

October Monthly Report

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

APPEAL BY: Thomas Dolan and Ms C Mohan

Site at: Land at NGR 305111 111808 (Adj. Pleasant Streams) Uffculme Devon

Application No: 25/00046/OPDEV

Appeal Ref No. APP/Y1138/C/25/3368147

Alleged Breach of planning control - Unauthorised engineering works

A public enquiry will be held at Phoenix Chamber 1&2 28 October at 10:00am. The enquiry is scheduled to last for two days.

National Policy Update

As we know there has been a few ministerial changes recently but the commitment to national housing delivery target of 1.5 million homes remains. We have no indication that government is reconsidering its position on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) or that it has changed the timeline.

The local policy position: the known position remains unchanged. However, there is some emerging clarity as further detail emerges. There is Exeter City's proposal to expand to cover an additional 49 parishes in East Devon (28), Teignbridge (15) and Mid Devon (6) area.

It appears that there are now broadly three or four likely proposals being worked up by Devon authorities for final submission to government.

- a) The 451/145 model, supported by 8 of the 11 councils (including MidDevon)
- b) The Plymouth proposal, which sees them wish to expand to take over 13 parishes currently within the South Hams area.
- c) The Exeter proposal, which sees Exeter wishing to become a unitary council on its own, with the remainder of Devon as either one or two administrative areas.
- d) The county council proposal for one single council covering the whole of Devon, leaving Plymouth as an existing unitary area (and possibly leaving Torbay, subject to final considerations by DCC's cabinet).

Each of these proposals will be assessed against the criteria as set by government, and there is no one 'right' answer that performs the best across all metrics.

I have attached a link courtesy of Centre for Governance and Scrutiny which includes a roadmap and also a little about other authorities who have become unitaries – worth a read.

[Scrutiny and local government reorganisation - a practice guide - CFGS](#)

There will be a full formal public consultation exercise conducted in 2026 as part of the statutory LGR process

State of the District Debate Wednesday 17 September.

The State of the District debate provided a valuable platform for discussing the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation, with contributions from all those that attended. The evening began with updates from the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive, who outlined the current status and strategic direction of the reorganisation process. Somerset Council shared p from both Council and local parish perspectives. Chair of the Devon Association of Local Councils, Liz Brookes-Hocking touched on the importance of communication. The Head of Finance, Property and Climate Resilience, Paul Deal addressed governance and financial implications, including assets management and budgetary considerations. In addition we were treated to a forward-looking session on climate change led by Cllr Natasha Bradshaw, highlighting environmental priorities within the reorganisation framework. The evening concluded with a panel discussion encouraging open dialogue and questions from attendees. Overall, the event fostered collaboration, transparency, and shared learning across councils and communities in preparation as the reorganisation process progresses.

I have attached the transparency link which shows Mid Devon's assets –I am advised that it is a work in progress if you pick up an error or omission please let democratic services know.

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/your-council/access-to-information/transparency-code/> There will be a full formal public consultation exercise conducted in 2026 as part of the statutory LGR process

The Deputy Chief Executive (S151) officer Andrew Jarrett has kindly agreed to produce a short briefing around assets for next month's report. This will cover the concept, process, and procedure of how assets might be acquired. It is being written to provide greater understanding and transparency.

Annual Clerk's meeting

This meeting usually happens towards the end of the year. However, in light of Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution it is likely that a more suitable time for the meeting will be just after Easter 2026. We will also know more about budgets then. I'll keep everyone updated as we hear more.

Pots and Pans Collections Have Started!

Following a successful three month trial of collecting old and unusable pots and pans earlier this year in Willand, Uffculme and the surrounding rural communities the collection of old and unusable pots and pans will become a permanent recycling fixture across the district with effect from Monday 15th September

Can YOU Recycle MORE?!

We need to recycle everything we can including cardboard, paper, plastic, tins, cans, glass and put them into the right containers! The more we recycle the greater we reduce our carbon footprint but also the Council receives more income which helps us deliver the service at a cheaper cost. We also keep our beautiful district clean and tidy.

Research has found that if residents move a few kilograms of their waste into their recycling collection every year, it raises our recycling rate by 1%. This helps bring in additional funding to the Council which we can then reinvest back into our services to make them even better. We can all become recycling champions and help raise our recycling rate.

Please email us at bin-it123@middevon.gov.uk or call 01884 255255 for any more recycling containers needed and advice on how to recycle more.

Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee meets Monday 6th October – I'll report back on the outcome.

Residents might be interested to note that a Children's book about our own Grand Western Canal is being published in January – author Margaret A Rice. There are six stories arranged into two series – with a family theme. They feature stories about the animals, birds and people who live and work on the canal and the family who own the horse drawn barge.

Free Work Shops for Mid Devon Businesses – Bid Writing Master Class.

This Bid writing masterclass series is available for Mid Devon businesses as part of the Prosper programme. Please feel free to share this opportunity with our local business community.

[Prosper](#) is hosting a series of free masterclasses, introducing businesses to the craft of writing winning bids. Delivered by Tender Victory, each masterclass will guide businesses through the intricacies of crafting a winning bid, from understanding the basics of bid writing, identifying the right opportunities, and demystifying the jargon.

Ideal for anyone new to bid writing as well as those looking to enhance their tender writing skills, each masterclass will equip your business with the tools and confidence to write bids that stand out!

Find out more and book your free ticket here:

**[The Beehive, Honiton, Wednesday 22nd October, 10-2](#)
[The Bookery, Crediton, Thursday 13th November, 10-2](#)**

These workshops are delivered by Prosper, a UK Shared Prosperity Funded business support programme, delivered by Devon County Council in partnership with Mid Devon District Council, East Devon District Council, and Exeter City Council.

For more information about Prosper, please visit

www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/prosper-sign-up

Prosper is funded by the UK Government and is receiving up to £181.790 of Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF). The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Governments is the managing authority for these funds. The accountable body for this programme is Devon County Council.

sign up to receive the Mid Devon Business

e-newsletter: [Mid Devon District Council](#)

If I can help in anyway please feel free to contact me via email
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