANISH LANE END, HARBERTONFORD/HALWELL

The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - WATER LANE, UNNAMED ROAD, A3122, CHURCH STREET, A381, UNNAMED ROAD & VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - RESURFACING WORKS. For additional information contact: KIELY BROS. Telephone: 01823 215253

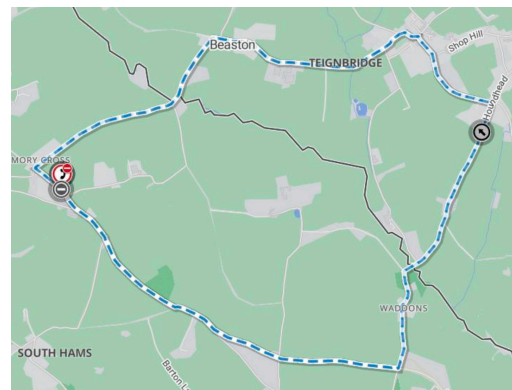
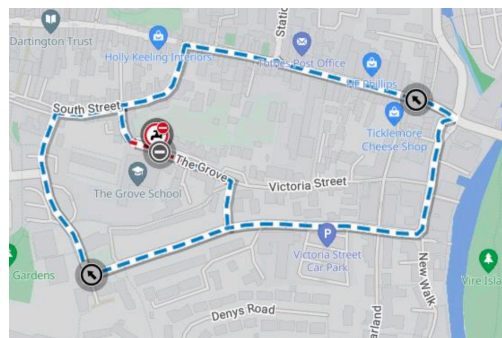


Temporary Traffic Notice - THORNECROFT CROSS TO CHURCH CROSS & CHURCH CROSS TO MEMORY CROSS, Staverton (TTRO2670293)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From SUNDAY 12 JULY 2026 for a maximum of 5 days Until THURSDAY 16 JULY 2026 (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 07:00 and 19:00 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - THORNECROFT CROSS TO CHURCH CROSS & CHURCH CROSS TO MEMORY CROSS, LANDSCOVE/ASHBURTON The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - CABBAGE HILL ,(JUST OF A38 JUNCTION), PARKFIELD CROSS , CHURCH CROSS BY SCHOOL JUNCTION , WOLLSTON GREEN , STAVERTON, SANDY LANE CROSS. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - SURFACE DRESSING. Additional info: KIELY BROS Tel: 01823 215253

Temporary Traffic Notice - THE GROVE, Totnes (TTRO2670010).

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2026 for a maximum of 5 days Until WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2026 (both dates inclusive) No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - THE GROVE, TOTNES , NEAR THE GROVE SCHOOL TO JUNCTION OF GROVE CLOSE The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via – DIVERSION 1: SOUTH STREET, LEECHWELL LANE, HEATH WAY & ST KATHERINES WAY. DIVERSION 2: ST KATHERINES WAY, THE PLAINS, FORE STREET & SOUTH STREET. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - NEW WATER CONNECTION For additional information contact: SOUTH WEST WATER Tel: 0344 346 2020



Temporary Traffic Notice - MEMORY CROSS TO FURSDON CROSS, Staverton (TTRO2670156)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2026 for a maximum of 5 days Until WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026 (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - MEMORY CROSS TO FURSDON CROSS, STAVERTON The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - MEMORY CROSS TO NUMBER 10 MEMORY CROSS, MEMORY CROSS TO PORTBRIDGE COTTAGE, BEASTON CROSS TO PORTBRIDGE CROSS, BEASTON CROSS TO CHAPEL COTTAGE, METHODIST CHURCH CROSS TO POST OFFICE, POST OFFICE TO STOOP CROSS, ROUGHLANDS TO THE GABLES, VICARAGE CROSS TO BOW CROSS, WADDONS CROSS TO BOW BRIDGE, MOOTHILL CROSS TO WADDONS CROSS, MOOTHILLCROSS TO CROSS SOUTH OF ALLWYN & VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - POLE REPLACEMENT For additional information contact: CIRCET Tel: 07714443995

Temporary Traffic Notice - LEECHWELL STREET, Totnes (TTRO2670012)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2026 for a maximum of 21 days Until FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026 (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected – LEECHWELL STREET, TOTNES , JUNCTION OF HIGH STREET TO ROTHERFOLD THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - PROVIDE DUCTING FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE For additional information contact: SUNBELT RENTALS Telephone: 03700 500792



South Hams Matters:

Sustainable South Hams in conjunction with South Hams District Council Rally For Nature starts this Friday 5th June 2026

A day of big ideas, enlivening conversations and enriching workshops – hosted by Rally for Nature, a Sustainable South Hams project.

Join Sustainable South Hams and Rally for Nature as we host Moor Understanding, the first day of Dartmoor Dynamic Landscape's Rivers and Moorlands Festival in Ivybridge.

Come along and listen to talks, watch short films, ask questions, share ideas, join workshops, meet your community, connect to nature and reflect on some big questions like:



Time	Screening Room	BEESON SUITE	ATRIUM/LIBRARY	OTHER LOCATIONS
9-11 AM				8am-9am CANOPY (Longford Woods) (Open to all ages)
11:30 AM				11am-4pm Making Workshops for Parishes (Watermark Hall) (Open to all ages)
12 PM		12:00-12:30pm WORKSHOP: How do we really 'know' nature?		12-1:30pm TALK: Forest bathing with Henry & Stefan (Longford Woods)
1 PM				
1:30 PM	1:30-2:00pm TALK: Devon's Remaining Nature	1:30-2:00pm WORKSHOP: How do we really 'know' nature?		1:30-3pm Volunteering with Plymouth LHA (Tweek Hall) (Open to all ages)
2 PM	1:45-2:30pm PANEL: Food & Nature			2-4pm Natural Journeys with Helen (Avalon) (The Gap) (Open to all ages)
2:30 PM				2:30pm Open Farmer's Market (Watermark Hall)
3 PM				3-4pm TALK: Myths & Legends of Dartmoor with Anna Coxon (The Gap)
3:30 PM	3-4pm TALK: Electronic Music for Nature			3:30-5pm Volunteering with Plymouth LHA (Tweek Hall)
4 PM			1-7pm EXHIBITION: Come and speak to us about nature. Community groups to help shape the future of nature.	4pm-4:30pm Creative Workshops (Library)
4:30 PM	4:30-5:45pm WORKSHOP: What is the 'right' of nature?	4:30-5:45pm WORKSHOP: How do we really 'know' nature?		
5 PM				5-6pm Nature Dining with Helen (Avalon) (The Gap)
5:30 PM				5:30pm TALK: Longfellow Tales (Watermark)
6 PM				
6:30 PM	6-7pm TALK: Open Spaces			6:30-8pm Community Workshop for the Parishes (Watermark Hall)
7 PM	6:30-7pm PANEL: Dartmoor's Pastures			
7:30 PM				7:30-8:30pm TALK: Dartmoor's Pastures with Helen (Avalon) (The Gap)

What does a healthy river look like?

How can we speak up for nature?

What can we do to care for the places that care for us?

Together we will help build a shared understanding of Dartmoor, spark new connections and get inspired to take action for the landscape we love.

Special notice about youth session from 16.15pm in the Beeson Room and the Watermark. We're writing to invite your staff and any young people you work with to [a workshop and film screening in Ivybridge this Friday the 5th of June.](#)

In the Making is a short film produced by the Transition Network Youth Circle. The film follows young people across the UK who are navigating their own unique paths and driving social change. Attendees will have the chance to see the film and discuss what it means for South Devon. Led by local youth leaders Brad Barrass and Izzy Barrett, this workshop will explore what local young people really care about, what genuinely youth-led environmental action looks like and what it requires from the adults and institutions that work alongside young people.

[Book tickets for the day here](#) and check out the other events in our programme. We hope to see you there!

Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement (TRAYE) project AGM Saturday 4th July 11am -2pm Staverton Court Room, Staverton. TQ9 6PD. All parish and town Councils participating in TRAYE project are welcome to be represented with up to two delegates at this meeting. Please **RSVP** to confirm attendance.