

Cllr Steve Keable

May 2026

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

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Mid Devon Councillors Report - Taw Vale:

Chawleigh • Lapford • Nymet Rowland • Wembworthy

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Welcome to my newsletter for May. As the days grow longer and spring brings renewed energy, this edition seeks to keep you informed about local decisions, community initiative, local news, recent developments, forthcoming events, and notable achievements within our community. Thank you for reading

Stay informed about local decisions, community initiatives, and opportunities to have your say

Chief Medical Officer, Sir Chris Whitty, explores the health challenges in rural Devon



Sir Chris was told about the challenges around rural deprivation, food insecurity, and fuel poverty, as part of a fact-finding mission looking at the health challenges for people in small towns and rural areas, for an annual report he will publish for government later this year.

He heard about the health inequalities for people living in urban and rural Devon, the challenge of rural deprivation and exclusion, particularly in relation to access to services.

He was told about findings from a recent Devon Youth Council survey, where young people highlighted the barriers that they experience living in rural communities – a need for better local public transport, and more reliable access to broadband for example. And of the work that young people and the council are doing to improve the range of things and activities that young people can access.

He also heard about the challenges that young people in rural areas have accessing education, training, and employment opportunities.

Devon's aging population was also highlighted as a challenge, with health and adult social care services supporting one of the highest percentages of older people in the country.

TIVERTON WORKHUB

At Tiverton Market, a building has been transformed into a vibrant co-working space helping to support local entrepreneurs, businesses and enhance footfall in Tiverton town centre: with a UK Shared Prosperity Fund Grant.

Simon Lloyd, hub manager, said: "We know that more people are working flexibly than ever before, but that can sometimes feel isolating. Tiverton Workhub is about creating a place where people can work productively while also feeling part of a supportive local community".



Devon County Chair, Cllr Caroline Lever, & Mid Devon Chair Cllr Gordon Czapiewski with Cabinet Planning & Economic Development lead, Cllr Steve Keable cutting the 'opening ribbon'.

Events: May 6th European Co-working Day a great opportunity for people to come in, try the space and see what's happening here in the town, and May 27th Open Business Discussion - no agenda, just a chat in a small group to share and help each other and find the work/life balance everyone desires and engage with like-minded people.

Trying a change of scenery during your working week: this month might be a good time to visit your local Workhub.

For more services please follow this [link](#) Search: Signal Bizhub Tiverton

Devon County May News Brief

We've installed **Swift nest boxes** on buildings at County Hall in Exeter and at the Grand Western Canal in Tiverton to help summer visitors find safe nesting sites as numbers continue to fall nationwide – down 60% in 30-years.

It's all part of our scheme to support swifts – one of the UK's most distinctive birds – and follows a decision last year to install swift nest boxes across our estate.

Because swifts stay for only a few months, it is essential that they find a nesting site quickly. Numbers have fallen significantly in the last decade, and one of the main reasons is thought to be the loss of nesting spaces.

Swifts nest in small gaps and cavities in buildings and are faithful to their sites, returning year after year.

When repairs block access points – for example during roof works or when soffits are replaced – birds can be forced to search for new sites at short notice.

 booklet to help email: help.swifts@gmail.com

DCC Cabinet

- **Devon Pothole Trial Update** and
- **Library Service - outcome of Consultation and Future Delivery Model**

Both will be debated at Devon County Cabinet, at 10.30 on **Wednesday 20 May**.  Search: Devon County Cabinet, to view or join line on-line.

Bus Travel

Progress continues to be made in preparation for the Cullompton Relief Road with a new bus lay-by on Station Road, marking another positive step forward in preparing the local highway network ahead of the wider scheme.

The Station Road lay-by is now being used by services operating along the route. It forms part of a package of early improvements designed to support the long-term delivery of the relief road and bring immediate, practical benefits for the community.

The new lay-by provides a clear and safe stopping area for buses to drop off and collect passengers, while reducing disruption to other road users

Parish action on bus shelters

A new bus shelter has been installed at Half Moon on the A377 by Devon County Council. Newton St Cyres Parish Council are lobbying for a bus shelter at the Langford junction on the A377 and Silvertown Parish Council wish to install a bus shelter at Upexe Lane on A396. Both sites are supported by County Councillor Steve Keable and DCC Transport Coordinating Officer undertaking the necessary investigations including safety checks.

Crediton Tesco's road upgrade

Details to follow in June - works to start at A377 roundabout from 29th June.

Mid Devon District May News Brief

5-Year housing land supply statement for 2025

A statement about the housing land supply in Mid Devon at 31st March 2025 is now published on the Mid Devon website. The statement is used for planning purposes and reports that the housing land supply is currently 2.40 years. This reflects the housing need for the district using the Government's standard method and an appropriate buffer, and planning commitments for sites that are deliverable in 5 years.

 Search: [Housing Land Availability - Mid Devon](#).

Since the Council cannot demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites the policies in the current adopted Mid Devon Local Plan which are most important for determining planning applications for the development of new homes are out-of-date. Decisions on such applications should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development and a 'tilted balance'.

The statement will be updated to reflect the housing land supply at 31st March 2026 once the baseline monitoring data is available for this. However, it is expected this updated statement will not result in a notable difference to the figure reported.

As reported last month, the **HELAA** 'call for sites' findings will be published by Mid Devon in June.

Mid Devon Local Plan - Parish Councils will be consulted on 'scoping the plan' at the end of May for 6-weeks. The Local Plan is about setting vision & strategy, allocation of land to meet objectives, produce evidence & policies and undertake public consultation. This must be achieved within a 30-month timetable to be ready ahead of the new Unitary Council.

National Top 10 for Recycling Districts

Mid Devon achieves new record waste and recycling performance achieved its strongest-ever waste and recycling results, with the latest figures placing the district among the very best in the country.

For the year 2024/25, Mid Devon ranked 10th out of 197 local authorities for recycling, with a rate of 57.9%, improving on last year's position of 11th and placing the district firmly within the top 5% nationally.

Mid Devon ranks 6th out of 197 councils for the lowest tonnage collected per household, 296.8kg, an improvement from 9th last year, placing the district in the top 3% nationwide.

"We are extremely proud to continue to climb the national rankings. This success is down to the continued efforts of our residents. By reducing waste, reusing more, and recycling correctly, you are helping to make a real difference – thank you."
Cllr Josh Wright, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement

