

County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date: July-August 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:

Local Government Reorganisation. On Thursday 16th July, the Government announced its decision on the future structure of local government in Devon, confirming that four unitary authorities will be created to serve the county. The option selected, proposed by Plymouth and Exeter city councils, will create four new unitary councils for Devon as you will see on the map below. The names of these councils need to be finalised.



This was the result on the Government's public consultation:

As you will see, the option the government has selected came fourth in the public's choice.

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk

All respondents

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
3 Unitary (Devon CC)	14678	43%	44%	11%	3%
3 Unitary (District Councils Main)	12981	39%	45%	13%	3%
3 Unitary (District Councils Modified)	14960	27%	57%	13%	3%
4 Unitary (Plymouth and Exeter)	14821	20%	69%	8%	3%
4 Unitary (Torbay)	14047	15%	73%	9%	3%

30. Overall, the responses demonstrate a preference for the 3 unitary (Devon County Council) proposal. 43% of respondents to the 3 unitary (Devon County Council) proposal provided positive responses to the questions and 44% of respondents provided negative responses. 14% were responses of neither agree nor disagree or don't know. The 3 unitary (District Councils Main)

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.

DCC is considering taking a Judicial Review to the Government on these proposals. A Council meeting and Cabinet meeting will take place tomorrow (13.08.26) debate the concerns and agree a response to the Government on these Unitary proposals and their warding arrangements. These initial replies have been invited from Local Authorities (incl T&PCs) only.

One of the critical concerns that has been raised in this Totnes and Dartington Division area is the proposed division between the Devon Coast and Country Unitary and the Torbay expanded Unitary. The dividing line Government has selected is essentially following the River Dart and the parishes of Littlehempston, Berry Pomeroy and Stoke Gabriel will become part of Torbay. This creates a dividing line across the residential area of Bridgetown, i.e. it ignores the SHDC / DCC Ward division boundary that includes the Great Court Farm area of Bridgetown, and simply applies the Parish Boundary in the middle of roads in Bridgetown.

Bridgetown Alive carried out a survey of residents across Bridgetown last week and found an overwhelming response in favour of keeping Bridgetown as one community. The report of their survey is attached separately with this report.

Totnes Town council held a special meeting on Monday 10th August, to agree a response to the LGR proposals. It agreed to support the position of DCC in response to the new Unitaries and would support a Judicial Review if that were to go ahead. It also agreed that should the currently proposed 4 Unitaries go ahead, then Littlehempston and Berry Pomeroy should remain within the rural part of the county (i.e. as part of the hinterland of Totnes, not go into Torbay). It also agreed to write to government on these matters to press its views.

Berry Pomeroy hosted a public meeting on 11th August with speakers Cllr David Tomas, Leader of Torbay Council, Cllr Simon Rake (County and District Councillor), and Caroline Voaden MP. I would guess 80+ people attended that meeting and it was clear that the majority wanted Bridgetown to remain united, not split as proposed. Further to this Berry Pomeroy held a PC meeting and agreed their support for Berry Pomeroy to remain in the County area, not Torbay so that the parish does not need to be split or split is residents.

Caroline Voaden invited residents to sign her petition to Government to reconsider these Unitary proposals as being undemocratic and a disaster for Devon. She said 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/>

South Hams District Council has also agreed to support a Judicial Review of DCC goes ahead with this and agreed at its FC meeting last month to write to the Government expressing its concerns regarding the current proposals (see details later in this report).

Extreme Weather: Heat Waves: Stay cool, stay hydrated, listen to warnings, keep an eye on vulnerable people.

Flood risk: Devon County Council is busy putting together applications for government funding to improve resilience across the county, to local and widespread flood risk that recent storms have caused. It is anticipated that this extreme weather is likely to get worse until we reduce our carbon footprint and use of fossil fuels considerably.

Grants are also available from Devon County Council for people whose property has been flooded. This is the link for information and application forms. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/document/property-flood-resilience-funding-2nd-edition-july-2023/>

Drowning Prevention Strategy for England 2026-2030 was recently launched and can be found here - [Strategy | National Water Safety Forum](#) with some important aims and objectives around advocacy. The Coastal SIG fed into this document so we are looking forward to helping champion and push forward some of the aims and objectives. Please share the Strategy amongst your networks and comms teams and find relevant resources and comms toolkits for some very important Water Safety Campaigns for you to share from your Local Authorities below.

- [Float to Live Toolkit: resources for download](#)
- [PhoneFloatThrow Toolkit.pdf](#)
- [World Drowning Prevention Day | National Water Safety Forum](#)
- [Find-Your-Float-Video-Brief.pdf](#)
- [RoSPA- World Drowning Prevention Day 2026 | Water Safety Campaign & Floating Advice | RoSPA](#)

There are some important and informative videos about heatwaves etc available to share on social media and we would encourage all our council's to share campaigns such as Float to Live, Respect the Water, Phone, Float, Throw and Find Your Float

Cabinet Meeting, 20th May'26:

- **Review and proposed new policy for 5G Mobile Infrastructure on Council assets:** This sought the use of Council assets for 5G mobile equipment, and approval of a draft policy for Installation of Small Cell Wireless Communications Equipment on Highway Assets, i.e. lampposts in streets etc. An Impact report and report by Public Health Devon on the health implications of 5G technology was provided for the debate. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/5g-mobile-infrastructure-cabinet-report/>

The following was agreed:

- a. The adoption of a new policy to support small cell 5G and future small cell mobile equipment to be used on County Council assets, based on the draft policy (in appendix A), be approved;
- b. Authority be delegated to the Director of Performance and Partnerships and the Director of Climate Change Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Broadband, and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Bio-Diversity, to finalise the policy wording; and that
- c. the Director of Performance and Partnerships and the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport be authorised, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, to enter into all necessary agreements and arrangements to give effect to this decision.

I spoke out and voted against this proposal on the basis of potential harm to public health and wildlife. It is my view that there remains inadequate monitoring and testing of the impacts, short-term and long-term of 5G non-ionising radiation that these devices emit. Without this knowledge and research, I believe that this amounts to a human and wildlife experiment that could be found to be a serious contributor to long-term health and wellbeing impacts. Previous guidance by public authorities based on the 1998 RF-EMF (ICNIRP) guidelines indicated that a reasonable buffer zone should be observed where possible around non-ionising radiation, generally a one kilometer distance was deemed a minimum from residences, kindergartens, schools and offices. That guidance was for the earlier much lower G rates. The now updated 2020 RF-EMF (ICNIRP)

guidelines* offer no limits of recommended minimal distances from emitters, but do discuss exposures of 6 minutes and 30 minutes. However, I remain deeply concerned that someone with a lamppost outside their bedroom window with a 5G emitting device attached is likely to have much longer long-term exposure on a regular basis. As would any one attending school, office etc. *link to guidelines:

https://www.gsma.com/solutions-and-impact/connectivity-for-good/public-policy/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/GSMA_International_EMF_Exposure_Guideline_Oct21.pdf

- **Approval of the North Devon Coast National Landscape Management Plan 2025-30.** You can view the plan at this link: <https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s55561/Appendix%201%20-%20NDC%20NL%20Management%20Plan.pdf>
- **Short breaks – Cabinet received an update on progress on Framework:**

“Our Dartmoor Outdoor Centres have delivered 20 basecamp days since the pilot in August 2025. A further 6 basecamp days and 8 adventure days are planned for the summer holidays for children with SEND. Participants who complete both these sessions will have the opportunity to attend a residential in October Half Term. We are currently planning the next two years with Dartmoor centres to build on this offer.

SEND family fun with events held at Croyde, Calvert Trust, Haytor and Haven Banks. Since March over 1000 places have been available, with more than 900 attendances recorded. This brings the total number of places created since our first family fun day in June 2025 to over 2400 Spaces.

The Outdoor Explorer Club - Libraries Unlimited has successfully launched phase 2, with the beach explorer club being added which covers 5 additional beaches alongside a supporting activity booklet and audio and video support. Since its launch in September 2025, the Outdoor Explorer Club has recorded over 2500 visits, with QR codes in neurodiverse friendly leaflets being used over 500 times from the latest figures prior to phase 2. Accessible formats have been prioritised, with multiple versions of leaflets and stories being created in braille.

SEND-specific and inclusive groups are expanding across Devon, supported by local community organisations such as Teignbridge community project, Madewell CIC, Space Youth Services, with a focus on increasing provision in targeted areas and focus on independence and practical skills for older children and young people with SEND. Involving disabled children, young people and families in shaping, developing and evaluating short breaks has expanded and is improving the way we provide and secure breaks and activities.

More information at these links:

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s55567/Shortbreaks%20-%20Update%20on%20Progress%20on%20Framework%20and%20Next%20Steps%20Report.pdf>

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=44379#mgDocuments>

UK Parliament Committees: Call for Evidence: Getting to work; Transport connecting young people to jobs and training: Submissions are invited at this link:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/submission/3950/#/evidence/3950/call-for-evidence>

“One in eight young people (aged 16 to 24) in the UK are not in education, employment or training. Six in ten have never had a job. The interim report on [Young People and Work](#), published in June 2026, analyses in depth the complex and interconnected reasons for this.

The Transport Committee is looking into the issue of transport as a barrier to young people finding and taking up employment, and what can be done to make things better. This follows on from discussion of the topic in our earlier inquiry, [Buses Connecting Communities](#), and our scrutiny of unacceptably long [waiting times for practical driving tests](#).

The Committee welcomes written evidence that addresses any of the following questions:

a) What impact do the cost and availability of transport options have on young people’s ability to find and stay in work;

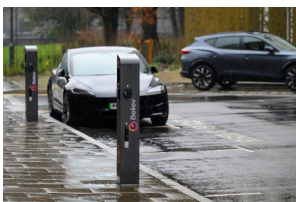
- b) What cost and other practical barriers do young people without public transport options face in using cars for getting to work;*
- c) How well are these transport barriers currently understood by national and local decision-makers, and what tools are available for understanding them;*
- d) What flexibility, powers and funding do decision-makers have to shape transport services and networks to respond to this problem;*
- e) What policies have proven to be effective in, or should be trialled for, improving young people's ability to get to work;*
- f) Should policies be targeted, for example geographically, by age, or by other factors; and what specific issues arise in rural and other different kinds of areas;*
- g) What role should employers and transport operators play in breaking down transport barriers;*
- h) Do the actions in the Government's Better Connected strategy aimed at "[unlocking opportunities for everyone](#)" have the potential to improve young people's access to employment;*
- i) How would transport systems look and operate differently if they were focused on connecting young people to employment."*

New Station opened - Okehampton Interchange. 31st July 2026. With much aplomb, ceremony and plenty of cake, I had the privilege to be part of the opening ceremony for this new station last week. This is the 5th station to be introduced on Devon's Rail network and incredibly it has been built in just one year. It follows in the wake of the reintroduction of passenger trains to Okehampton just five years ago. The further reopening on the Dartmoor Line will help people commute to work more easily and reliably. It will support young people travelling to college and pursuing their ambitions. It will provide greater access to the incredible leisure opportunities we enjoy here in Devon, including Dartmoor National Park. And it will bring more visitors into the area, supporting local businesses and strengthening the local economy. Its location, within Okehampton Business Park and with excellent access from the A30, creates new opportunities for businesses and employees alike. Linking in with new Active Travel routes, it opens up new travel options for people across West Devon, Torridge and North Cornwall, helping to connect communities that have too often felt distant from the rail network.

Devon's young people celebrated at Youth Voice Awards★

Young people from across Devon were recognised for the positive difference they're making in their communities at this year's Youth Voice Awards on July 18th. A special celebratory event was hosted by DCC at County Hall where the individual awards were presented to the many young people who have helped shape services, improve opportunities and influence decision-making across the county. This included members of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Network for Change, who helped create the Outdoor Explorer Club and improve accessibility across a range of projects including *Places to Go – Things To Do*.

Believ To Deliver 1,300 EV Charge Points Across Devon & Torbay



Devon County Council and Torbay Council have partnered with EV charge point operator [Believ](#) to deliver more than 1,300 fully funded electric vehicle charge points across the region. The rollout targets residents without access to a driveway or the means to charge privately at home, extending EV infrastructure into rural and underserved areas. Developed through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) scheme, the project will be entirely funded by Believ, with sister company

Virgin Media O2 supporting delivery at scale. Installation is set to begin at the end of September, ahead of the UK's 2030 ban on new petrol and diesel vehicle sales. More info:

<https://sustainablebusinessmagazine.net/electricvehicles/believ-to-deliver-1300-ev-charge-points-across-devon-and-torbay/>

BUS FARE CHANGES:

Free child bus fares in August for children aged 15 and under Bus operators in Devon have been applauded for signing up to the Government's scheme to provide free bus travel for all children aged up to 15-year-olds in England next month. The free travel initiative for under-16s is set to run from 1 August until 31 August 2026

Prime Minister Andy Burnham has also announced an England-wide £2 single bus fare cap **from next January** until the end of 2027, excluding London.

Ref: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cheaper-travel-for-millions-with-a-third-off-fares>

Bus shelters are they keeping travellers out of the heat? The current heat waves have alerted me to the issue of people waiting for buses in the heat of the day in bus shelters that offer little of no protection from the sun. I have made enquiries with the highways team and I'm told that Town and Parish Councils can apply for grants to upgrade their bus shelter with an insulated cover on the roof to help keep passengers cool. This includes a 'green roof' option, that are also available via FernBank who manage many of the commercial bus shelters across Devon. Honiton has installed a number of 'Bee Friendly' green roof bus shelters in their town (see below). Please let me know if you would like to apply for a grant and I will forward your request.



Local Issues:



Temporary Disruption

affecting bus services 149

Monday 17th to Friday 21st August 2026

The road between Marldon and Berry Pomeroy will be closed between Monday 17th and Friday 21st August 2026. Bus service 149 will be on diversion and will be unable to serve Berry Pomeroy.

Devon County Council have organised for a replacement taxi service to operate between Berry Pomeroy and Totnes. This will be operated by Price First Taxis. In order to use this service, please pre-book your journey at least 1 working day in advance of travel by calling 01803 322322.

Berry Pomeroy - Totnes		Replacement Taxi Service	
Monday to Friday - 17th to 21st August 2026			
BERRY POMEROY, School	0955	TOTNES, Coronation Road	1315
TOTNES, Coronation Road	1010	BERRY POMEROY, School	1330

CODE:  - PRE-BOOK JOURNEY AT LEAST ONE DAY IN ADVANCE ON NUMBER ABOVE

This service is financially supported by Devon County Council

Due to the road being closed between Marldon and Berry Pomeroy later this month, bus service 149 will not be able to serve the village for five days.

DCC have arranged for a taxi to operate to Totnes and back, once a day, for this week. This will be operated by Price First taxis and needs to be booked in advance, otherwise it will not operate.

Check the attached poster for more details.

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 that you would like considered in the annual round-up this Autumn. All requests can be submitted via email to myself and will be considered by officers. Any requests for Resident's Parking schemes will need to be based on evidence of obstructions to residents and would also go through a more detailed consultation process.

20mph speed reductions in Totnes – draft proposals going out for public consultation

The draft proposals and mapped drawings have been prepared and approved for public consultation. If those receive public support, these changes to road speeds will then go forward for implementation across the town (under the DCC safety budget, not town funded). The two maps with the proposed changes are attached separately with this report to enable clearer viewing.

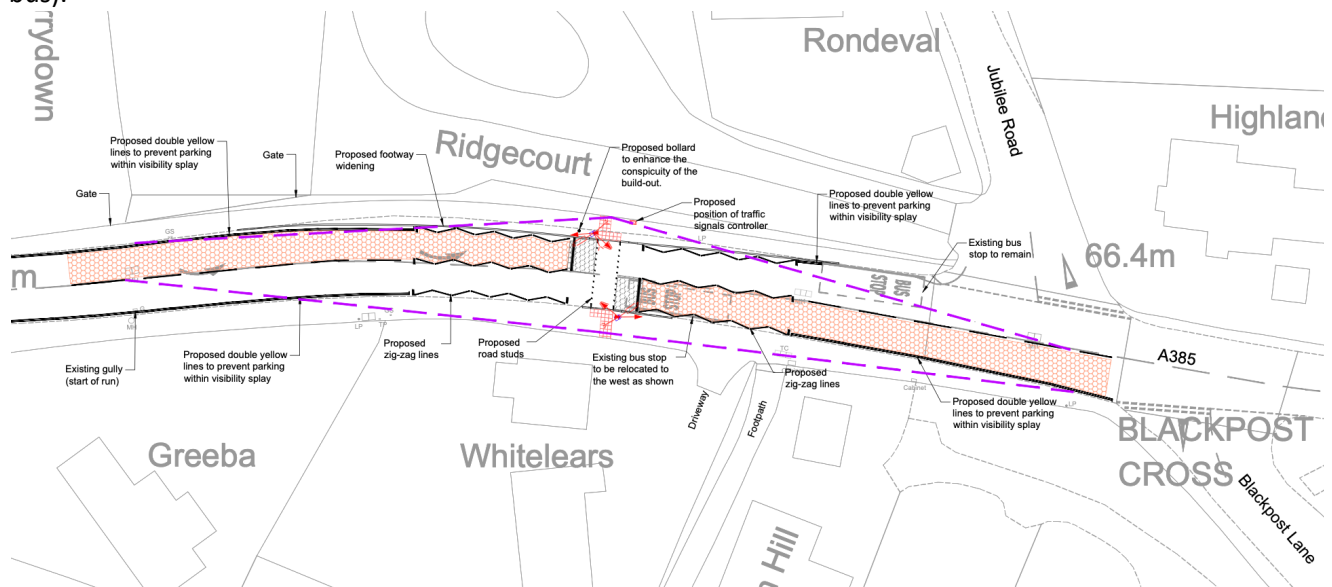
Despite a number of representations three additional roads that were requested have been refused by the officers for inclusion in these changes. They are as follows:

- The Road between the top of Barracks Hill and Cott Road at Hunters Moon roundabout (Dartington)
 - Plymouth Road between the entrance to Follaton House and the parish boundary at Follaton Lodge
- Both of these locations have been deemed unsuitable as they would require substantial traffic calming to create a lower speed highway (e.g chicanes). This would involve quite high costs. Councillors and local representatives at Totnes Traffic & Transport Forum and both Totnes TC and Dartington PC are being made aware of this, as they could decide to pursue and fund these requirements. However, further to representation being made, Totnes Old Bridge and Bridgetown (Village centre) have now been included in the proposals.

Totnes TC has approved the proposals as they stand to ensure we can have these changes implemented prior to LGR and all the changes that could create delays to these schemes. I have notified DCC officers of the agreement to go ahead and publish the draft proposals for public consultation.

Totnes Old Bridge – options to improve safety. Collaboration with DCC officers continues Detailed information around safety records and the potential impact that changes could have on public buses is being gathered and considered.

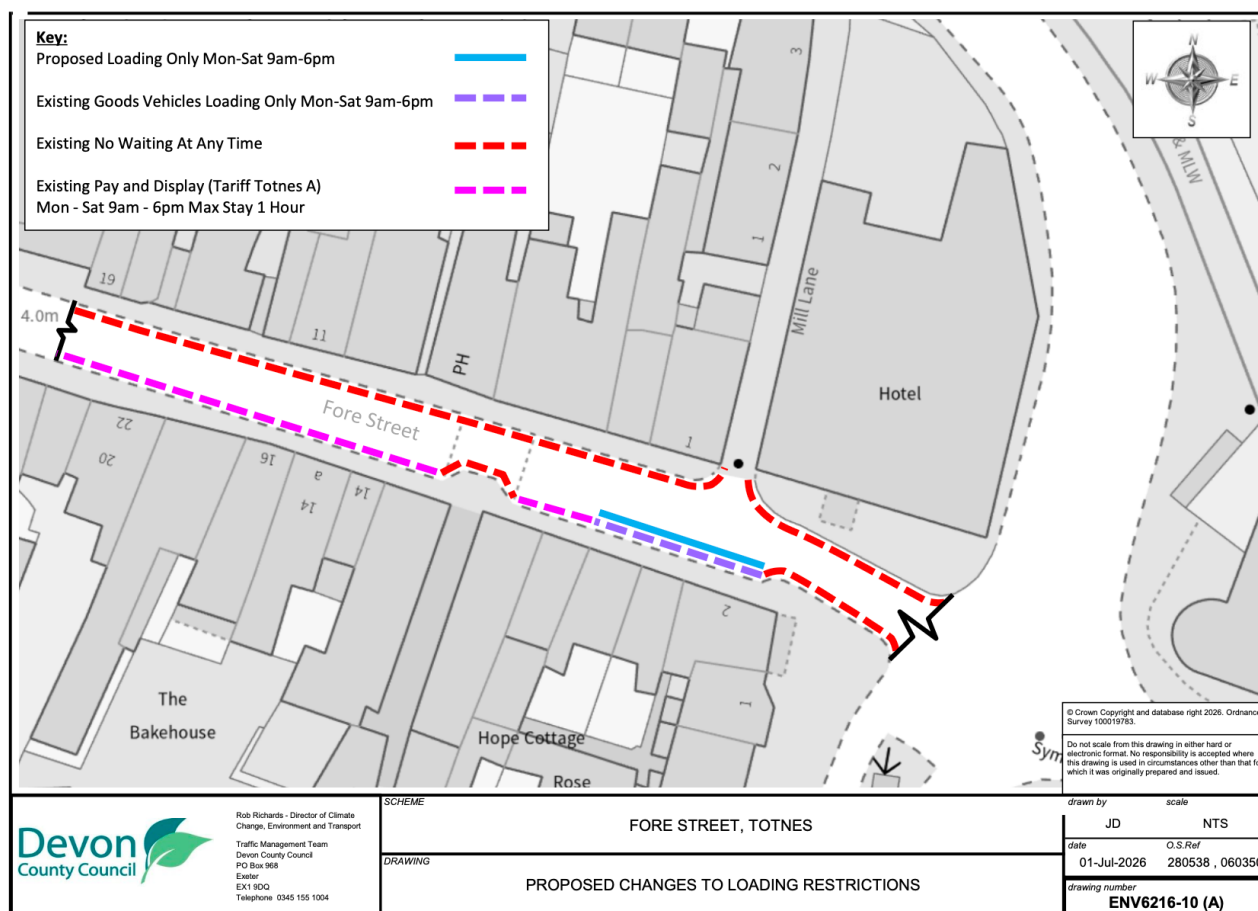
Pedestrian Crossing at top of Bridgetown Hill. An interim report of progress was brought to South Hams HATOC on Friday 10th July. A detailed plan for the location of the new pedestrian operated crossing has been produced. As this was quite a distance from the Jubilee Road side bus stop, I requested that the bus stop be moved a few meters closer to the new crossing (to avoid people running straight across the road to catch a bus).



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 being available in the adjacent streets for parents to use and walk their children the last few meters to school. This is being investigated. It is hoped that some safety measures may be in place for the Autumn term but can't be promised.

Proposed changes to Loading restrictions on Totnes Fore St. It is proposed to convert the existing Goods Loading Only restriction to Loading Only. The proposals have been drafted in consultation with the Civil

Parking Enforcement service who are aware of the current usage and demand for these bays and the changes would enable enforcement to be undertaken efficiently and to allow the loading bays to be used for their intended purpose. These proposals will come to HATOC (November), but in the meantime I have given the go ahead to advertise the public consultation. I would welcome your views. **Please see attached map:**



Harbertonford – request for consideration of options proposed by member of the public for safe access from Chapel Lane to Harbertonford village centre. A detailed response has been outlined by DCC Road Safety team officer:

“Option 1: to provide a pedestrian refuge: This is not achievable for a number of reasons, as a Road Safety Auditor I would require the refuge to be 2m wide to be a safe refuge, this is not achievable at this location as we would require 3m running lanes, so minimum 8m of width at this location. I’m also not sure what it would achieve, it might allow crossing of the road but to what end, it would not provide safe pedestrian access into the village.

Option 2: Waiting area (Priority narrowing) Ignoring the fact that this is a primary A road, I don’t believe this is achievable. A priority narrowing is not considered feasible on the southern approach to the village because the proposed give-way points would need to be located approximately 100 metres apart, with the narrowing extending through an existing section of road bounded by high banks. This arrangement would significantly restrict forward visibility between opposing drivers, making it difficult for road users to determine whether the priority section is clear before committing to it. The excessive length of the single-lane section could also lead to vehicle conflicts, reversing manoeuvres, and delays, particularly for larger vehicles. As a result, the layout would not provide a safe or effective priority working arrangement and is therefore not recommended. This section of road is already difficult for larger vehicles to navigate, a priority narrowing would make this more challenging. I’m not sure what it would achieve other than the possibility of installing a footway, but would have the risk of vehicles overrunning it when larger vehicles are committed.

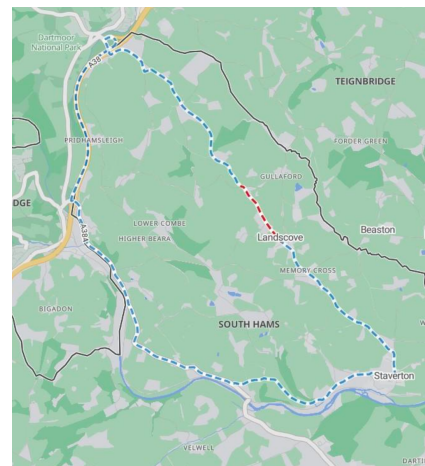
The possibility of a footway through local farmland would seem the most practical and achievable.”

It would be helpful to have a discussion at Harberton PC about this.

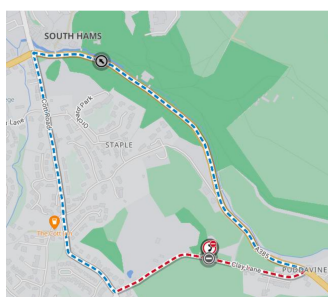
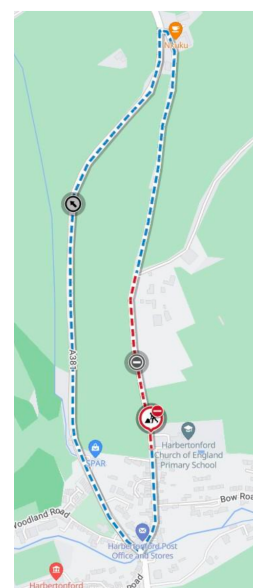
Bumpston Bridge in Staverton. Oversized vehicles have been getting stuck and causing damage to this bridge and signs seems to be inadequate these oversized vehicles using this route. To date the response from the Highways Officers is that the signs should be adequate, but I would welcome a view from the PC on this to assist with representation on this issue.

Road Works

TTRO 2671652 Temporary Traffic Notice - THORNECROFT CROSS TO CHURCH CROSS, CHURCH CROSS TO MEMORY CROSS. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC & PARKING. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From **TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2026** for a maximum of 5 days Until **SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2026** (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 07:00 and 19:00 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed or wait 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: MEMORY CROSS TO NUMBER 4 MEMORY CROSS, MEMORY CROSS TO FURSDON CROSS, SANDY LANE, TOWN HILL, EIGHT TREE'S, NEW LANE, STAVERTON STATION TO STAVERTON WORKS, ZC88 AT A384 TO STAVERTON BRIDGE CROSS AT ZC46, A384, A38, B3352, CABBAGE HILL, CHULEY CROSS TO BULLAND, CHULEY CROSS TO PARKFIELD CROSS, PARKFIELD CROSS TO THORNECROFT & VICE VERSA. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - SURFACE DRESSING. **For additional information contact: KIELY BROS Telephone: 01823 215253**



Temporary Traffic Notice - OLD ROAD, Harberton (TTRO2671668) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From **MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2026** for a maximum of 5 days Until **FRIDAY 21 AUGUST 2026** (both dates inclusive) No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - OLD ROAD, HARBERTONFORD The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - OLD ROAD, A381 This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - SEWER CONNECTION For additional information contact: SAFEMARK TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, Telephone: 077551042586

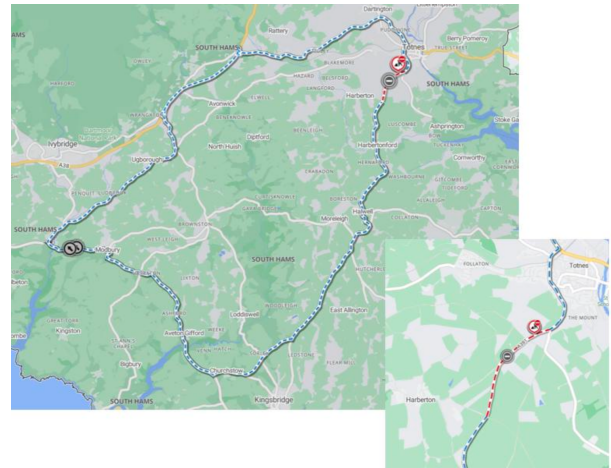


Temporary Traffic Notice - CLAY LANE, Dartington (TTRO2670984) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From **MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2026** for a maximum of 5 days Until **WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026** (both dates inclusive) Between the hours of 21:00 and 06:00 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads.

Roads affected -CLAY LANE, DARTINGTON. The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via – CLAY LANE - COTT ROAD - A385 - VICE VERSA This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable CABLING WORK AND

GULLY SUCKING For additional information contact: SUNBELT RENTALS Tel: 03700 500792

Temporary Traffic Order - OLD ROAD, Harborton (TTRO2671671) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. NOTICE is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. From **SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 2026 for a maximum of 18 months Anticipated Finish SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2026.** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - OLD ROAD, HARBERTONFORD. The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - OLD ROAD, A381. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - SEWER CONNECTION. **For additional information contact: SAFEMARK TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT Telephone: 077551042586**



Temporary Traffic Notice - A381, Totnes (TTRO2671935), TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC & PARKING. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that: From THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2026 for a maximum of 21 days Until FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2026 (both dates inclusive). Between the hours of 20:00 and 06:00 No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed or wait on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - A381, TOTNES, (FROM NEAR BOWDEN LODGE TO LANGRIDGE CROSS) The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via – A381, A379, A3121, A38, A385, A381 AND VICE VERSA This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable -SAFETY DEFECT PATCHING For additional information contact: M GROUP Telephone: 02033078051

South Hams District Council Full Council meeting 23rd July

- **Disposable BBQs** – A request was made to the Chair that due to the heat waves and risk of fire that SHDC should seek a ban on the sale of BBQ's during heat waves.

It was agreed that SHDC write to Devon and Somerset Fire Service to ask them to request that retailers refrain from selling disposable barbeques during this prolonged dry weather spell.

- **Local Government Reform – Response to the Governments proposals and letter sent to SHDC It was resolved:**
 1. That the Council notes the Government decision in respect of Local Government Reorganisation and that a further report setting out next steps for the whole of the South Hams will be considered by Council at its meeting on 24 September 2026;
 2. The LGR model selected by the Government for the creation of four unitary authorities for Devon demonstrates its failure to understand or appreciate the needs of the county's rural towns and villages as well as our coastal communities and effective delivery of services;
 3. The Government's decision to go ahead with the expansion of Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay is very much at the expense of the remaining parts of the county, disadvantages those towns and parishes moving into the expanded areas, and is entirely at odds with its stated aim of ensuring local government meets the need of all of Devon. It is also entirely at odds with the results of its own public consultation exercise, where this 4 Unitary Model was ranked the 4th (out of 5) of the preferred Options.
 4. Council therefore recommends to the Executive that:
 - As there may well be legal grounds for a judicial review challenge in respect of the Government's decision and that being the case, subject to further consideration of all relevant information and receiving appropriate advice, the Executive be minded to give

Council's support and endorsement for any such application for a judicial review with an objective that the Government's LGR model for Devon be withdrawn or revised, and

- Notwithstanding the potential for a judicial review, the Executive will call on Angela Rayner MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to reconsider the untenable LGR proposals for Devon and calls on the local MPs to support this demand for reconsideration.
- **Replacement Programme of (Waste & Community Services) Vehicles required in 2026/27 & 2027/28.** Council resolved to:
 - Borrow a further £2 million from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) to fund the vehicle replacement programme (as set out in section 2.7 of the published agenda report). It is proposed that the annual cost of the borrowing is funded by savings set out in Section 2.10 (referenced in the published agenda report) from the Waste and Community Services budgets and, therefore, the cost of the vehicles would be self-financed from within the service
 - Delegate the timing of the PWLB borrowing to the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), on taking treasury management advice on the optimum time to borrow given prevailing interest rates at the time;

Heritage Buildings at Risk Survey:

The Heritage Planning team at SHDC has announced that their Heritage At Risk survey form is live.

[South Hams Heritage At Risk Survey 2026 – Fill in form](#)

"The Heritage At Risk Register is about identifying and collating Listed Buildings that are at risk due to their condition or vacancy. As we do not own the buildings nor have any additional funding to undertake activity, this is about directing focus. You are welcome to check out [our previous South Hams register](#) for an idea of what we are updating.

- You can confirm if a building is listed using the [Historic England website](#).
- We are inviting contributions specifically from town and parish councils, amenity societies, ward members, and relevant heritage groups.
- Please do retain a note of any non-listed buildings, in due course we will be welcoming contributions for a local list of non-designated heritage assets.
- Any queries, or any other heritage matters, as always you know where we are!"

Dementia Friendly South Hams – offer to Parish Councils and Councillors.

Cllr Victor Abbott, SHDC Executive Member for Communities is seeking to promote a Dementia Friendly society via Parish Councils. He has generously offered his time to come and attend a Parish Council meeting and provide a short briefing on what each Parish might practically do, addressing:

- A simple self-learning session;
- Signage for their hall and for the village;
- Motion to Council;
- The Herbert Protocol.

If any Parish Councils would like to follow this up, please contact Cllr Abbott directly via his email

<Victor.Abbott@swdevon.gov.uk>

Sustainable South Hams has collaborated with TTT and other organisations on A series of Nature Recovery Guides.



As part of their **Rally For Nature** work, Sustainable South Hams have launched their series of “How To” guides, created to help communities take practical action for nature where they live. These guides have been developed with the help of experienced local mentors, community groups and campaigners who have already taken action in their own places. We wanted the guides to be grounded in real experience, not just general advice, so each one draws on the knowledge of people who understand both the opportunities and the challenges of getting community nature projects off the ground.

[A Guide to Streetwise Composting in Your Community](#) Our expert Compost Team have created this amazing resource to help you get a streetwise composting project off the ground in your community.

[Creating a 30 x 30 Project in Your Community](#) Created with Paul Bradbury from Transition Town Totnes, this guide supports communities to think about how local land can be protected, improved and connected for nature.

[A Guide to Going Pesticide Free](#) Created with the help of Andrew Rothery, Pesticide-Free Devon Network and Green Futures Newton Abbot, this guide helps communities understand how to reduce pesticide use and begin conversations with councils, residents and local groups.

[Running a Wildlife Open Gardens Event in Your Community](#) Created with Charlie Narewski Scullion from Buckfastleigh Action for Nature Group, this guide shares learning from community-led wildlife garden events and offers practical steps for bringing people together around nature-friendly gardening.

[A Guide to Surveying Wildlife in Your Community](#) Created with Charlotte Rathbone of Modbury Wildlife Action Group, this guide helps communities get started with wildlife surveying, so they can better understand and record the nature on their doorstep.

“Together, these guides are designed to support local people, community groups, parish councils, volunteers and changemakers to move from concern into action. Whether you want to create more space for wildlife, reduce chemicals, bring neighbours together or start recording local species, the guides offer practical first steps.

Over the coming months, we’ll be building workshops around these themes and delivering them to community leaders, connectors and changemakers across the South Hams. The aim is to help people feel confident using the guides in their own communities, adapting them to local needs and inspiring further action for nature.

We’re also interested in developing more guides in the future. If your group has practical experience to share, or if there is a topic you think would help communities take action for nature, we’d love to hear from you. Contact us: info@sussh.org”

Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement (TRAYE) project AGM Saturday 15th August ‘26 10.15am – 12.15pm 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.

Government has extended eligibility for Railcards for those still in education or training in time for the new academic year. From 17 August, 16-17 Saver Railcards will be valid for a full year from the date of purchase, rather than expiring when the holder turns 18. Previous rules meant over 70,000 students annually were left on average £175 worse off than their peers as they lost out on the maximum discount available.

Parents and Carers, ☀️ **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme - Summer 2026**

There is still time to book, with places available at locations right across Devon.

We've recently added even more exciting opportunities to the programme, including:

- ♿️🎾 **South Devon Tennis** wheelchair and SEND sessions in Ivybridge
- 🎯 **Pro Coaching, previously Mount Kelly** now operating from **Tavistock Primary School**
- 🌈 **Healthy Appetite and Activities** now based at **Elmore Football Club, Tiverton**
- 🌤️ Additional afternoon and dinner sessions at **Haven Banks, Exeter**
- 🏠 Remaining spaces at **Red Rock Outdoor** in **Exmouth**
- 🎭 **Kaleidoscope** sessions for secondary-aged young people in **Ivybridge**
- 🎭 Exciting opportunities with **Landmark Theatres** in North Devon
- ⚽️ **Shear Soccer** sessions in **Dartmouth**
- ⚽️ **Plymouth Argyle CT** in **Aveton Gifford**
- ⚽️ **LJD Coaching** in **Holsworthy**
- ⚽️ **Romar Sports** in **Bideford**
- 🏉 **Exeter Chiefs Rugby** across 9 locations
- 🌳 **7 Reclaim the Parks** initiatives across Devon
- 🐮 Brand-new **Little Farmers Fun & Food**, Small Farm and Petting Zoo experience in Clovelly

Plus so much more to enjoy!



Book Now If you haven't already booked, visit [Eequ · After school. In place of school. Beyond school.](#) to explore everything available.



Book up to **16 funded sessions per eligible child**



Activities run throughout the summer holidays from **20 July to 6 September**

If your child has never attended one of our holiday clubs before, or would like to try something new, why not:

- 👨👩👧👦 Join one of our **Family & Friends Days**
- 🌳 Visit one of the many local parks taking part in our **Reclaim the Parks** initiative, offering fun activities and delicious food



What's on Offer?

We now have **nearly 200 locations across Devon**, providing fun, safe and engaging holiday activities for children and young people. Following our most successful Easter programme yet, we're delighted to be bringing even more fantastic opportunities this summer, with both established providers and several new organisations joining the programme.

Highlights include:



Enhanced SEND and inclusion support across both universal and specialist settings



Extended hours at many clubs to support working parents



Paid places available for children who are not eligible for funded HAF provision

Activities include:

- 🏊♀️ Swimming
- 🧗♂️ Climbing
- 🥋 Martial arts
- 🐎 Horse riding
- ⛵ Sailing
- 🌊 Water sports
- 🏞️ Outdoor adventure
- 🏉 Rugby
- ⚽️ Football
- 🎾 Tennis
- 🏹 Archery
- 🏐 Volleyball

- 🍳 Cooking
- 🎨 Arts and crafts
- 🎭 Drama
- 🎵 Music
- 💃 Dance
- ♿ Specialist SEND provision

- 🎓 Life skills and accredited courses
- 🌳 Reclaim the Parks events
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Family & Friends Days

💡 There really is something for everyone this summer.

Big River Watch: Devon's Rivers Through Your Eyes

Twice a year, The Rivers Trust runs the [the Big River Watch](#) - a fun, free, and easy way for people to spend time next to their local river and record what they see, from wildlife to signs of pollution and other pressures on the water environment.

This spring, an incredible **5,538 people** across the UK and Ireland took part, submitting **2,397 surveys** and making it the biggest spring Big River Watch to date. Down in the South West, **213 of you** connected with your local river, collectively spending **53 hours** watching, noticing, and reporting on the wildlife, river conditions, and challenges you saw.

Thank you to every Big River Watch-er. Every observation you made is helping to build a clearer, growing picture of river health and supporting efforts to protect and restore our rivers. To delve deeper into the numbers, you can read the full report at this link: <https://theriverstrust.org/big-river-watch-april-2026-report>

Grant Opportunities:

The Emerton-Christie Charity provides grants to registered charities, typically for amounts under £3,000. The fund focuses on several key areas including education/training, health, disability, arts/culture, and environment/conservation.

Application Details: Deadline: **Applications must be submitted by the end of August** for consideration during the Autumn Trustee meeting.

- Process: Applications are accepted via email; please refer to the Charity's website for specific instructions.
- Website: <https://www.emertonchristie.org/>

King Charles III Charitable Fund provides small grants of up to £3,000 a year for up to three years to community-based organisations. The fund supports UK registered non-profit organisations with an annual income between £25,000 and £500,000.

Application Details: Deadline: The deadline for the Education and Heritage & Conservation themes is **19 August 2026**.

- Themes: Current August applications focus on Education (supporting training and employability) and Heritage & Conservation (preserving historic buildings and craftsmanship).
- Website: <https://www.kccf.org.uk/small-grants/>