



Devon County Councillor Report October 2025



@louise4devon



Louise Wainwright

I serve communities in the parishes of
Bigbury, Kingston, Modbury, Ringmore
Aveton Gifford, Loddiswell, Churchstow,
Buckland-Tout-Saints, West Alvington
Halwell & Moreleigh, Woodleigh, South Huish
Malborough, South Milton, Salcombe and Thurlestone

Your DCC Councillor

Salcombe Division Meeting on Neighbourhood Area Committees

Our Future

Funding cuts (72%) by national government since 2011 have already led to severe reductions in the level of services which Devon County Council can now afford to deliver to our local communities.

Whichever boundary change model is adopted - the proposed Local Government Reorganisation **will not restore the level of funding** needed to adequately provide legally obliged services to our parish communities.

Improvements in services **will not be guaranteed by LGR** because the level of savings possible by amalgamating the District and County Council services under one Unitary Authority, are likely to be dwarfed by the existing huge funding gap caused by **inadequate government grants** to local authorities.

There will not be a referendum on whether we want Local Government Reorganisation. The **enforcement of LGR** is expected to be **April 2028**.

Parish councils need to focus on how they can optimise the outcomes of LGR for the communities they represent.

Early 2026 – The formal Government consultation on the proposals will begin.

July 2026 – The Government aims to announce which proposal to implement in Devon.

RSVP

louise4devon@gmail.com

Clerks and parish councillors for all 16 parishes in the Salcombe Division are invited to contribute their views on how they want NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA COMMITTEES to ensure that enough funding is allocated by the new Unitary Authority to serve the needs of their local communities.

This is not a public meeting. I will include a round-up of the discussions in my November monthly report to parish councils with a summary for parish magazine editors

Date: Saturday 29th November 2029
10.30 am to 1.00 pm

Venue: Cliff House, Cliff Rd, Salcombe TQ8 8JQ

Creek Car Park: Located at TQ8 8DU, this is a main car park. RingGo code is 3477.
https://so.geograph.org.uk/geophotos/03/13/65/3136559_d361a1f3.jpg

Shadycombe Car Park: Located at TQ8 8ND. Long-stay (10 hours) in low season (November 1 - March 24). The PayByPhone code is 810458.
<https://www.kingsbridge-today.co.uk/tindle-static/image/2021/12/23/22/Whitestrands-Views-1.jpg>

Whitestrands Car Park: Located on Whitestrands, Salcombe, TQ8 8JE.

Aveton Gifford, Bigbury, Buckland-tout-Saints, Churchstow, Halwell & Morleigh, Kingston, Loddiswell, Marlborough, Modbury, Ringmore, Salcombe, South Milton, South Huish, Thurstlestone. West Alvington, Woodleigh

AGENDA

Introduction: parish councillors present
(10.30 to 11.00)

Cllr Paul Arnott - DCC Cabinet Member for LGR
will answer questions below and questions from
delegates: (11.00 to 11.30)

1. How are the proposed Neighbourhood Area Committees intended to **serve the interests of 362 parish councils** in Devon and how could town and **parish councils be represented**?
2. What is the anticipated **membership and constitution** of NACs; how would membership and **voting rights** be **democratically** apportioned; what **services** might NACs manage; how **frequently** are NACs likely to meet and will they have **devolved budgets**?
3. How much influence will individual parish councils have on the eventual **constitution, scope and operation of NACs**? Could the **collective views of parish councils** within an electoral division have more influence on the eventual outcome?
4. **Time-line** for any further development of the **constitution of the NACs** detailing how parish councils will be involved and how can **parish councils lobby for their preferred option**?
5. How and why do the various local authority proposals for **LGR boundaries differ** and which model is likely to deliver most **funding into local services** in the Salcombe Division? (SHDC's **1:4:5**, DCC **1:1:9** and Exeter CC & Plymouth CC **1:1:1** and **Rural & Coastal Communities**).
6. Should parish council representatives and clerks receive an **allowance and mileage claims** for their involvement in NACs?

Open Forum : Delegates Questions
11.30 to 12.00 pm

Next Steps: Inter-parish, small group discussions
and feedback on Next Steps for Salcombe Division.
12.00 to 12.30.

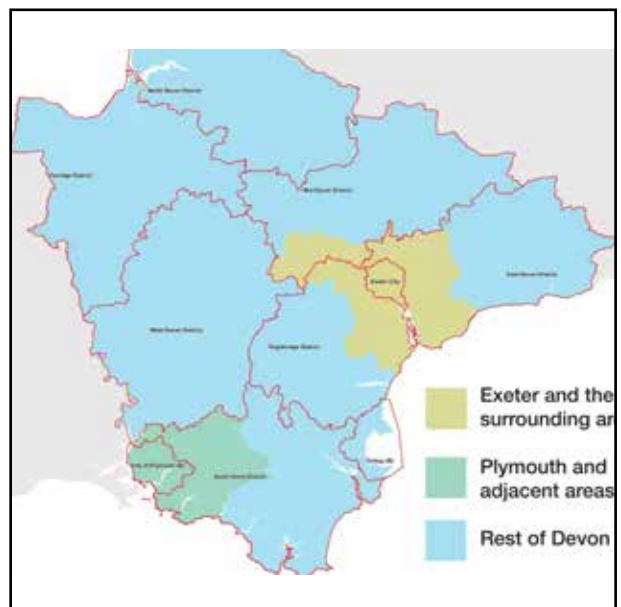
Feedback: 12.30 to 1.00 pm
Close meeting: 1.00 pm



One Devon : 1/1/9 proposal



1/4/5 proposal



Aveton Gifford, Bigbury, Buckland-tout-Saints, Churchstow, Halwell & Morleigh, Kingston, Loddiswell, Malborough, Modbury, Ringmore, Salcombe, South Milton, South Huish, Thurlestone. West Alvington, Woodleigh

How will local voices be heard?

Local Government Reorganisation

28th November 2025 – DCC and SHDC (and other competing bids) will submit their final proposals and their financial modelling justifications to Government for their proposed **Unitary Authority boundaries**.

29th November 2025
SALCOMBE DIVISION meeting on
Neighbourhood Area Committees

Early 2026 – The formal **Government consultation** on the proposals will begin.

July 2026 – The Government aims to announce which proposal to **implement in Devon**.

Sept 2026 – Secondary legislation laid in Parliament to **allow the boundary changes** to happen.

The '**Wards**' for each **Unitary Councillor** might be bigger than the current 'Divisions' served by your current County Councillors (i.e. 16 parishes in the Salcombe Division served by Cllr Louise Wainwright). There could be **TWO Unitary Councillors** for each new Unitary Ward.

Unitary Councillors will step forward and will be **seeking election** as your Unitary Councillor and could be knocking on your doors from Sept 2026 to May 2027.

May 2027 – Elections to the new Unitary Council take place

SHDC and DCC continue to operate in parallel.

SHDC elected Members who would normally have come to the end of their 4-year tenure in May 2026 will have to stay on for another year.

April 2028 – New **Unitary authorities** and **Neighbourhood Area Committees** go live.

DCC and SHDC and all District Councils in Devon cease to exist.

Can parishes influence decisions?

Neighbourhood Area Committees (NAC) are proposed as a new level of local government – rather like the current South Hams Highways and Traffic Order Committee – HATOC).

It could be composed of the

- **locally elected Unitary Councillors,**
- **Representatives parish/town councils,**
 - **Health and Police services.**

Parish and Town Councils should be lobbying to have their say now about how they want to be represented on the NAC (if they are set up).

It's unlikely in my view, that all parish councils will be represented on a NAC because this would make it unwieldy. If this is so, some level of **cooperation between parish & town councils** would be a good plan.

The purpose of a NAC is to address the highly likely alienation of parish and town councils from the decision-making Unitary Authority. Without a NAC how will the 'voice' of local people be heard when decisions are taken about local priorities for spending the already inadequate budget?

Aveton Gifford, Bigbury, Buckland-tout-Saints, Churchstow, Halwell & Morleigh, Kingston, Loddiswell, Malborough, Modbury, Ringmore, Salcombe, South Milton, South Huish, Thurstlestone. West Alvington, Woodleigh

BLUEprint for Rivers

Thank you to those parish councillors who attended the **River Summit** (4th Oct) and participated in the Local Government breakout session.

This was an opportunity to express and interest in being part of a bid to the **Water Restoration Fund** in March 2026 for funding to assist ambitions of the parish councils to undertake any activity or host any event that could have an impact on water quality.

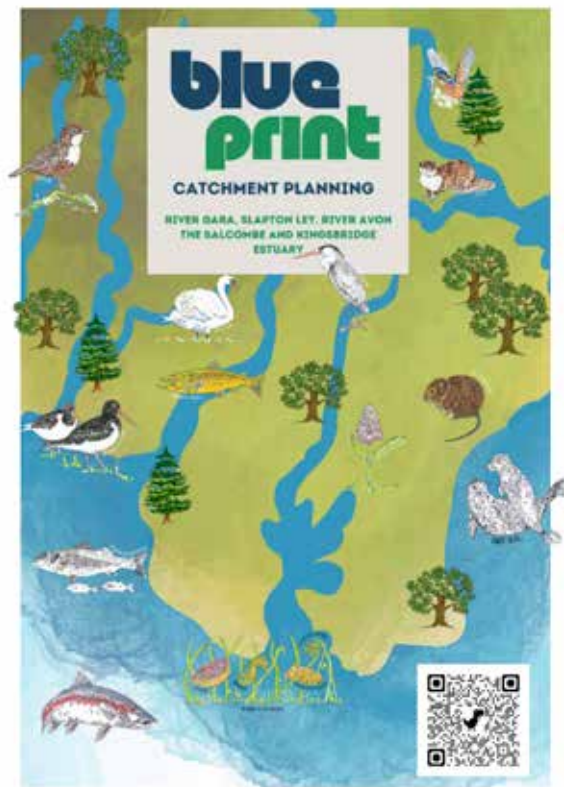
The BLUEprint steering group has ambitions to submit a bid to the Water Restoration Fund for £500,000 to £2 million. The project bid will cover three main stakeholder group projects - **farmers, landowners and businesses, local government and community groups**.

The three catchments involved are the

- **River Gara & Slapton Ley,**
- **River Avon**
- **Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary.**

The proposed local government (parish and town councils) involvement would be through **Catchment Water Quality Groups** which link up parish councils within a river or estuary catchment to work together on water quality and engage in river-sensitive planning. This would involve:

1. Promoting the work of the BLUEprint for Rivers at the **Annual Parish Meetings**.
2. Receiving **reports from the River Ranger** funded by the BLUEprint project - covering local projects aimed at restoring water quality
3. Deciding if the parish council needs to focus on any matters arising from the River Rangers Reports, as an **agenda item**
4. Sharing the River Rangers reports through local parish communication channels - website, social media etc.



Water Quality matters to everyone

Aveton Gifford, Bigbury, Buckland-tout-Saints, Churchstow, Halwell & Morleigh, Kingston, Loddiswell, Malborough, Modbury, Ringmore, Salcombe, South Milton, South Huish, Thurlestone. West Alvington, Woodleigh

Catchment Water Quality Groups

RIVER AVON

Avon River Champions

www.avon-river-champions.org

South Brent Parish Council

clerk@southbrent.gov.uk 01364 701900

Sustainable South Brent

<https://ssb.org.uk>

Brent Island Trust

www.brentisland.org.uk

Hilly Field Woodland Farm

<https://www.thehillyfield.co.uk/>

North Huish Parish Council

clerk@northhuishparishcouncil.co.uk

01364 654607

Diptford Parish Council

clerk@diptfordparishcouncil.org

Loddiswell Parish Council

loddiswellparishclerk@gmail.com

07859 047187

Loddiswell Community Forum

www.loddiswellcommunity.co.uk/

bettertogether

Wild About Loddiswell

www.wildaboutloddiswell.co.uk

Deerwood Trust

<https://thedeerwoodtrust.org.uk/>

Aveton Gifford Parish Council

clerk@aveton-gifford.co.uk 07796 266559

Churchstow Parish Council

churchstowpc@gmail.com 07989 385263

Bigbury Parish Council

clerk.bigburypc@gmail.com

Bigbury Net Zero

info@bigburynetzero.org www.bigburynetzero.org

Thurlestone Parish Council

thurlestoneparish@gmail.com 07921

586626

Sustainable Thurlestone Buckland &

Bantham (STBB)

mike2.hodges@btinternet.com



Proposed invitees to join
Catchment Water Quality Groups.

LETTER of SUPPORT NEEDED

Please send a **Letter of Support** to
BLUEprint Project Lead, Dr Juliette Jackson
jjackson@seadreameducation.com

Please state that your organisation
supports the bid of the **BLUEprint for
Rivers** to the **Water Restoration Fund** for
their next stage Delivery Project to work
towards improving water quality in the
three BLUEprint catchments.

Confirm that you would like to contribute
to the proposed **Catchment Water
Quality Group** for your catchment
and that you welcome the support of a
River Ranger to coordinate the works
in your catchment and assist with local
community engagement.

SALCOMBE KINGSBRIDGE ESTUARY

Friends of Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary

<https://www.kingsbridgeclimateaction.co.uk/friends-of-the-estuary>

East Allington Parish Council

clerk.eastallingtonpc@gmail.com

Buckland tout Saints Parish Council

btsclerk@gmail.com 07749584166

Kingsbridge Parish Council

clerk@kingsbridge.gov.uk 01548 857073

Kingsbridge Climate Action

kbclimateaction@gmail.com

<https://www.kingsbridgeclimateaction.co.uk/>

Wild About Kingsbridge

wildaboutkingsbridge@gmail.com

<https://www.wildaboutkingsbridge>

West Alvington Parish Council

westalvingtonpc@gmail.com 07704 941150

Frogmore & Sherford Parish Council

clerk@frogmoreandsherford.co.uk

07921586626

Charleton Parish Council

charletonclerk@gmail.com 01548 550515

Malborough Parish Council

malboroughparishclerk@gmail.com

07858 944498

Sustainable Malborough & South Huish

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/336552491115972>

Wild About Malborough

Salcombe Town Council

townclerk@salcombetowncouncil.gov.uk

01548 842282

Salcombe Harbour Authority

salcombe.harbour@swdevon.gov.uk

01548 843791

Salcombe Green Team

<https://www.salcombetowncouncil.gov.uk/our-community/salcombe-green-team/>

East Portlemouth Parish Council

clerk@eastportlemouth.org.uk

Woodleigh Parish Council

woodleighpm@googlemail.com

South Pool Parish Council

janet.green196@btinternet.com

01548 531376

RIVER GARA & SLAPTON LEY

Sustainable Blackawton

<https://blackawtoncommunity.com/sustainable-blackawton/>

Halwell & Moreleigh Parish Council

halwellandmoreleighclerk@googlemail.com

01548 550515

Blackawton Parish Council

parishclerk@blackawtoncommunity.com

01803 722417

East Allington Parish Council

clerk@eastallingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

07546 675806

Slapton Parish Council

clerk@slaptonparishcouncil-devon.gov.uk

07921 586626

Slapton Ley Field Studies Centre

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/locations/slaptonley/>

Strete Parish Council

clerk@strete-pc.gov.uk 07598 940578

NEIGHBOURING Parishes

Ringmore Parish Council

ringmorepc@gmail.com 01548 855712

South Milton Parish Council

south.milton@gmail.com 07704 941150

South Huish Parish Council

clerk.southhuishpc@gmail.com 07507

476016

Sustainable Malborough & South Huish

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/336552491115972>

More information on

www.blueprint-for-rivers.org

Highway Matters

Parish Priorities

I am grateful to our **Neighbourhood Highways Officer**, Adam Keay, **parish councillors** and **clerks** who have joined the site meetings to bring local priorities to the attention of the Highways Team. We have now had meetings with **Aveton Gifford, Modbury, Churchstow, Loddiswell, Kingston, Malborough, Salcombe** and **Thurlestone**. Meetings in November will cover **South Huish, South Milton**.

All parish councils in the Salcombe Division have been invited to discuss and prioritise local highways matters as a **full agenda item** at their monthly meetings.

This enables our NHO to consider local priorities when allocating his annual budget. It also provides our parish councillors a greater insight into the financial and legal constraints within which we all have to work.

Together we are encouraging parishioners to first bring their concerns to their parish councils to ensure they are considered in the Parish Priorities.

Parish Lengthsmen

A couple of decades ago, when funding for Devon County Council was sufficient for its needs... there were 8 full time Lengthsmen in the South Hams with four vehicles.

These teams kept our drainage network working properly to keep the **water off our roads**. Keeping water off the roads reduces the damage and subsequent potholes that arise. Prevention is better than cure.

Most of this work was done with shovels and manpower. Silt along the road and in our gullies was removed by manual labour. There are now two Lengthsmen, under the management of **Milestone Ltd** who serve the whole of Devon. That's about **1 or 2 man days per parish per year**.

Poor maintenance - higher remedy costs

This hugely significant reduction in manpower has meant that intensive maintenance programmes do not exist.

We now have to rely on more expensive mechanical equipment (**gulley suckers** and **diggers**) to clear the build up of silt in a drainage network which no longer benefits from regular clearing. We have been forced to implement a gulley-clearing programme which identifies **high priority gulleys** which are cleared **every year** and others that are only cleared **every three years**.

We rely on the public to **Report It** to the DCC maintenance teams if gullies or buddles need clearing. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>

On a report, an inspection will take place. If it meets certain criteria it will be pushed up the maintenance programme. This is not ideal. DCC cannot afford to do more. We could improve the feedback on the action taken after a defect has been reported.

Parishes funding local Lengthsman

In an attempt to redress the funding gap and improve local drainage, some **parish councils** are now **funding more Lengthsman man-days** themselves.

Buddle Management

Buddles are ditches which take water from our roads, through hedges to drain onto local farmers' fields. It remains the responsibility of farmers to keep the buddles clear on the other side of the hedge so that the roads are not flooded. In earlier times, the council would arrange to remove the silt which built up in the field. This no longer happens.

October Meetings

In addition to attending as many parish council meetings as possible this month, I also made time to contribute to the work of a number of outside bodies where DCC is represented.

South Devon National Landscapes

I contributed to the SDNL Committee deliberations at Follataon House this month on the core funding report from Roger English.

Devon Farms Estate

In my capacity as **Vice Chair** of the **Devon Farms Estate Committee**, I have made several farm visits in October with the Audit Team to meet prospective tenants whilst they have been viewing DCC tenant farms where the tenancy is being renewed and to catch up with new farmers on some of our 'starter farms' to monitor their progress.

These are some of the farms I visited in October or are in the programme for November.

1. New Gulliford Farm, Dawlish
2. Fairfield Farm, Denbury r
3. Lower Farm, High Bickington
4. Higher Henland Farm, Kentisbeare
5. Merrifield Farm, Holsworthy
6. Lower Northchurch Farm, Yarnscombe
7. Duckaller Farm, Dawlish -
8. Perriton Barton Farm, Whimble
9. Nunford Farm, Colyton
10. Middle Winsham Farm, Braunton

Further to these visits I will be attending meetings at Venture House in Exeter to discuss end-of-tenancy protocols and also assisting in the interview panel for prospective new tenants for three days in December.

I also prepared briefing papers for information of the DFE Committee on:

- **Integrated Pest Management of ticks** in pasture using an entomopathogenic fungus - *Metarhizium*.
- **Biological control of TB in badger runs and latrines** using antagonistic microbes.

Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

I contributed to the meeting held in Exeter for the D&S IFCA **Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee** meeting.

Emergency Planning

I contributed to a meeting at **Aveton Gifford** and Buckland tout Saints on Parish Emergency planning.

SHDC Energy Assembly

I was a delegate at the Energy Assembly organised by Sustainable South Hams and funded by SHDC.

Devon Energy Prospectus

Devon County Council, North Devon Council, North Devon Plus, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Torridge District Council have jointly launched the **Devon Energy Prospectus**, setting out the region's bold ambitions and extensive investment opportunities in clean energy.

Councillor Julian Brazil, Vice Chair of the **Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority** (DTCCA) said:

"With the UK government targeting a rapid transition from fossil fuels to domestic clean energy, Devon is well-positioned to lead. The region offers one of the UK's strongest regional platforms for clean energy growth, combining a robust supply chain, strategic infrastructure, and world-class expertise to deliver at scale."

Councillor Ken James, Leader of Torridge District Council and member of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA) Board said:

"With an economy worth £31.5 billion and a population of over 1.2 million, Devon has the scale and capacity to deliver clean energy infrastructure at pace. We're working in partnership across the region to attract investment, create jobs, and strengthen energy security, bringing real benefits to our local communities through cleaner energy and sustainable investment."

The prospectus highlights Devon's leadership in **floating offshore wind** (FLOW), with the **White Cross project in North Devon** set to become the region's first FLOW development after recently receiving **full planning consent**. Work is expected to begin on the cable in 2027, and on the wind farm in 2028. The **100 MW** project will power nearly 135,000 homes and serve as a catalyst for larger Celtic Sea developments.

Councillor David Thomas, Chair of the DTCCA, said:

"This prospectus shows the scale of opportunity for clean energy investment throughout Devon. With over **146 MW of operational onshore wind** and **billions of pounds of potential investment** in projects like Celtic Sea FLOW, we're ready to work with government, industry and investors to realise this potential."

Councillor Tudor Evans, Leader of Plymouth City Council, added:

"This is a turning point for Plymouth and the wider Devon region. Clean energy isn't just an environmental imperative – it's a massive opportunity to reshape our economy, spark innovation, and create high-quality jobs for the future. We're proud to be part of a bold, collaborative vision that puts our coastal strengths, engineering talent, and research excellence to work powering the UK's energy transition."

The Devon Energy Prospectus also outlines opportunities in **solar, green hydrogen, geothermal energy**, and **critical minerals**, supported by a growing clean energy **supply chain** and a skilled, **innovation ready workforce**.

More information here

<https://www.devonandtorbay-cca.gov.uk/document/devon-powering-potential/>



The draft Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) sets out a bold, collaborative plan to help nature thrive across the county.

This strategy was produced by **Devon County Council** under the umbrella of the Devon Local Nature Partnership and with the help and support of a huge number of partner organisations and individuals.

Check out this amazing website of resources and maps of our local habitats and wildlife which has been produced to support the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

www.naturerecoverydevon.org.uk/

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Consultation open until
Wednesday 5 November 2025,
partners.devon.gov.uk/lhrs/

Whether you're a farmer, landowner, business, developer, agent, wildlife enthusiast, or resident — young or old — your voice matters. This is your chance to influence how we protect and restore the landscapes, habitats, and species that make Devon special.

What is the LNRS?

The **Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy** is a new statutory plan includes:

A description of Devon's wildlife
Opportunities and pressures for recovering or enhancing wildlife

The priorities for recovering or enhancing Devon's nature (bearing in mind the contribution this can also make to other environmental benefits)

Actions required to achieve the priorities
It is a joint strategy for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, developed by Devon County Council in collaboration with a wide range of partners. It's designed to help us reverse declines in nature by identifying what we most need to do and where we most need to do it.

It is voluntary, provides a single vision for nature recovery across Devon, will help guide funding, and support collaborative decision-making across Devon — from rural landscapes to urban green spaces.



@louise4devon

updates on Facebook page



Salcombe Division

Collaboration

It feels inevitable to me that we can achieve more (improved local services) if we collaborate and recognise that this could enable us to draw in more funding to improve life for residents.

Some of our parishes are very small, few households or businesses and have small budgets and therefore less funding.

No parish HAS to collaborate. It can be 'business as usual'. It's up to you. You are invited to the party. Your inputs are valued.

Louise4Devon website

I have been collating information about each parish and town council so that we can see what our neighbours have achieved and where there might be opportunities to collaborate more.

It would be very helpful if Clerks could kindly also send me up to date information on the following so that we can see clearly what our overall financial situation is.

This information is in the public domain and published in your minutes but it would really be helpful if Clerks would kindly send the info to me at **Louise4Devon@gmail.com** to save me a lot of time. Thank you

