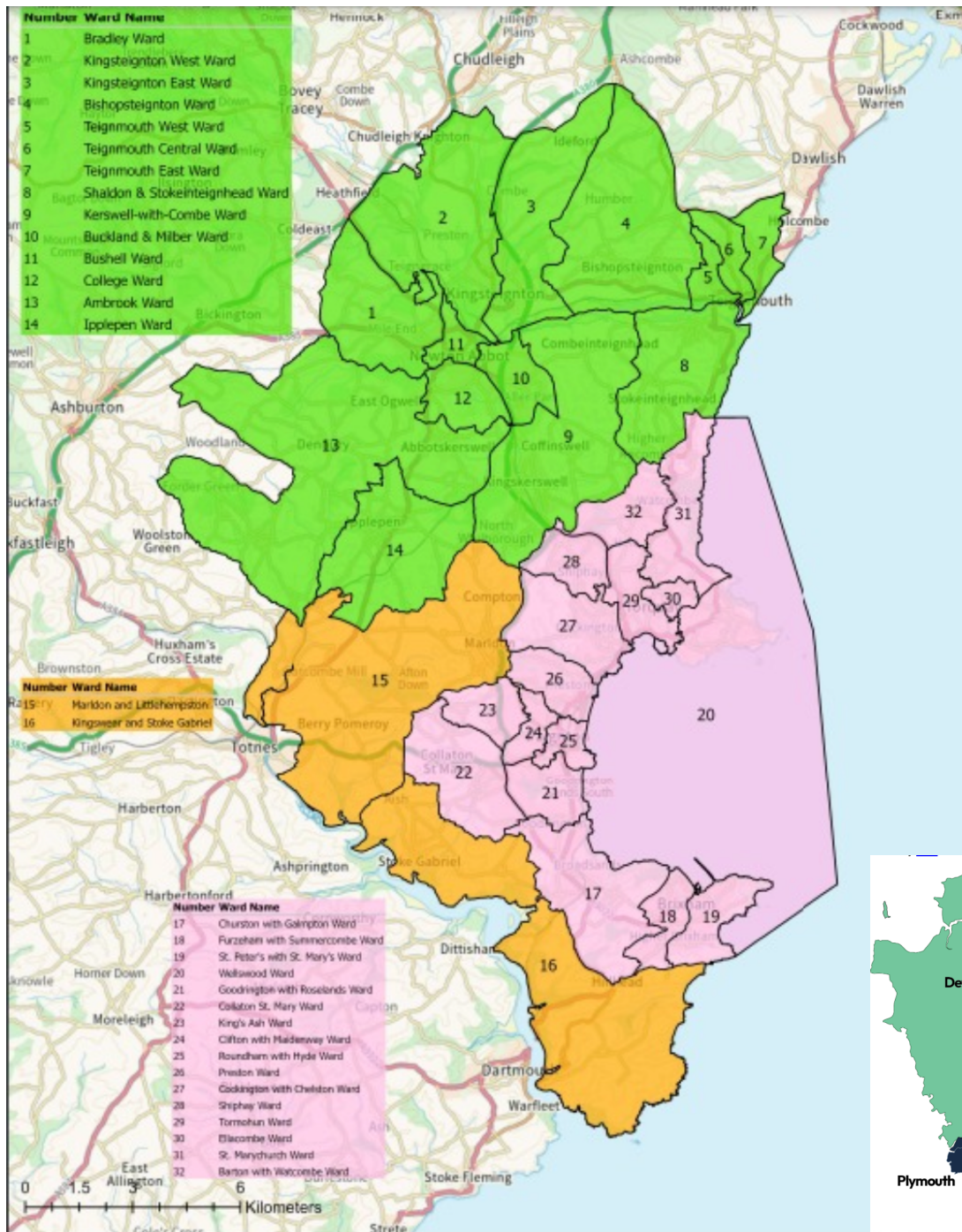


County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date: September 2026
Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington
Cabinet Member for Climate & Biodiversity (incl. Public Transport)
(division incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & Bridgetown part of Berry Pomeroy)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

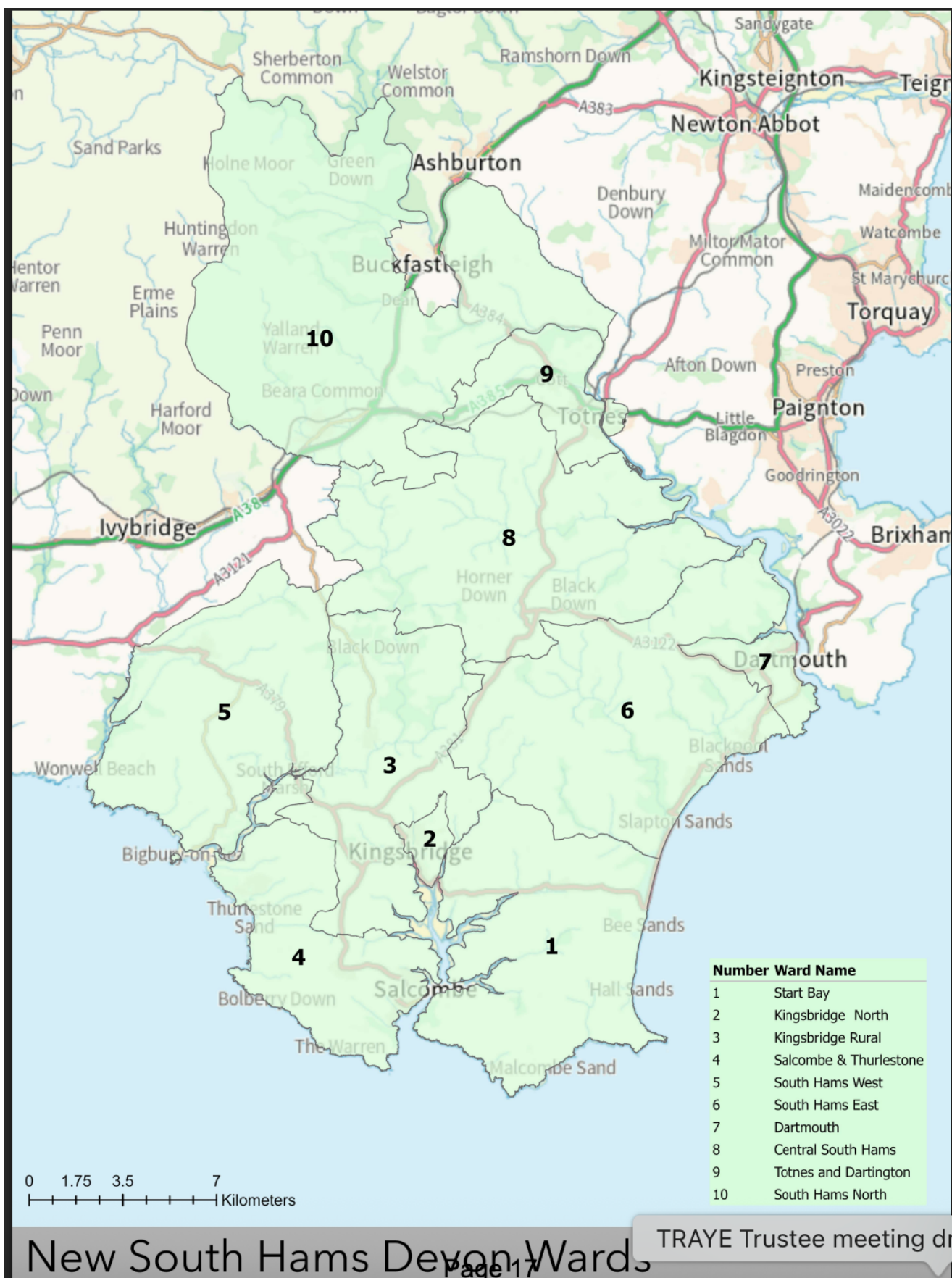
Devon County Council (DCC) key issues:

Local Government Reorganisation. On Friday 14th August a special Full Council Meeting was held to provide a briefing and discuss the Government's proposed Warding arrangements for the 4 new Unitaries in Devon. Further to which DCC Cabinet held a special meeting that afternoon to agree a response to the Government regarding their proposed Unitaries and the proposed Wards where irregular choices had been made and issues had been raised.



New Wards in Expanded Torbay

Page 25



The briefing to Full Council highlighted that a full boundary review would be likely to be conducted by the LGBCE (Local Government Boundary Commission) within the first term of the new authorities. The LGBCE Guidance was also set out including electoral equality, reflecting local communities and interests and facilitating effective and convenient local government with wards being coherent and using identifiable boundaries.

At that Full Council, Members raised a range of concerns and requests for clarification related to community identity, local boundary anomalies, democratic representation, future electoral review processes, the practical implications of transition for residents, including access to services and clarity regarding opportunities to make representations and how local concerns would be reflected in submissions to Government.

In terms of community identity and boundary coherence, concern was expressed that some proposed ward boundaries did not adequately reflect established communities, local identities and existing relationships between settlements. On proposed unitary authority boundaries, references were made to areas such as Ottery St Mary and West Hill, and Totnes.

Members commented that the Combined Devon Warding document was difficult to interpret, however noted at the briefing this was the format requested by Government, as was not clear this referred to the proposed new wards. Members asked questions on the proposed elector to councillor ratios across the proposed authorities, and variations therein and their relationship to equitable democratic representation, notwithstanding the constraints of the Government's timetable and requirements.

Average elector to member ratios presented were:

Unitary	Electors	Members (Councillors)	Ratio
Torbay and South Devon	167,103	64	1:2,610
Exeter	188,449	86	1:2,191
Devon	359,906	103	1:3,494
Plymouth	230,689	68	1:3,392

Members also raised questions regarding the practical implications of Local Government Reorganisation for residents, particularly where services may be delivered across future authority boundaries, with examples of schools and care homes, but it was noted that detailed assessment work was underway to identify potential impacts and affected communities.

Following the briefing, two further representations had been raised, related to the proposed boundary between the new Devon Rural authority and the expanded Torbay authority and the proposal for a new Stoke Gabriel and Berry Pomeroy Ward (Berry Pomeroy, Littlehempston and Stoke Gabriel) which would transfer from the proposed Torbay area into Devon Rural, leaving Kingswear and Marldon remaining within the expanded Torbay authority.

The second sought clarification on historic debt, payment thereof, impact on residents and council tax bills. Two further concerns were highlighted on demographic representation and how the proposals would improve local democracy and then highways and the challenge of sufficient funding, staffing and local accountability to maintain Devon's extensive rural highway network.

A third representation had been submitted after the printing of the summary and reflected the compressed timelines and pressure on staff, concern over resourcing, the democratic deficit and councillor workload, financial sustainability and risk to assets.

At the Cabinet meeting that followed, further concerns were raised regarding demographic deficit, impacts on assets, the estimated £80-90M these changes might cost and the pace at which all of Devon had been required to respond to the Government's decision and proposals. I raised the issue regarding the impact on Totnes and Dartington division, the concerns that residents had raised in a public meeting in Berry Pomeroy regarding the proposed split at the top of Bridgetown and highlighted that the proposed warding arrangements, particularly in rural areas, would undermine effective local representation, divide established communities and link together areas with little natural connection. I emphasised the strength of feeling expressed by many residents.

The following motion was proposed by the Leader, Cllr Julian Brazil and duly seconded:

That Cabinet

(a) note, but due to the democratic deficit it creates, do not endorse the response to be submitted by Devon County Council to Government, by the 17th August 2026, regarding interim warding arrangements for the proposed successor authorities arising from Local Government Reorganisation in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay and Exeter; and

(b) that it be further noted that final decisions on councillor numbers, initial electoral arrangements and the content of the Structural Changes Order rest with the Secretary of State and Parliament.

The MOTION was put to the vote and declared CARRIED

The detailed information about these government proposals and new Warding can be found at this link to the Cabinet papers of 14th August 2026:

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=5552&Ver=4>

The changes in Wards affecting this Totnes & Dartington division are as follows:

Town / Parish	New Ward	Parishes in the new Ward	No. of Councillors
Totnes	Totnes & Dartington (Devon Unitary)	Totnes Dartington	2 Councillors electors
Dartington			
Berry Pomeroy	Marldon & Littlehempston (Torbay & South Devon Unitary)	Marldon Berry Pomeroy Littlehempston	1 Councillor
Staverton	South Hams North (Devon Unitary)	Buckfastleigh West Dean Prior Holne. Rattery South Brent Staverton	1 Councillor
Harberton	Central South Hams (Devon Unitary)	Ashprington. Cornworthy. Halwell & Moreleigh. Harberton North Huish	1 Councillor

As previously reported, Devon County Council Cabinet has raised significant concerns about this decision. It is not democratic. It estimates the costs could be a least £90M which is not being funded by government. It divides up the county very unfairly in terms of long-term economics. The impact on many vulnerable people and low economy families on the large rural area is likely to create further hardship. The boundaries of the new Unitary are very clumsy and do not reflect the sense of place and identity that many old towns and their associated villages have had and developed over the centuries. Progress continues in the potential case for a Judicial review against the government's decision.

It is my personal view that changes to the management and delivery of public services should build better systems, not destroy. These proposals will destroy the systems we have in place. That the outcomes of the public consultation has been essentially ignored is a disgrace. The failure to take account of the public's clear views and then carve out the economic areas, the cities, leaving a misshapen rural area that has been stripped of its coherence, will undermine the future of all of Devon.

In the last few days there have been reports of reconsideration by the government as reported in the East Devon Owl. Apparently, Rebecca Smith MP (South Devon) has been in communication with Andy Burnham PM. It is reported that he has stated that he is prepared to look again at reorganisation. "I am prepared to look at local government reorganisation – I'll ask the communities secretary to do that. Where possible we need as much consent as we can get – if she's telling me we need to work harder to find that then I'm always

prepared to do what I can". **East Devon Owl** has provided links from their blog for more information about this: <https://eastdevonwatch.org/2026/09/04/urgent-devon-reorganisation-please-let-andy-and-angie-have-your-views/>

Caroline Voaden invited residents to sign her petition to Government to reconsider these Unitary proposals as being undemocratic and a disaster for Devon. She reported that all the non-Labour MPs in Devon have also organised similar petitions that will be taken to parliament when it reopens in September. The petition is at this link: <https://www.carolinevoaden.com/>

Devon Rural Deprivation Partnership. I have joined this new advisory group which has been set up as a partnership of Devon Communities Together, Local Councillors, health officials etc. The purpose of this group is to:

"Provide strategic leadership and oversight to improve health, wellbeing and opportunity for people living in Devon's rural and coastal communities, reducing rural inequalities by improving how partners understand need, target investment, design services and work with communities.

The Advisory Group will support better rural intelligence; identification of pockets of rural deprivation; more effective targeting of resources; integrated local delivery; stronger community leadership and measurable improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes.

The Advisory Group recognises that rural and coastal communities face distinct and often hidden challenges, including limited access to services, transport barriers, housing affordability, digital exclusion, social isolation and rural deprivation.

The Advisory Group will champion approaches that are responsive to the realities of rural life. It will work collaboratively across organisations and sectors to identify and address the factors that influence health and wellbeing, strengthen the building blocks of health such as housing, employment, connectivity and community resilience, and ensure that investment, policy and service design promote fair and equitable access to support. Through this work, the Group will help reduce inequalities, increase visibility of rural and coastal needs, and create opportunities for people and communities across Devon to thrive.

The Advisory Group will support the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board in the development of work on the Rural Areas and Access to Services priorities, including helping the board understanding key issues, mapping and connecting existing cross-sector partnerships and organisations, developing recommendations for action, and monitoring impact and outcomes."

As a member of the Healthwatch Board, which is also a partnership organisation, I will be able to work across these two groups offering the benefits of networking and sharing information that can reach deeper into where it can potentially make a difference.



Temporary changes to GWR services in Devon from 07.09.26

The GWR Class 175 trains were introduced to replace the ageing Castle Class HST fleet and provide a more reliable, higher-capacity and environmentally sustainable railway for Devon and Cornwall. However, technical issues and the extent of work required to return trains to service have affected reliability, leading to an increased number of delays and cancellations. To provide greater certainty for passengers, GWR have introduced a small number of temporary timetable reductions and modifications from 7 September while a comprehensive improvement programme is implemented, including enhanced testing, stricter reliability checks and a dedicated technical team working to resolve the issues and restore a full timetable as quickly as possible. A copy of the revised timetable with the changes highlighted is attached to this report. Information can be found online at www.GWR.com/check

Bus Service changes announced from 30th August '26. Some changes have been announced to some services coming from Exeter. However, these do not affect services in this area. In case they might be of interest or assistance to anyone, I have attached the details as a separate document with this report

Asian Hornet and Public Awareness

Concerns and questions have been raised with myself and Devon County Council regarding the Asian Hornet. In light of the recent increase in sightings across southern England, including confirmed nests in Dorset and previous detections in Devon, Devon County Council will continue to work with partners through the LNRS, the Devon Local Nature Partnership, local councils, beekeeping organisations and national agencies to encourage public vigilance, promote reporting through established channels, and ensure that relevant staff and contractors have access to appropriate identification and safety guidance.

DCC recognises the threat posed by the yellow-legged Asian hornet through the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), which identifies the species as an invasive non-native predator of bees and other pollinators and highlights the importance of reporting sightings and preventing establishment. The Council also works through the Devon Local Nature Partnership and the Devon Invasive Species Initiative, both of which support awareness-raising, species recording, mapping, stakeholder engagement and the promotion of biosecurity measures relating to invasive non-native species. In July 2024 the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) issued an "Asian hornet awareness in Devon" briefing highlighting the risks posed by the species to pollinators, biodiversity, and public safety. The briefing encouraged councils to promote identification and reporting, share information with communities, circulate safety guidance for outdoor workers, and make use of resources produced by the British Beekeepers' Association. It also highlighted the availability of local beekeepers to provide awareness sessions and presentations.

Devon Invasive Species Initiative: <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/knowledge-hub/invasive-species/>

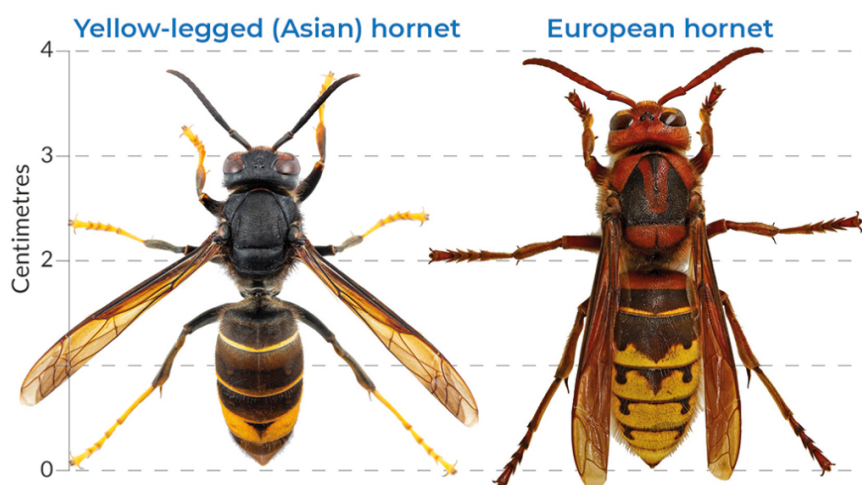
The Core Threat

Pollinator Destruction: A single established Asian hornet nest can consume up to 11 kilograms (24 pounds) of beneficial insects—roughly 90,000 pollinators, including honeybees—in a single season.

Current Situation: The UK is seeing an increasing trend in sightings and nests. Authorities are transitioning towards high-tech containment, such as tagging hornets with electronic radio transmitters to track them to hidden nests

Report an Asian hornet sighting!

Download the **Asian Hornet Watch** app or report online



- Head dark from above
- Thorax dark brown/black
- Dark abdomen except for 4th segment
- Brown legs with yellow ends

- Larger than Asian hornets
- Yellow band across the head
- Abdomen yellow with black stripes
- Brown/amber legs

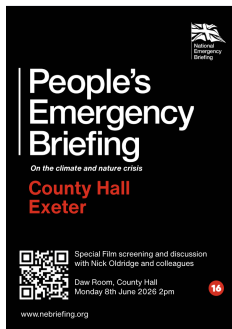
Direct Action if you see an Asian Hornet:

Take a Photo: This is vital for verification.

Report via App: Use the free official Asian Hornet Watch app (available on Apple and Android) to instantly log your GPS location and submit media.

Reporting: Send an email with location data and photos to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Climate Emergency: I was asked a question at DCC Full Council further to the extreme weather and multiple heatwaves of this summer. My reply including the following points



People's Emergency Briefing film – further to my request to DCC, 7 facilitated screenings with Q&A at County Hall across the summer were arranged and attended by 343 staff and Councillors. This includes nearly all of the Directors of services and their senior officers.

Devon County Council has stated that it recognises the value of the People's Emergency Briefing in prompting discussion about the climate and nature crisis, which are clear priorities for this administration. The Call asks the Government to stage a prime-time briefing across the main television channels, delivered by independent experts and

supported by the UK's Chief Scientific Adviser, to explain the nature and scale of the climate and nature threats facing the UK, why those threats matter to people's lives and livelihoods, and how government, business and society can respond constructively. The organisers emphasise that this is not a request for a party political statement or for the People's Emergency Briefing film to be shown on television. It is a call for clear, evidence-based public communication on risks to food security, health, infrastructure, the economy and national security. One hundred and fifty MPs have supported the Call, and there is already significant support from Devon's MPs; of the ten MPs whose constituencies cover Devon, five have already supported it.

GRACE, is an online national scoring scheme of all council's activity on climate change implemented by Climate Emergency UK – a campaigning group. The scoring system is far from perfect. Nonetheless, the Climate and Sustainability Team reviews DCC's score each year. DCC are usually the second-best performing County Council behind Oxfordshire.

Local Emergency Planning. Communities wanting to develop local plans after screenings can use the Devon Climate Emergency website, which includes resources for individuals, communities, organisations and local councils, and practical "top tips". Town and parish council resources include guidance on local climate action plans, community carbon footprints, and using local issues such as flooding, traffic, development or access to services as starting points for wider community conversations. Community emergency planning guidance and templates are available and promoted by the Devon Community Resilience Forum project run by Devon Communities Together with support from Devon County Council, alongside the Devon Emergency Planning Partnership, flood warning and resilience advice, seasonal severe weather guidance and weather alert services. DALC helps town and parish councils use these resources and share information locally. Around 120 communities have emergency plans, and a further 20 have recently been helped by the Devon Community Resilience Forum to prepare or update plans. This is good progress, and more plans are needed so that every community can consider its response to severe weather and other emergencies.

Devon Highways also supports local self-help through schemes including the Road Warden Scheme, Snow Warden Scheme, Flood Warden Scheme, Parish Paths Partnership and Life on the Verge, helping local councils and community groups take practical, locally led action to maintain paths, manage verges, support winter resilience and reduce local flood risk. All Councillors are encouraged to highlight the importance of community preparedness and the availability of these resources to town and parish councils.

Recent extreme weather has reinforced the need to continue applying learning to service planning. For example, a heat-health workshop is being planned for September to review this summer's response and identify longer-term adaptations as extreme heat becomes more frequent. The Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) is also improving community flood resilience through community engagement, natural flood management, digital warning and monitoring tools, spatial planning tools, property flood resilience support and development of an online Flood Hub. This week's Working and Adapting Together for Environmental Resilience DRIP conference has brought together landowners, farmers, parish councils, community groups, environmental organisations, flood and climate professionals and researchers to share practical learning, local case studies and partnership approaches to flood and climate resilience.

Devon is due a full Local Area SEND inspection during the autumn term. This is a joint inspection undertaken by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and focuses on how effectively education, health and care services work together to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those in Alternative Provision.

As valued partners within Devon's SEND system, schools and settings play a crucial role in helping inspectors understand the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND and their families. To support schools and settings in understanding the Local Area SEND inspection process, we have included below a link to a briefing delivered in July by a former SEND inspector. The session provides a helpful overview of the inspection framework, key areas of focus and how schools and settings may be involved during an inspection. [Watch the July briefing for education settings.](#)

A key part of the inspection process is gathering feedback from:

Children and young people with SEND

Parents and carers

Practitioners, including education staff.

Inspectors use this feedback, alongside other inspection evidence, to understand lived experiences across the local area and to inform their lines of enquiry.

How you can help Once we receive formal notification of the inspection, we will ask all schools, settings and services to:

Share the inspection survey links promptly with parents/carers, pupils (where appropriate) and staff.

Encourage participation so that as many voices as possible are heard.

Use your usual communication channels to promote the surveys and raise awareness of the inspection.

Please note that there will be a short window of approximately six days for survey responses to be submitted, so your support in sharing information quickly will be greatly appreciated.

We will provide further details, including survey links and key information, as soon as we receive notification of the inspection.

Thank you in advance for your support and partnership. By working together, we can ensure that the experiences of children and young people with SEND, their families and the practitioners who support them are accurately represented. If you have any questions, please contact the SEND Inspection mailbox at: childsc.specialeducationneedsinspectionsupport-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

South Hams Matters

Re; Local Government Reorganisation: A letter has been sent from SHDC and Torbay asking for the secretary of state to reconsider the position of Berry Pomeroy.

SHDC's Totnes Young People's Economic Plan Consultation is live and remains open until later this month. If you are aged 16-24 then remember you can win a £25 voucher if you complete the quick survey. Let SHDC know what you want for the future of your town



SHDC Briefings Thursday, 24 September at 5:00-6.30pm

All-Town & Parish Council Briefings to cover changes to the **Planning Decision-**

Making Process plus a second discussion item Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). For absolute clarity (and with indicative timings), this Briefing will now take the following form:

5:00pm to 5:45pm: LGR; and

5:45pm to 6:30pm: Revised Planning Decision-Making Process.

Local Issues:

Water Quality problems – Information issued by South West Water

“Following issues with equipment at one of our water treatment works and distribution pump stations, some customers across parts of South Devon are experiencing low water pressure or a temporary loss of supply as the network continues to recover.

While the original issue has now been resolved, the outage had knock-on impacts across the wider networks. Air pockets have formed within parts of the network, which can affect water pressure and supply. Buckfastleigh is currently the area most affected, and our teams are on site working to remove airlocks and restore normal service as quickly as possible. There are some other pockets across the Kingsbridge and Paignton area that also have a loss of pressure or supply. Upon resupply, aeration of the water supply is possible, and residents should not be alarmed if this occurs.

We are currently delivering bottled water to our priority customers, and a bottled water station has now been set up at:

Meadowbrook Carpark, Dartington, TQ9 6TQ. W3W is //ambushed.paces.stalemate

We are also setting up a further bottled water station in the next few hours in the Kingsbridge area. We will share the details of this location as soon as possible to both your residents directly and you.

We would be very grateful for your assistance in sharing information about the bottled water station with your community, helping to ensure that the location and opening times are shared with your residents."

Please contact SWW at 0344 346 2020 for updates and information

St John's C of E Primary School, Totnes. A consultation will be going live on 7th September '26 regarding a proposal to lower the age range at St John's C of E Primary School in Totnes. *"It is proposed to extend the school's age range from 4-11 to 2-11 years and integrate Daisy Pre School with effect from January 2027. The proposal forms part of a planned transition from the current committee-run Daisy Pre-School provision to a school-based nursery operated by the Academy Trust, ACE. Responses can be submitted by sending an email to Sam Ward: sam.ward@acexcellence.co.uk Or by post to Sam Ward, c/o Totnes St. John's CE Primary School, Pathfields, Totnes, Devon. TQ9 5TZ. Please mark responses: Totnes Nursery Consultation response.*

ACE also has a longer-term ambition, subject to a successful application to the DfE's School Based Nursery Grant Phase 3 capital funding programme, to further develop nursery provision at St John's C of E Primary by introducing baby and under-two provision and moving to a 0-11 age range, but this will be a subject to a separate and further consultation."

Annual return of requests for parking and waiting restriction requests to DCC. Please let me know by September 11th of any requests for changes to parking or waiting on public highways.

The following request has been sent to me for consideration by the DCC Highways team:

Plymouth Road North side West of the cemetery. Double yellow lines.

Plus, I have carried out a repeat parking survey in Brooklands which came back with a majority in favour against a Resident's Parking scheme.

First Responders Parking Disc. I continue to seek this and now have the DCC Leader supporting my request for a policy change to allow this to happen. This would save lives.

20mph speed reductions in Totnes – draft proposals going out for public consultation. No further updates

Totnes Old Bridge – options to improve safety. No updates

Pedestrian Crossing at top of Bridgetown Hill. The design proposal that includes changes to the location of the North side bus stop has been agreed by DCC. I await an update on the timeline for implementation.

Harberton: Checks have been carried out by the DCC Neighbourhood Highways officer to ensure that excess gravel left on Moreleigh Road after roadworks was not blocking drains. The gullies at Chapel Cottgaes were checked on August 17th and the buddleholes were cleaned on August 11th. Concerns had been raised further to the resurfacing works which had included a lot of loose gravel causing a potential flood risk to houses lower down the hill.

Natural Flood Management (NFM) works in Harberton. DCC Flood team have provided the following update. *"We have been working with the landowners in the catchment to finalise NFM plans across three fields. We have had the land drainage consent approved for two of these and are just waiting on the third. We will then work with the landowners to find contractors and aim to deliver the schemes late summer/early autumn whilst it is still dry.*

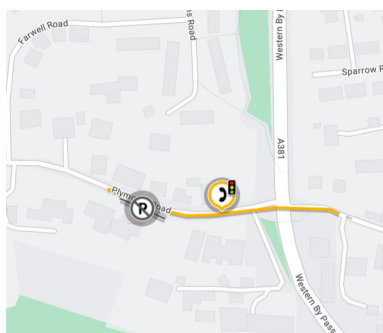
We are then submitting an EOI into the Environment Agency's new NFM fund, with the aim of delivering a phase two of works in the remaining fields across the catchment. The deadline for this is 7th September, then we will find out if we have gained the funding early next year. If we are unsuccessful, we will seek other funding streams to deliver these works. "

Please note this is a grant application that DCC will be making to the relevant authorities and other bodies. This is not an opportunity for individual or local applications from homeowners or landowners. Individual applications for property resilience grants can be requested via DCC Website at this link:
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/flood-resilience/property-flood-resilience-funding-scheme/>

Safety measures sought for St. John's School, Bridgetown: Further to meetings at the school with the head, parents' representatives and DCC Highways Safety officers, the measures being considered to improve safety at the school entrances include Wig Wags (Flashing lights to warn drivers of school entrance at arrival and departure times) and possibly a school street in that section of Weston Lane, which would involve the street being shut off during arrival and departure times. The latter would be likely to require additional parking

Bumpston Bridge in Staverton. Oversized vehicles have been getting stuck and causing damage to this bridge and signs seems to be inadequate these oversized vehicles using this route. To date the response from the Highways Officers is that the signs should be adequate, I'm continuing to press for improvements further back along the road to prevent oversized vehicles coming along and being unable to turn easily.

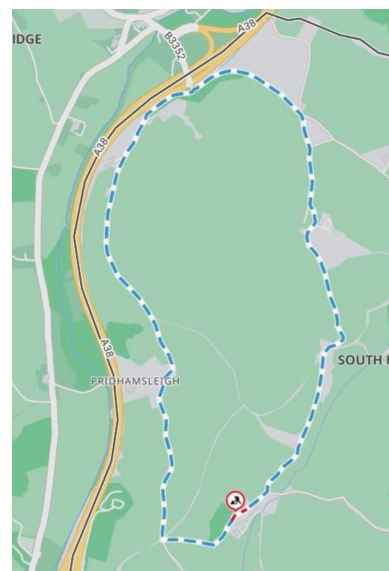
Road Works



Temporary Traffic Notice - PLYMOUTH ROAD, **Harberton** (TTRO2672617) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF PARKING. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: On SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2026 for a maximum of 5 days. Anticipated Finish SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2026 Between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to park or wait on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - PLYMOUTH ROAD, TOTNES , OUTSIDE HAY HILL TO BETWEEN PROSPECT PLACE AND ELWELL GARDENS THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - CABLING WORK For additional information contact: SUNBELT RENTALS Telephone:

03700 500792

TTRO2672430 TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC & PARKING DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2026 for a maximum of 5 days THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2026 (both dates inclusive) No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed or wait on the sections of Affected. Roads affected - **FIVE LANES TO BADDAFORD, ASHBURTON** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - FIVE LANES TO BADDAFORD, PRIDHAMSLEIGH COTTAGES CROSS TO FIVE LANES CROSS, CABBAGE HILL TO PRIDHAMSLEIGH COTTAGES, CABBAGE HILL, CHULEY CROSS TO BULLAND, BULLAND CROSS TO BADDAFORD CROSS, FIVE LANES TO BADDAFORD & VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - DRAINAGE WORKS For additional information contact: M GROUP Telephone: 02033078051



One Devon launches county-wide conversation on neighbourhood health

People across Devon are invited to find out more and help shape the delivery of neighbourhood health across the county. The national vision for neighbourhood health, set out in the [10 Year Health Plan for England](#) and national [Neighbourhood health framework](#), is to bring together GPs, community services, mental health, social care, voluntary organisations and local partners to provide more joined-up support in local communities. This aims to help people stay healthier for longer, access more care closer to home, reduce the need for hospital treatment where appropriate, and ensure services are shaped around the needs of local communities.

Lifeshouse – Totnes Emergency Planning initiative:

South Devon Lifeshouse dates:

13th Sept, 6.30: 🌟 **Show & Tell Session**

Join Lifeshouse Network and Fabric for the third in a series of online community gatherings where groups across the UK will share their learnings and lessons on building power in the face of growing crises, societal breakdown, and environmental challenges. Request link from contact below

19th Sept, 5.30-10.00, Civic Hall, Totnes: Green Party on Food security and Climate Change.

Lifeshouse will be represented on the panel, there'll be music, food and drinks. More info and booking link below.

21st Nov, 2-5pm, The Old School Hall, Mansion (opposite Library) Totnes: South Devon Lifeshouse network meeting. **Food and Water Resilience: A shared Enquiry.** Let's get together as a network and focus on food and water solutions.

date TBC: January: "**Extending Lifeshouse into digital resilience**" with Kimwei

We look forward to learning together and building our collective capacity for meaningful change!

More information and bookings: lifeshouse@transitiontowntotnes.org

Devon HAF Celebration & Impact Awards 2026 - Public Voting Now Open!

Every year, hundreds of dedicated staff, volunteers, and organisations come together to make the Devon HAF programme a success. From providing fun and enriching activities 🎨🏆 to nutritious meals and safe, welcoming spaces where children can thrive, our providers make a lasting difference to the lives of children, young people, and families across Devon. The Devon HAF Celebration & Impact Awards are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate these incredible achievements, showcase the positive impact being made in communities across the county, raise awareness of the programme for those who may not yet have benefited, and thank the amazing people whose passion, creativity, and commitment help make HAF such a success. Our expert panel has carefully reviewed all award submissions, including videos, supporting statements, and feedback gathered during Easter and Summer monitoring visits. Following this process, a shortlist of nominees has been selected for each category. **View the shortlisted nominees and cast your vote**
Vote here: [Devon HAF Celebration & Impact Awards – Fill in form](#)

Let's talk Neighbourhood health

Local voices shape better health and care for all

NHS Devon

The NHS in Devon is working with local communities to shape **neighbourhood health** services that are accessible, connected and right for everyone.

Get involved, make a difference

- 📍 Plymouth Leadworks
Friday 11 September
- 📍 Tavistock Town Hall
Wednesday 23 September
- 📍 Paignton Library
Friday 25 September
- 📍 Exeter Community Centre
Monday 28 September
- 📍 Roundswell Community Centre, Barnstaple
Monday 19 October

Take part in the conversation
Your views help shape the future of health and care in your neighbourhood.

Attend an event
Find a meeting near you and join the conversation

Share your views
Tell us what matters most to you and your community

Visit our website
See the latest updates and opportunities to get involved

healthwatch
in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay

Scan the QR code or visit ondevon.org.uk/neighbourhood-health-engagement

Microsoft C

Keep Britain Tidy – Fly-Tipping Fortnight 12th – 25th October 2026

Following last year's award-winning campaign - which generated 4.1 million impressions and left 74% of viewers less likely to hire rogue traders on social media - Fight Fly-Tipping Fortnight is returning this autumn from 12 – 25 October. This free, Network member exclusive campaign is specifically designed to help local authorities educate householders on their legal duty of care, cut the supply of waste to unlicensed carriers and reduce the burden on local authorities. **Join us at 10am, Wednesday 9 September for the full reveal of the campaign, to get a first look at our brand-new creative concepts, core messaging and customisable localised resources.** Developed directly from council feedback, this year's digital resources equip your team to tackle waste crime effectively across your communities. Secure your place now to discover how we can work together to protect our local environments and help residents reject a #rubbishdeal this October. Register [here](#).