

Axminster Division members Report July 2024

Now that the General Election is done and dusted Devon County Council emerges from the pre-election period, or purdah and returns to what passes for normal and 'business as usual,' where the Council will continue to lobby for a fairer funding settlement from central government to protect and improve the services provided to the people of Devon.

Like all of us I am hoping for some decent weather in the coming weeks so we can enjoy the summer holidays with a much-reduced bombardment of information from 'politicos' of all flavours!

DCC Highways

Maintaining and improving the Highway network across Devon remains a high priority for DCC, where better weather following a frustrating and prolonged winter period is helping staff to get to grips with the backlog of road surface defects, including potholes.

An additional £12m has been transferred in the 2024/25 budget and is being allocated to:

- Serviceability repairs and patching across the network (isolated and larger areas of potholes)
- Drainage cleaning and repairs (prevention reduces the need for repair)
- White lining

Both the serviceability repairs and patching along with the drainage improvements will be prioritised using highways intelligence data, together with input from Local Members like me, Town and Parish Councils.

White lining will focus on remarking mini-roundabouts and zebra crossings across the whole of the County.

How would you prepare for an emergency?

A newly launched <https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/>, is encouraging people to think about what they would do if they and those around them were exposed to risks ranging from floods to fires to power cuts.

The website provides simple and effective steps people can take to be more prepared. Taking action in advance will make it easier to manage an emergency if it does happen and only takes a couple of minutes to register

Five simple things you can do now

1. Find out if you are eligible to sign up to your gas, electricity and water supplier's www.thepsr.co.uk/ so companies know that you need additional support.
2. Set a reminder in your phone or make a note on your calendar to check your smoke alarm once a month.
3. Write down important phone numbers on paper such as the number to report a power cut (105) and the numbers of anyone you might want to contact in an emergency.
4. Talk to your children about how and when to call 999 and what they should do if there's an emergency, such as a fire at home.

Alcohol awareness week

Devon County Council offers advice, help on a variety of public health issues, and while little after the event, alcohol awareness week messages are nonetheless relevant as we approach a sociable time of year, for a variety of reasons, ranging from BBQ to football to Wimbledon etc.

This is a chance to get thinking about your drinking, better understand alcohol myths, and make positive changes for your health.

By taking control of your drinking, you can:

- Save money
- Gain back more time
- Improve your health
- Have more energy
- Sleep better
- Reduce anxiety
- Improve mood
- Have better relationships

Find inspiration and [top tips for cutting down](https://alcoholchange.org.uk/help-and-support/managing-your-drinking/tips-for-cutting-down) your drinking from Alcohol Change UK at <https://alcoholchange.org.uk/help-and-support/managing-your-drinking/tips-for-cutting-down>

Each year, thousands of people experience long-term health problems because of the alcohol they drink.

This is preventable – by opening up conversations about alcohol harm, we are helping to reduce it.

ENDS