

West Down Parish Council

County Councillors Report

April 2023

£2 Bus fare until June 2023

Please try and use the bus, even for a few journeys a month, encourage others to try it out. At only £2 a trip this is substantially cheaper than taking a car into Barnstaple and no car parking charges.

Bus passengers in Devon can take advantage of a cap on single bus fares as part of the Department for Transport's new fares initiative, through the Government's Help for Households campaign.

Bus users will pay no more than £2 for a single journey when boarding the bus anytime in February, March, April, May and June.

For more information on the £2 single fares scheme, terms and conditions and exclusions, visit the [Travel Devon website](#).

Devolution

A devolution deal for Devon, Torbay and Plymouth has recently moved a step closer following an announcement by Dehanna Davidson the governments levelling up minister. For residents in Devon this would bring greater local control over key local priorities such as housing, public transport and connectivity and skills our economy needs.

The deal would not require a change to the established democratic structures across the area or need an elected mayor.

The new powers would be devolved to a partnership of existing local councils who would deliver on a joint programme working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders.

Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a final business case to present to Government for final approval later this year.

Any final deal would require local consent with the full agreement of all the constituent councils as well as parliamentary approval.

Additional Funds for roads

Devon will receive an extra £9.4m announced in the recent budget to fund highway maintenance. The majority of this will be used on the minor road network. I will know more about allocations in the next weeks.

The County's share of the £200m announced is the largest amongst County and unitary authorities.

This winters weather has had a significant impact on Devons 8000 miles of road network, this additional funding will contribute to the extensive maintenance and repair programme across Devon.

Community emergency plan funding opportunities

Independent charity [Devon Communities Together](#) is working with Devon County Council (DCC) and the [Environment Agency](#) to provide the funding opportunities.

This latest programme is financed by DCC and the South West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee local levy funding, and is administered by Devon Communities Together as part of its role in the [Devon Community Resilience Forum](#) (DCRF), whose core mission to help communities prepare for, and respond to, emergencies.

Scheme 1 – up to £250 for communities that wish to develop their own Community Emergency Plan

The Devon Community Resilience Board (DCRB) wants to encourage more communities to produce a Community Emergency Plan (CEP).

A CEP is a document which helps guide a community to organise a response to a local emergency; from flooding or snow to the completely unexpected. They ideally need to be updated every three years, however some communities in Devon either don't have a plan in place or are not sure how to put together a support document for their community. The aim is that by providing this funding, many more communities across the county will be able to put plans in place to ensure their resilience in case anything happens within their community.

Once approved and completed, the DCRB will upload a completed CEP to a secure government gateway. This enables emergency responders to combine local knowledge with their expertise, allowing an effective place-based, joined-up response.

Devon's communities can bid for this fund to help form their own Community Emergency Planning group.

Further guidance and support on creating the group can also be provided from the DCRF with in-person attendance from a Devon Communities Together Resilience Project Officer. <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/grant-funding-emergency-flood-resilience>

Scheme 2 – up to £1,500 for small scale works and resilience equipment (once a CEP is in place)

Experience has shown that a wide range of small resilience measures can make a real difference to communities. This funding is available to communities to improve their own resilience with equipment and small scale works, and may range from the provision of sandbag stores and other flood protection equipment, road signs, tools and personal protective equipment, to one off small scale works to reduce risk.

DCRF recommends that a Community Emergency Response Team defines its own shopping list to meet local requirements. Examples of resilience measures can be provided by the DCRF, other communities, or Devon County Council to help a Community Emergency Planning Group consider what might be best for a particular area.

Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;

[Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk)

0345 155 1004

Live chat is available on the Highways website Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 4.30 pm (4 pm on Fridays). To report a problem with road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs and public rights of way

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