

Thorverton Parish Council

Additional Information for Tuesday 9th December 2025

1 Chair Welcome

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs to declare any interests in items on the agenda and any changes to their Registers of Interests

3 Apologies for absence

Thorverton Parish Council

4 Public Open Session

15 minutes for members of the public to raise any issue of concern, 5 minutes maximum per speaker

5 Minutes

To approve the minutes of the 14th October 2025 meeting

Thorverton Parish Council

6 External Reports

6.1 County Councillor Steve Keable

Cllr Steve Keable

December 2025


Devon County Councillors Report - Creedy, Taw & Mid Exe:
Bickleigh • Brushford • Cadbury • Cadeleigh • Chawleigh • Cheriton Fitzpaine • Coldridge • Cruwys
Morchard • Down St. Mary • Eggesford • Kennerleigh • Lapford • Morchard Bishop • Newton St. Cyres •
Nymet Rowland • Poughill • Puddington • Sandford • Shobrooke • Silverton • Stockleigh English •
Stockleigh Pomeroy • Thelbridge • Thorverton • Upton Hellions • Washford Pyne • Wembworthy •
Woolfardisworthy • Zeal Monachorum

Steve.keable@devon.gov.uk

Mid Devon Councillors Report - Taw Vale:
Chawleigh • Lapford • Nymet Rowland • Wembworthy

Skeable@middevon.gov.uk

To follow the internet links use the words provided in your web search



As we move toward the end of 2025, November has brought significant developments shaping the future of public services, local governance, and community support across Devon. All Councils have met to decide their positions on Local Government Reorganisation in Devon.

Local Government Reorganisation

Once the government has received proposals from all of the local councils in Devon it will examine their submissions. It will then decide which proposal(s) will go to statutory stakeholders for consultation during the first half of next year.

A final decision by government is expected next summer, and shadow elections are due to be held in May 2027. The chosen new authority/authorities will take on its new powers and responsibilities on 1 April 2028.

Devon County Council is proposing that the County Council and the existing eight district councils are replaced with a single unitary authority serving around 840,000 residents, while retaining the existing authorities of Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council. [Search: Devon Blueprint](#)

Mid Devon District Council is one of seven of Devon's councils – East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge, Torridge, West Devon - working together to create the Reimagining Devon Case for Change, with three unitary authorities across Devon. [Search: Reimagining Devon](#)

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Streetlight trial is cutting energy use, emissions and costs

An ongoing street lighting trial is on track to deliver major savings in energy, carbon, costs and emissions – and early next year to decide whether to make the changes permanent.

The year-long trial, which began in April 2025, introduced earlier switch-off times and 'deeper' dimming across Exeter, market towns and rural areas – saving around £270,000 and 200 tonnes of carbon in a single year.

“reducing costs and carbon while still keeping people safe. The ability to adjust lighting quickly means we can respond to local concerns without losing the wider benefits.”

Community support and programmes

The council's winter version of the Holiday Activities & Food Programme (HAF) is now live, offering children in Devon access to free holiday meals and activities during school breaks.

Benefit to families needing support over the winter break, ensuring children have access to meals and engaging activities — a boost for community wellbeing during a time of rising living costs. [Search: Devon HAF Programme](#)

Reshape the future of adult social care

Devon County Council is reshaping its adult care amid rising costs and financial pressures.

The move, grapples with increasing costs and a growing number of people needing support, particularly those transitioning from children's services and those with complex mental health needs.



The transformation programme is aimed at making adult social care more sustainable, person-centred, and focused on promoting independence.

The transformation will focus on four key areas:

- **Improving outcomes for people** through social work and personalised care
- **Reducing reliance on residential care** by expanding housing options and community support
- **Boosting workforce capacity** in a sector struggling with recruitment and retention
- **Delivering better value for money** in a system where demand continues to outstrip budget capacity.

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DCC November Review & December Outlook

As we approach the end of another eventful year, I wish to extend a warm thank you to all residents, councillors and partners.

In this edition, I reflect on the highlights and look ahead to an exciting December full of opportunities, community events, and important council updates, as we move into the year ahead.

November brought significant developments shaping the future of public services, local governance, and community support across Devon.

Mounting financial pressures for the County Council, with forecasts indicating an overspend driven by increasing demands within children's services and adult social care will require careful budget preparation and will feature prominently in discussions ahead of final budget planning.

Building a positive future for Devon where everyone thrives

For Devon we want every child, every person, every family, and every community in Devon to live well – with access to opportunity, services that work, and a future shaped by hope, fairness, and resilience.

Our vision has been developed following the views of residents gathered through our surveys and discussions with the Devon Youth Council. These insights have also helped us shape our values and operating principles.

Mid Devon District Council News:

Significant Developments, Community Initiatives, and Local Highlights

Free Christmas Parking

Mid Devon District Council has confirmed it will once again offer free Christmas shopping parking across three long-stay car parks.

Free parking is at Crediton, St Saviours Way; Cullompton, Station Road, Tiverton, Multi Story, and will be available on the following Saturdays: November 29, December 6, 13, & 20. Normal parking charges apply at the above car parks on all other days of the year.

A NEW "work hub" ...

... for remote workers and small businesses has opened in Tiverton. Mid Devon District Council has converted the building in the town's Market Place car park into a professional office space. The hub features a reception area, a large open-plan office, smaller offices/ meeting rooms, a kitchenette, toilets, outdoor space, secure bike-parking and more.

"The opening of the Tiverton Work Hub highlights our commitment to drawing people back into our town centres, economies and the vitality of our district," cabinet member Cllr Steve Keable (Lib Dem, Taw Vale) said.



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Devon's strategic priorities through to 2029:

- Positive futures for our young people
- Supporting independence and dignity
- Continuous improvement of services
- A greener Devon for future generations
- Economic inclusion and local prosperity
- Stronger communities and safer places.

To find out more [Search: Devon Strategic Plan](#)

And into January

Bus operational changes are on the horizon. Several bus routes currently run by Stagecoach South West are scheduled to move to different operators in early January. [Search: Travel Devon Latest News](#)

Devon County Cabinet Forward Plan for active travel: Boniface Cycle Trail Route Adoption – DCC Cabinet 14th January. [Search: DCC Boniface Cycle Trail and DCC Cabinet Forward Plan](#)

Have your say: Residents in Mid Devon if you have views about services before 8 Dec 2025 then please complete the 'residents survey'.

"The Tiverton Work Hub will offer more than just a desk or an office, it will provide modern facilities ready for use, while offering support to self-employed workers, small businesses, and remote employees". [Search: Tiverton Workhub](#)

Strengthening community & voluntary sector support The Council's recent "**Meet the Funders**" event brought together over 50 local community groups, charities and social-enterprises with funders (including the National Lottery Community Fund, the Devon Community Foundation and MDDC's own teams). [Search: Mid Devon Meet The Funders](#)

"Green Enterprise Grant" for local businesses MDDC has launched its 2025 **Green Enterprise Grant**, offering small and medium-sized businesses grants of between £500 and £5,000 (covering up to 50% of project costs) to invest in energy efficiency or renewable/low-carbon technologies (e.g. efficient heating, lighting, energy-saving machinery). [Search: Sustainable Mid Devon Events](#)

Mid Devon Cabinet Forward Plan for rail investment: Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance – MDDC Cabinet 13th January [Search: MDDC NDRDA](#)



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6.2 District Councillor Rhys Roberts

Apologies sent and written report received:

Local Government Re-organisation

A business case for reshaped and reimagined local services has been jointly submitted to the Government by seven of Devon's 11 councils.

In a joint statement, the councils' leaders said: "Our submission of Reimagining Devon marks a key milestone in the future of local government in the county. We believe our proposal, which has been backed by our elected members, will create balanced authorities which can thrive and ensure no community is left behind.

"A lot of work has taken place to get to this stage, and we have worked collaboratively across political and geographic boundaries to create a structure that is financially robust, reflects Devon's unique geography and identity, and will deliver high-quality, accessible public services in the heart of our communities.

"We would like to thank the residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders who helped shape this proposal. A further consultation will take place in the new year, and we hope everyone will use the opportunity to have their say and ensure we have a local government structure which is right for our residents, delivering services we can all be proud of for generations to come."

Reimagining Devon: Believe in Better – 451 proposals:

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two **new** unitary councils that combine existing areas as follows:

- A **new** unitary council combining the South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon areas with Torbay.
- A **new** unitary council including East, Mid and North Devon alongside Torridge District and the City of Exeter; and
- The **retention** of Plymouth City Council as a unitary

This proposal has come to be known as the 4-5-1 proposal given the groupings as outlined above, it groups the existing principal authorities into three unitary councils without any changes to existing district or borough council boundaries.

Devon County Council is for a single unitary authority to replace the county council and the existing eight district councils. It would keep the existing unitary authorities of Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council as they are.

Next Steps The next stage will see a consultation on the Governments preferred plan for the county during the first half of next year with a final decision expected next year. The new system is due to start in April 2028.

View the full proposal at www.reimaginingdevon.org.

To support local Christmas programmes and to enhance trade Mid Devon District Council is offering 24-hour free parking in three of the Council's long-stay car parks.

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This year will continue to see the addition of an extra day to make it five Saturdays of free parking leading up to Christmas

Free parking at St Saviour's Way (Crediton), Station Road (Cullompton), Multi-Storey (Tiverton) will be available on the following Saturday's:

22 November

29 November

06 December

13 December

20 December

Normal parking charges apply at the above car parks on all other days of the year.

New Work Hub

A NEW "work hub" for remote workers and small businesses has opened in Tiverton inside a former youth centre. Mid Devon District Council has converted the building in the town's Market Place car park into a professional office space. The hub features a reception area, a large open-plan office, smaller offices/ meeting rooms, a kitchenette, toilets, outdoor space, secure bike-parking and more.

It had been hoped it would open in spring this year, but the project was delayed.

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Applications for warm home grants now open

Mid Devon Council, in partnership with Devon County Council and other local authorities in Devon, is proud to deliver the Warm Homes Local Grant, a government-backed scheme designed to make homes across Devon warmer, greener, and more affordable to heat.

The scheme offers fully funded energy efficiency upgrades for eligible households, including measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation, double glazing, air source heat pumps, solar panels and insulated doors. These improvements not only reduce energy bills but also cut carbon emissions, supporting Devon's commitment to a sustainable future.

To qualify, homes must have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D or below, and must either receive certain benefits or meet the specified low income criteria. Landlords can also apply, with one property fully funded and contributions required for additional homes.

From <<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/applications-for-warm-home-grants-now-open/>>

Land Charges Team Achieves Gold Standard

Thorverton Parish Council

Mid Devon District Council's Land Charges team has been awarded Gold Standard for its exceptional local land charges data management.

The council was assessed by HM Land Registry as delivering the very best service levels during 2025 and awarded the accolade this month.

The Land Charges team, of Peter Whateley and Diane Carne, is responsible for preparing local authority searches for solicitors and conveyancers acting on behalf of clients looking to buy, lease or re-mortgage a property, or a piece of land. The searches they conduct identify whether there are any legal restrictions affecting land or property, upon which completion of a sale would be binding, such as conditions imposed on planning permissions, conservation areas and listed buildings status. More detailed searches include other pending matters such as tree preservation orders, responsibility for any road maintenance, parking restrictions, compulsory purchase orders and whether a property falls within a contaminated area of land.

This year HM Land Registry introduced a categorisation system with local authorities deemed to have excellent land search data management awarded gold status, which is publicly recognised on GOV.UK in a 'status' column which is updated quarterly.

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The achievement marks another successful year for the Council's Land Charges team, which has previously won national awards in the Land Data Local Land Charges Awards for Excellence.

From <<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/land-charges-team-achieves-gold-standard/>>

Cllr Rhys Roberts

6.3 Saturday Market

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7 Actions from Previous Minutes

7.1 Litter Bins

7.2 Sheep Dip Wall

7.3 Untaxed Vehicle in the Quarry Car Park

7.4 Clerk CiLCA Training

7.5 Register Dorothy's Triangle

7.6 Change of Bank to Unity Trust

7.7 Rec Ground Lottery Bid

7.8 Tree Inspection/Survey

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8 Projects

8.1 New Cemetery

Email from the clerk, 9th Dec

Cemetery Planning Permission

I have had the following solution suggested to me which means that we do not have to reapply for Planning Permission and do not need a Biodiversity Net Gain report.

Thorverton Parish Council has permission granted for the cemetery under application no. 21/00666/FULL with no objections, indeed no comments at all. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that the project enjoys village support. The planning permission decision was issued on Friday 21 June 2021 and the purchase was completed on 9th April 2025.

The solution rests on the principle of the public interest. Is it in the interests of the public at large that a certain course of action is taken or not taken? The example often used is a complaint that a garage is built 1 metre bigger length and width than on the plans. Enforcement Officers will visit and confirm it but no action will be taken on the grounds that permission was granted for a garage, a garage was built that varies slightly from the plans but, in all likelihood, would have been given permission anyway.

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As far as the cemetery is concerned the final plans are varied by the relocation of the pedestrian access plus other minor amendments. There have been no objections raised with the Parish Council.

It is not in the public interest for the Council to spend c£1,000 on a planning permission that would be granted anyway, purely to comply with the 3-year-rule. Further, it would not be in the public interest for MDDC to pursue the Parish Council on this matter should an objection surface later. The Council can always apply for retrospective planning permission at any point should it become necessary (but incur c£1,000).

I suggest that Council resolves to continue work on the basis of the 2021 planning permission.

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8.2 Boxing Day Hunt

Email 28th Nov

My enquiry is regarding the event called the Silverton hunt, that congregates in the Bury in Thorverton on Boxing Day.

I understand that the event is now legally called a “trail” hunt because actual fox hunting has been illegal since 2005.

However, it is widely known that for many groups, trail hunting is a smokescreen for fox hunting.

The fact that a trail of fox urine is laid, will quite obviously lead the dogs towards live fox scent. The subsequent behaviour of the group is not often compliant with the law.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g0l09n898o>

In a progressive 21st century society, it is difficult to believe that the practice of chasing, abusing, savagely murdering foxes by a pack of hounds and a goading group of people on horseback, is not simply abhorrent. As a resident of Thorverton, I have several questions to put to Thorverton Parish Council, [...]

- 1) Why does the Silverton Hunt meet in Thorverton and not Silverton?
- 2) Who owns the land in the Bury on which they meet?

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- 3) Has the Silverton event organiser completed an Events Application Pack for the district or county council?
- 4) Has the event organiser completed a risk assessment?
- 5) Has the event organiser obtained, or applied for, legal permission to close any roads?
- 6) If so, what type of road closure did the event organiser obtain?
- 7) Does the event organiser have a license to collect money from the public?
- 8) Who is cleaning up after the event? Who is paying for this?
- 9) Does the parish council, or [MDDC] own any land that the event will be using?
- 10) With the knowledge of the term “trail hunt” widely known to be a smokescreen for fox hunting, an illegal practice, will the parish council consider a vote, on moral grounds, to ban future use of the Bury for this event?

8.3 Fence at Broadlands

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8.4 Affordable Housing

Report from the Open meeting on 27 November

8.5 Barliabins

From Cllr Uglow:

The working group met on 6th November 2025 [...]

The 10 children paired up and each pair took a tree which they planted. It was explained that they could use this open quiet area at any time and many of the children said they wanted to tell family and share the space.

One of the children suggested we added plants which made seeds to attract birds, a very good idea.

An additional bench has been added by the “Uglow” family.

[...] Our short working group meeting after focused on how would you know you can use this space. It was thought with the focus article, report in additional docs and word of mouth this would be good start but we did think that each gate needs a small sign denoting that it is Barliabins.

Resolution required: the purchase of two small name plates.

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8.6 Chilton Gate Road Surface

8.7 Christmas Trees and Lights

8.8 Hedges at Old Pound

8.9 Cake Shed in the Quarry Car Park

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9 Planning

9.1 Planning Decisions

9.1.1 25/01269/HOUSE Fordy Bridge Extension REFUSED

9.1.2 25/01413/CAT 12 Silver St Remove birch tree NO OBJECTION

9.2 Planning Applications

9.2.1 [25/01483/LBC](#) 9 Silver St Replace 11 windows

9.2.2 [25/01690/FULL](#) Berrysbridge Lodge Removal of agri. tie

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9.2.3 Bidwell Barton Woodland Creation

Email from Tilhill Forestry 1st Dec



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I represent Tilhill Forestry, a forest management company which is acting on behalf of a client to prepare a woodland creation plan for the above site. The attached map shows approximate boundaries, but these will be refined during the consultation process. It is the landowner's intention to create a 16-hectare mixed woodland of commercial species and biodiverse native woodland to provide habitat for wildlife whilst providing environmental benefits in the form of carbon sequestration and water management and sustainable timber production.

We are currently undertaking all the relevant searches and stakeholder consultation and are following Forestry Commissions mandatory process for woodland creation applications and will be consulting organisations such as Natural England, Environment Agency, and the local council to ensure the best outcome for this new woodland planting.

We would like to provide as much information as possible for local stakeholders and adjoining landowners to gain an insight into the proposed project. We appreciate the input of stakeholders to help shape this woodland plan and invite any feedback or questions you may have about this proposal. Any feedback [...] to: simon.marrington@tilhill.com (liz.houseman@tilhill.com). Please let us have any replies by the 28th of December.

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9.3 Planning Applications Received after the Agenda Council to consider the need for an Extraordinary Meeting

10 Recreation Ground

10.1 Financial Report for November

10.2 Information & No dogs Signs

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10.3 Devon Air Ambulance Landing Site

Letter in email 28th October from the Defib Trust

Dear Councillors

Thorverton 'Emergency Medical Equipment'

As you may be aware the Thorverton Community Defibrillator Trust was set up in July 2021 to take over the total management of the two village Defibrillators and the ring fenced funds, from the TPC.

The Trust has successfully ensured that the defibrillators are 'Rescue Ready' at all times. They have replaced the consumables as and when required, insured the devices, organised fund raising events, and facilitated an annual CPR training session. Along with any replacements required, the defibrillators are checked weekly and a monthly report is sent to The Circuit, the National Defibrillator Database, which is used by the Ambulance Service. There are currently four Trustees and they meet twice a year.

It occurs to us, that we could also easily take over the DAAT Night Landing Site management and ring fenced fund, from the TPC, so freeing up the PC's valuable time to concentrate on other issues.

As the Night Landing Site is adjacent to the defibrillator installed on the W I Hut, which is checked weekly, and with two of the Trustees living in nearby Cleaves Close, it would be little or no extra effort to fulfil the management requirements of DAAT.

We hope this idea will find favour with the TPC and you will want to discuss it further with the TCDT?

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Thorverton Parish Council

10.4 WI Assembly Point

Email received 7th Nov from Thorverton WI

On behalf of the Thorverton WI, I am asking for permission to put up an Assembly Point sign on the Recreation Ground. This is to comply with Health & Safety regs for evacuation of the WI Hut in the event of fire or other emergencies. It would be well away from the football pitch and playground equipment.

11 Grounds Maintenance Contractor **Work for the month**

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12 Council Administration

12.1 Implications of Planning Application

Email from Cllr Wilson:

Could you please record in section 5 that I asked later in the meeting " what ramifications applying for planning in a 3rd parties name the TPC may have to endure."

"What possible pitfalls and negative effects may the TPC have with this proposal."

Especially if the planning is not adhered to as we have had with other sites recently in the village.

Lights, white lines, speed signs and fences spring to mind as well as reducing the number of low cost/self-build houses and *[... section removed for legal reasons]*.

This application worries me immensely. Especially without any details of how it may work or a risk assessment by TPC

I also stress, i am in favour of social and low-cost housing.

12.2 Clerk Pension – item in Part B

Thorverton Parish Council

Council to consider changes to payrolling with notice given to GX Accountancy and Bookkeeping and transfer of responsibilities to the clerk.

Council to consider a start date for the pension.

13 Finance

13.1 Bank balance £ 49,139.84 (4th December 2025)

Receipts this month Interest £27.74

13.2 Appointment of the Internal Auditor for 2025-26

Email 9th December refers

Thorverton Parish Council

13.3 Payments To consider the following payments:

13.3.1	BRN Fitch Grounds Maintenance November	£	515.28
13.3.2	Thorverton Memorial Hall Room Hire 2025-26	£	256.00
13.3.3	PKF Littlejohn LLP External Auditor f2024-25	£	797.28
13.3.4	Exe Valley Christmas Trees		
	Jubilee Green & TMH trees inv 25-2025	£	350.00
13.3.5	J P Roberts Clerk pay for November	£	580.27

14 Next Meeting

7:30pm Tuesday 13th January 2026