Mid Devon District Councillors

Monthly Report to Clare and Shuttern Ward Town and Parish Councils

New Council housing in Bampton (School Close)

Four 4-bed and two 2-bed homes have been advertised, applicants have been shortlisted and viewings have taken place. The first tenants are expected to be moving in this week. And the three bed properties have been advertised. Adverts for the 1 beds will then follow in a few weeks. Homes are offered to applicants according to need and local connection. The moving-in process will be staggered to avoid congestion.

Dumping of Soil in the Exe Valley Flood Plain East of Oakfordbridge (In Bampton Parish)

We have once again expressed local residents' serious concerns about the impact of the material deposited in the flood plain. We are assured that this matter remains a high priority for the Senior Enforcement Officer at MDDC in liaison with the Environment Agency.

Recycling and Waste

There is currently a focus on reducing further the amount of food waste in the black residual waste bins, which comprises up to 25% of the total collected. It would reduce the weight and cost of disposal as well as improving hygiene. To support this, the Council is placing notices on some bins as a reminder to separate food waste for weekly collection, and providing kitchen caddies free of charge. Please contact us should you require caddies for your Town or Parish Council to pass on to households. See also:

https://www.middevon.gov.uk/food-waste-pilot-shows-simple-reminders-can-give-big-boost-to-recycling/

Plan Mid Devon

As a reminder, the next public consultation on the new Local Plan will run from 22nd January to 8th March. We urge you to take part as a Council and encourage local residents to contribute so that their views are well represented. This is particularly important as under the new National Scheme of Delegation being rolled out by Government, Council officers will determine most planning applications.

Plan Mid Devon | Let's Talk Mid Devon and links from there.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

LGR remains paused by central Government for a review and elections to MDDC are scheduled for May 2027 unless there is a change beforehand.

Road Safety

Four Community Speed Watch (CSW) roadside sessions have been held in the Bampton/Shillingford/Morebath area since the last report. One was cancelled due to Storm Austen. At one session in Morebath, fifteen speeding vehicles were reported, out of 73 passing by, at speeds from 35 to 48 mph.

In Bampton and Shillingford, the CSW Group awaits the installation of mounting posts by DCC for the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) already purchased. In Morebath, the PC awaits certification for its chosen model of VAS unit.

Drought

Although it has been raining, reservoir levels remain extremely low, meaning that water supplies need to be managed carefully until reservoirs have been replenished, which will take many months of normal rainfall. There remains a hosepipe ban in our area and more restrictions may follow to

help ensure that water levels recover in the coming months. See the link: Help save water during Devon's drought

The Council has written a strongly worded letter to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking for answers to important questions about water supply, drought order measures, water quality and how all the agencies can work better together to improve the situation.

Community Emergency Hubs

Town and Parish Councils and Community Groups are encouraged to embrace the concept of Community Emergency Hubs to help boost 'Whole Society Resilience' without the need for detailed emergency planning. This can provide help for residents when an event impacts the normal function of society, potentially beginning in the period before any emergency services arrive. MDDC's resilience officer (Lewis Dyson) is supporting the initiative and a box containing guidance and basic equipment (100 available free) is available via Devon Communities Together. See the link:

Community Emergency Hubs | Devon Communities Together

If your Parish Council, or a community group, has not yet had a presentation from Lewis Dyson and would like one, it can be arranged. If you are interested in developing or updating a detailed Community Emergency Plan, see the link:

Devon Community Resilience Forum | Devon Communities Together

where there is information about support including possible funding.

Overgrown Vegetation affecting Highways

This is a particular problem in summer and autumn. If overgrown hedges affect highways, including obscuration of streetlamps, this can be reported to DCC at:

Report a problem - Roads and transport, where many other issues can also be reported.

DCC has the power to issue a Section 154 Order (Highways Act 1980) to a hedge owner to cut back the vegetation. One such order has recently resulted in the overhanging hedge at High Street, Bampton being cut back to improve space for high vehicles and allow a streetlamp to illuminate the road.

Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

We encourage anyone experiencing or witnessing ASB to report it to MDDC or the Police 101 service so that the authorities are aware of it and can take action. ASB can be reported online via: Anti-social Behaviour Toolkit - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK (or phone 01884 255255)

Contact us | Police.uk, or an email to 101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk .

You may also wish to contact us as your Ward Councillors and we will endeavour to progress action.

Cllr Chris Adcock, Cllr Martyn Stratton

Mid Devon District Council

27th October 2026

Cc: Cllr Steve Lodge DCC, Cllr Gwen Duchesne, MDDC Cabinet Member for Parish and Community Engagement, Rachel Gilmour MP