

DCC Report for June 25 – July 25
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Could parish council please email with any work they would like me to uptake.

Online booking for this summer's Holiday Activities and Food programme is now open

As of Monday June 9 parents and carers can book places on the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme this summer. Please publicise around your networks so our local children can access. The Government-funded scheme provides activities and nutritional meals over the holidays for children aged five to 16 who receive benefits-related free school meals. And if a child is not eligible for benefits-related free school meals they still may be able to access activities under our 'extended criteria.'

You can find more information about our extended criteria on [information for parents and carers on our children, families and education](#) webpage.

To make it easier, parents/carers can view and [book activities](#) online. The new EEQU system displays all the holiday activities on offer, with links detailing where and when the activity is, how to get there and other important information.

Once applied the booking system will carry out an instant assessment of eligibility to attend. If eligible, applicants receive a confirmation of the booking and are will be sent reminders ahead of the session.

We now work with over 100 holiday activity providers around Devon who provide a wide range of activities for children and young people. All clubs will be operating for a minimum of four hours and will include a hot meal. We have also increased the number of places for secondary school aged children, with some sessions taking place during the evenings and at weekends.

State of Devons Roads

This is a personal priority for me and I will be raising it at every appropriate opportunity. However we can not underestimate the difficulties we face. Cllr Dan Thomas summed up this up at Cabinet 25/06/25 and can be seen in the YouTube clip - [Devon County Council - Cabinet 25.06.25](#) As a new administration though we have already started to take some increased action. **Council to trial pothole repair blitz as part of £83 million road maintenance programme**

Our highways teams will carry out a repair blitz on potholes in a few trial areas of the county following a decision by councillors on Wednesday 25 June. While approving an £83 million programme of capital funded highway maintenance schemes, our Cabinet heard from Councillor Dan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Highways, who stated that the condition of Devon's roads is not up to scratch because the county is "grossly under resourced by central government".

[Councillors backed proposals to trial areas where all potholes would be filled, rather than just dealing with safety defects.](#) Although the exact details are still to be agreed, this pilot would be used to establish the budget implications of changing maintenance procedures.

In the meantime can I also point out the scheme below that might be of interest to parish councils.

Devon Road Warden Scheme

Devon County Council invites parish and town councils to participate in the Road Warden Scheme, a formal partnership enabling local volunteers to support minor highway upkeep under council supervision This empowers communities to help maintain local roads—where council resources are strained—without taking over core safety responsibilities.

What can Road Wardens do?

Trained volunteers can take on tasks such as:

- Repairing small potholes (below the council's intervention threshold)
- Clearing weeds, grass cutting, hedge trimming
- Cleaning signs & drains (gully grates)
- Repairing fingerposts
- Establishing verges for wildlife management
- Setting up traffic management for special events (with Chapter 8 certification)

Training & Insurance

Devon County Council provides free training (including City & Guilds Chapter 8 and traffic management) and third-party liability insurance for properly completed work.

Benefits to Your Parish

- Local control over minor repairs that don't meet county thresholds
- Quicker response times for small defects
- Enhanced collaboration with Neighbourhood Highway Officers
- Priority for grants via the Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund

How to Get Involved

1. Nominate a Road Warden (volunteer or volunteer coordinator) via your parish council.
2. Request training and tools from Devon County Council.
3. Start working under council guidance—supported by insurance and funding.
4. Volunteer – give a few hours per month to make a big difference locally.

Learn more on the Devon County website: [Devon Road Warden Scheme](#).

Reminder about Devon County Council's Locality Budgets 2025/26

Applications for funding to support projects that benefit local communities in Devon can now be submitted. Each County Councillor in Devon has a Locality Budget allocation of £8,000 that they can use in this financial year (until March 2026). I'm happy to say some of mine has already been allocated to local projects.

All projects should include some other financial contribution(s) and/or local support. If you are interested in applying for a contribution from the Locality Budgets please email me.

Kind Regards
Councillor Cathy Connor
Whimble and Blackdown
06/07/2025