

## West Down Parish Council

### County Councillor's Report

May 2026

**As there are elections in Exeter we are in a pre election period**

#### **Library Consultation**

Thank you to everyone who responded. There has been an overwhelming response with over 25,000 responses, some limited feedback from officers at DCC, the special scrutiny meeting was last month, there were some recommendations made for cabinet but as we hadn't been given the results of the consultation it was a pretty meaningless exercise. At cabinet on May 21<sup>st</sup> hopefully the members will be furnished with the results of the consultation. At that meeting the scrutiny committee was told that the cabinet will also decide on a long term vision for libraries in Devon.

It remains that I do not see the point of this exercise when DCC will cease to exist and the new authority (ies) will be responsible for library services.

#### **Safer Roads Scheme- cameras**

Answers to some FAQ's

There will be 'average speed check' signage going up.

AI camera

One AI camera or "Distracted Driver System" (DDS) camera as they are also known, will be going in at Ashford along with the Average speed cameras. This is new technology and not Home Office Type Approved like our speed cameras currently are. But the AI involved simply detects the potential driver offence and the camera will only record evidence of potential phone\seatbelt offences. Like speed cameras this evidence is securely controlled for police use only. Devon & Cornwall police have been pioneering the use of mobile DDS cameras for seatbelt and mobile phone use detection for over 4 years now and they have checked that their data protection processes are compliant. DDS is being included in this road safety project due to the sad prevalence of in-vehicle distraction or not wearing a seatbelt being involved in serious and fatal collisions. But will only be used for this specific purpose and they will not be able to record any other personal information.

Data Protection

Speed cameras are Home Office Type Approved and cannot record driver or vehicle data for any other purposes. They securely encrypt and transmit evidence of speed offences to police back-office systems. Devon & Cornwall Police are fully compliant with all data protection regulations.

<https://roadsafety.devon-cornwall.police.uk/speed-offence-enquiries/speed-camera-information/>

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/data-pro/data-protection/>

Other safer roads scheme works scheduled

The October HATOC is scheduled for approvals of the Williams Arms and Barton Lane crossings with a build dated subject to other roadworks by Feb 2027. This will also include the Ashford crossing. The Knowle crossing may join them although this could potentially be a bigger road scheme proposal subject to local support\views. The Tarka Trail works from Heddon Mills to Dean Cross have a construction permit for Jan-Apr 2027.

The Safer roads funding can only be used on this route and only for additionality (safety related, the proposals are all compliant and have been through the department of transports own checks as it is their funding). The funding cannot be used for potholes.

### **Highway Defects and road closures**

Road closures can be seen at [Causeway one.network](#)

[Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

The DCC website is very useful for reporting problems and the reports go straight to the contractor.

Alternatively the highway contact number is 0345 155 1004

If it's a river flooding the environment agency can be contacted on 0345 988 1188

Please do get in touch if you think I can help with anything; [Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk)

*Andrea*