

Councillors Report for Shobrooke Parish Council 14th May 2025.

Cllr Steven Keable, County (Creedy, Taw & Mid Exe), District (Taw Vale)

Following the **May 1st Devon County Council** election this is the first of my joint Councillors report that will cover both the County Council and Mid Devon District Council. While I look forward to working with 29 different parish communities in my Creedy County Division, it does mean that with so many parish council meetings happening most months, it will be physically impossible for me to attend all meeting. I shall endeavour to keep your parish council informed through regular written reports.

It is an honour to be elected and it is my intention to serve everyone in our community and I shall keep to my election priorities of 'people, planet and prosperity'.

1. **Devon County Council** - there will be a new Liberal Democrat led administration formed at the first Council meeting on 22nd May, where Cllr Julian Brazil (Kingsbridge) will become Leader of the Council and Cllr Paul Arnott (Seaton & Colyton) as Deputy Leader. There will be a Cabinet of 9 Councillors formed around the same themes as the previous Council. County Committee positions will be determined on 22nd as the political groups become organised. More information: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-info/> The political composition of the Council is as follows:
 - Liberal Democrat: 27
 - Reform UK: 18
 - Conservative: 7
 - Green: 6
 - Independent: 2
 2. **Potholes** - the most talked about issue and this will receive a great deal of attention.
Q: Why does it cost 3x as much to fill a pothole in Devon than it does in Somerset.
 3. **Children's services** - after months of delay OFSTED publish their long awaited judgment on Children's Services in Devon <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50276862>. The 5-point grading of 4 x inadequate and 1 x requires improvement is not good! "Children's experiences in Devon remain poor. For too many children, serious weaknesses remain, leaving children at risk of harm".
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4. **Mid Devon District Council** - Full Council met for the new Municipal Year on 7th May. Details of Councillors, Democracy and Meetings are available <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-democracy/>
 5. **Mid Devon District Council has achieved its highest-ever ranking for waste and recycling performance, thanks to the continued efforts of residents to reduce waste and recycle more.**
For the year 2023/24, the district council recorded a recycling rate of 57.9%, placing it 11 out of 197 local authorities. Mid Devon also achieved a non-recyclable waste figure of 307.8kg per household, ranking ninth and placing the district within the top 5% of local authorities nationwide. <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/mid-devon-achieves-best-ever-waste-and-recycling-results/>

6. **Mid Devon District Council's 2025 Green Enterprise Grant is now available to small and medium businesses in the district.** The Green Enterprise Grant scheme offers capital grants from £500 to £5,000, covering up to 50% of eligible project costs. Funded by Mid Devon District Council, it is open to small and medium sized local businesses who want to reduce their carbon footprint by investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy, or by efficient use of resources or materials. <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/grants-now-available-to-help-mid-devon-businesses-go-green/>
7. **Mid Devon District Council has received a judgement from the Regulator for Social Housing, following its housing rent calculation error.** The Council made a self-referral to the regulator in September 2024, following the discovery of a historic error in the way it applied formula rent to the majority of our tenants. <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/housing-rent-error-regulator-s-judgement/>
8. **Active Mid Devon** - Mid Devon's new look leisure service, introduces fee reductions to unpaid carers who use its facilities and classes with a 25% discount on Membership or a 20% discount on casual sessions, for adult carers while those careers who are under 18 years will have free access to Mid Devon's leisure centres.
9. **Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation** – 28th November is the deadline for submissions to Government. The District Council are pooling resources to work through joint consultants on 1:4:5. DCC has put forward 5 options: these will be considered by the new Council.
10. **State of the District Debate** – this annual event has been deferred due to the County Council Elections and is being scheduled for 25th June – where Local Government Reorganisation in Devon will be theme.

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