

May 2025 Report
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Devon County Councillor for: Aveton Gifford, Bigbury, Buckland-tout-Saints, Churchstow, Halwell & Moreleigh, Kingston, Loddiswell, Malborough, Modbury, Ringmore, Salcombe, South Huish, South Milton, Thurlestone. West Alvington and Woodleigh.

It is with great pleasure indeed that I have begun my work as Devon County Councillor for the Salcombe Division and I look forward improving communication between the Parish and County Councils regarding local needs and the provision of services from Devon County Council. I am gradually developing the understanding, relationships, timetables and resources that will allow me to play a meaningful role as your Devon County Councillor. Thank you for your patience.

I have now been in post since the 6th May – **19 working days**. I have attended 8 parish/town council meetings and made 2 site visits to explore local road issues as well as attend training and formal meetings at County Hall in Exeter and held a meeting with Adam Keay (Neighbourhood Highways Officer).

I have accepted the following DCC appointments:

- Farm Estates Committee (Vice Chair)
- Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (IFCA)
- SW Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (Deputy to Cllr S Rake)
- South Devon Estuaries Partnership
- South Devon National Landscape Partnership
- Standards Committee
- South Hams Highways & Traffic Orders Committee (Vice Chair)

PARISH MEETINGS

I will be attending parish council meetings in person every other month. Timetables are being agreed with parish clerks. Your clerks will read my monthly report at the meeting, if I am not attending personally and make me aware of any questions arising. I will respond to your questions by email through the clerks.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

I am meeting with **Adam Keay, Neighbourhood Highways Officer** once a month to review in detail all outstanding and new issues arising. My first meeting was last week when Adam explained the complex processes, roles and responsibilities of the DCC professionals involved in maintaining and repairing our highways. . I will feedback to individual councils on their 'live issues' after my next meeting with Adam on Thursday 5th June

I will shortly publish an explanation of “**Highways Services in Salcombe Division**” on my new website(www.louise4Devon.com) together with topic-related **FAQs**. I think it would be helpful for everyone to understand exactly how DCC provides this service and how individuals and parish councils can be involved.

Adam has agreed to find out how we can publish a **map of the Salcombe Division** detailing all the highways interventions on our roads over the last 4 years and a regular update of the planned interventions in the next 6 months. If we can organise this, it will be published and updated on www.louise4Devon.com.

In the meantime, you can play an active role in surveying the needs of our roads in between the timetabled formal inspections undertaken by the DCC **Highways Inspectors** who are part of the **Network Response Team**.

You can do this by entering your observations about a wide range of issues – including road-related issues. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/> Reports are triaged immediately by the **Network Response Team** to decide if the problem meets certain agreed criteria which determines their priority. These criteria (e.g. dimensions of potholes) are calculated based on the budget available to spend on roads (**Highways Asset Management Plan**), which in turn depends on the funding DCC receives from HM Government.

It is important for potential road defects to be reported by more than one individual because multiple reports indicate the traffic on that stretch of the road and the local priorities. Even if the defect does not meet the criteria for a 'defect', the Network Response Team will take note of the non-compliant defects because widespread non-compliant defects indicate that the road is deteriorating and that patching might be required rather than simply pothole fixing.

Parish and Town Councils can also play a part in temporary remedial interventions using cold tar and simple equipment under the volunteer [Road Warden Scheme](#).

Adam and I have resolved to improve our communication about the planned interventions and hope that this will provide perspective about how interventions are prioritised and followed up.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Devon County Council is responsible for enforcement of parking regulations and I have had several issues reported to me which I am following up and will report back to the relevant parish councils this week following my meetings at County Hall tomorrow.

Parking issues require a site visit by a **Civil Enforcement Officer** and the issuance of penalties. Parking is a considerable problem in certain towns and villages and some **Neighbourhood Plans** have made it a Policy issue for new homes to have sufficient off-street parking.

SPEEDING

Some parishes have raised concerns about speeding offences which is a police matter. I have been in touch with **Police Sergeant Charlie Wilkes** at Kingsbridge Police Station with whom I will be meeting after the 16th June for a full review of issues in the Salcombe Division.

Charlie has advised that the **community speed gun** is currently with another station and that he will identify a trained Police user to organise its use in targeted areas in the Salcombe Division based on local intelligence and reports of routine speeding.

He would also consider a joint venture with the community. He has reports from another Force where a Police operative used the radar gun with the community representative on a road where offenders regularly exceeded the speed limit past a school. Evidence of speeding was captured and the police operative indicated for the driver to pull over. They were offered the choice: go through the ticketing procedure or receive a very stern telling-off from local 9-10 year olds. Most took the latter and it apparently has had an excellent impact on local speeding as it gave an immediate and emotive consequence straight away.

If there are council workers trained in use of said equipment, this may make the process a bit swifter. More information to follow my meeting after 16th June.

LOCALITY BUDGETS

Each County Councillor in Devon has a Locality Budget allocation of £8,000 that they can use in this financial year (until March 2026). Devon County Council Members can use their Locality Budget to support good causes in the area that they represent such as projects to address **loneliness**, increase access to **healthy activities**, help people experiencing **food poverty**, or **enhance public spaces**.

Applications are accepted from constituted and not-for-private-profit voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector groups and organisations, town and parish councils, charities or businesses (that have an eligible sponsor), or a combination of such groups working together. All projects should include some other financial contribution(s) and/or local support.

[Find out more about Locality Budgets and how to apply](#)

I have decided initially to offer this budget pro rata to the 16 parishes in Salcombe Division, based on the local population size. It will not be on a first-come-first-served basis to ensure that the small amount of money is allocated competitively and fairly. Please feel free to share on local social media and also let me have these links so that I can also use them in future. . I will promote this through the **parish magazines** so that everyone knows about it. I will gather the applications together as quickly as possible and present these to the DCC for approval to ensure the project and the applicants are in compliance with the criteria in the link above. Please let me know if you have any concerns about the numbers.

PARISH	POPULATION	AMOUNT
Bigbury	449	£386
Ringmore	177	£152
Kingston	313	£267
Modbury	1,532	£1,315
Aveton Gifford	733	£630
Loddiswell	937	£804
Churchstow	433	£372
Halwell		
& Moreleigh	400	£343
Malborough	879	£755
Buckland-tout		
Saints	162	£140
West Alvington	469	£403
Thurlestone,		
Buckland &		

Bantham	692	£595
Woodleigh	166	£143
South Huish	356	£306
South Milton	322	£276
Salcombe	1,297	£1,113

END