

**Brendon Parish Council**  
**County Councillors Report**  
**July 2025**

**Events around the county re Local Government reorganisation**

There was a press release put out on Wednesday about events around Devon seeking views on local government reorganisation, the first event is in Ilfracombe on Friday, 9.30-12.30 at the Vertity statue. I am not impressed that we in Combe Martin Rural have not been invited, not any Parish Council no district councillors and no myself. Our views are maybe not important? I am told there will be another event at some point in the future, no dates yet.

**20 is Plenty update**

I wanted to give you a heads-up on the latest regarding 20mph speed limit areas across Devon.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity recently sent an email to some council members, outlining what looks like a new policy. It seems Parish Councils might be asked to contribute a significant amount of money to implement 20mph zones. For smaller, more rural parishes, or those in areas with higher deprivation, this could be a really substantial sum. This potentially puts these communities at a disadvantage, which is definitely a concern.

However, this is just an early indication of the emerging policy. We'll have much more concrete information after the Cabinet meeting in July, where a final decision will be made. I'll be sure to update you as soon as we know the outcome.

I'll likely be in touch before our next meeting, and I'll be happy to share all the details then.

*From: Councillor Jacqi Hodgson <[jacqi.hodgson@devon.gov.uk](mailto:jacqi.hodgson@devon.gov.uk)>*

*Sent: 16 June 2025 16:57*

*Subject: RE: 20 is plenty*

*Dear All,*

*The blanket approach will ensure that all cities, towns and parishes within DCC will be able to choose to have 20 mph speed limits in their local areas that fit with the '20's plenty' provision "where people live, work, play and go to school". To date those who have requested this have needed to define the areas / streets they wished to have designed at this reduced speed, fit into a scoring system that would benefit from fatalities and be awarded minus points for have a zebra crossing (!!). Then, just a few areas per year would go forward with officer support.*

*My hopes for this new blanket policy would still be to still require City, Town and Parish Councils to approve a proposal with a map of the streets for 20's Plenty and be prepared to contribute to the costs. I would also seek DCC officer support in terms of any safety audits, mapping, legal support etc that is already in house at DCC. The costs are anticipated at ~£25,000 per parish, although I'm guessing that will vary according to the amount of road to be changed to the lower speed. Where local councils are passing the 20's plenty motion in their council meetings, these potential costs up to £25,000 should also be taken into account and they would need to be prepared to raise their part of the precept perhaps over 1-2 years in order to raise these funds. In a smaller parish of say 300 households, this would amount to a rise of around £83 per household if sought in one year, or £41.50 if spread over 2 years. I.e., less than £2 or £1 per week to cover the start up costs.*

*Since the introduction of 20's Plenty in Wales there has been a recorded 28% reduction in fatalities. In my view, £1 - £2 per week over a couple of years is not a high cost for this level of safety, and is probably a lot less than some people pay for life insurance.*

*My conversations on doorsteps have indicated that many people would be more than willing to pay more council tax for improved council services including lower speed limits to make local streets safer and more pleasant to use.*

*As you will be aware, this new policy is currently being developed at DCC and is expected to come back to Council in July for a recommendation that will go to Full Council in September.*

*Hope this helps.*

*Kind regards,*

*Cllr Jacqi Hodgson*

*Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington*

*Green Party representative*

## **Exmoor Coaster**

### **If you fancy a day out....£3!**

This year the route is heavily subsidised by the local authorities especially Devon County Council, please make every effort to promote it.

**Until 23 July**

**EX1 Exmoor Explorer** (formerly *Exmoor Coaster*), First Bus (Buses of Somerset)  
**Off Peak Timetable** from 25 May to 23 July 2025



MONDAYS TO SUNDAYS											
Minehead, Butlins Main Gate	0835	1130	1430	1720	Ilfracombe Harbour Ropery Road	-	1100	1400	1700		
Minehead, WSR Rail Station	0837	1132	1432	1722	Ilfracombe Wilder Road Car Park	-	1103	1403	1703		
Minehead Avenue	0840	1135	1435	1725	Hele Bay Hotel	-	1110	1410	1710		
Bratton Turn	0846	1141	1441	1731	Watermouth Castle	-	1114	1414	1714		
Selworthy Turn	0851	1146	1446	1736	Sandaway Beach	-	1119	1419	1719		
Allerford, Bus Shelter	0852	1147	1447	1737	Beach Holiday Park	-	1120	1420	1720		
Porlock, Doverhay Car Park	0858	1153	1453	1743	Wildlife and Dinosaur Park	-	1132	1432	1732		
Whitstone Post View Point	0908	1207	1507	1757	Blackmoor Gate	-	1141	1441	1741		
County Gate	0918	1217	1517	1807	Woody Bay Station	-	1150	1450	1750		
Countisbury, Blue Ball Inn	0926	1225	1525	1815	Barbrook, Shelter	-	1155	1455	1755		
Lynmouth Lyndale coach park arr	0933	1233	1533	1823	Lynmouth Lyndale coach park arr	-	1209	1509	1809		
Lynmouth Lyndale coach park dep	0940	1240	1540	-	Lynmouth Lyndale coach park dep	0927	1215	1515	1815		
Barbrook, shelter	0952	1252	1552	-	Countisbury, Blue Ball Inn	0932	1222	1522	1820		
Woody Bay Station	0958	1258	1558	-	County Gate Car Park	0941	1232	1532	1829		
Blackmoor Gate	1006	1306	1606	-	Whitstone Post View Point	0951	1242	1542	1839		
Wildlife and Dinosaur Park	1015	1315	1615	-	Porlock, Doverhay Car Park	1004	1254	1552	1848		
Combe Martin - King Street Stores	1022	1322	1622	-	Allerford, Bus Shelter	1008	1258	1556	1852		
Sandaway Beach opp holiday park	1027	1327	1627	-	Selworthy Turn	1009	1259	1557	1853		
Watermouth Castle	1031	1331	1631	-	Bratton Turn	1014	1304	1602	1858		
Hele Bay Hotel	1035	1335	1635	-	Minehead The Parade	1020	1310	1608	1903		
Ilfracombe, Wilder Road Car Park	1042	1342	1642	-	Minehead, WSR Rail Station	1024	1314	1611	1906		
Ilfracombe Harbour Ropery Road	1048	1348	1648	-	Minehead, Butlins Main Gate	1030	1320	1617	1912		

*NOTE: This timetable has been prepared by Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) based on timetables published by First (Buses of Somerset) who operate the Exmoor Explorer Service. It has been provided to aid users, but no responsibility can be taken for any errors or changes made to the timetable by the operators. You can check against the latest published timetables at [www.firstbus.co.uk](http://www.firstbus.co.uk). First Bus Customer Services can be contacted on 0345 646 0707.*

**Find Your Exmoor**

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## From 24<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> August

**EX1 Exmoor Explorer** (formerly Exmoor Coaster), First Bus (Buses of Somerset)  
Peak Timetable from 24 July to 31 August 2024



MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS (see overleaf for Sundays and Public Holidays)															
Blue Anchor Hoburne Holiday Park	-	0907	1102	1222	1402	1537	1652	1822	Ilfracombe Harbour Ropery Road	-	1100	-	1400	-	1700
Carhampton, opp Post office	-	0913	1108	1228	1408	1543	1658	1828	Ilfracombe Wilder Road Car Park	-	1103	-	1403	-	1703
Dunster Steep (A39)	-	0916	1111	1231	1411	1546	1701	1831	Hele Bay Hotel	-	1110	-	1410	-	1710
Minehead Premier Inn	-	0919	1114	1234	1414	1549	1704	1834	Watermouth Castle	-	1114	-	1414	-	1714
Minehead Butlins Main Gate arr	-	0930	1125	1245	1425	1600	1715	1845	Sandaway Beach, holiday park	-	1119	-	1419	-	1719
Minehead Butlins Main Gate dep	0835	0935	1130	1250	1430	1605	-	-	Combe Martin, Beach	-	1120	-	1420	-	1720
Minehead, WSR Rail Station	0837	0937	1132	1252	1432	1607	-	-	Wildlife and Dinosaur Park	-	1132	-	1432	-	1732
Minehead, Avenue	0840	0940	1135	1255	1435	1610	-	-	Blackmoor Gate	-	1141	-	1441	-	1741
Bratton Turn	0846	0946	1141	1301	1441	1616	-	-	Woody Bay Station	-	1150	-	1450	-	1750
Selworthy Turn	0851	0951	1146	1306	1446	1621	-	-	Barbrook, Shelter	-	1155	-	1455	-	1755
Alford, Bus Shelter	0852	0952	1147	1307	1447	1622	-	-	Lynmouth Lyndale coach park arr	-	1209	-	1509	-	1809
Porlock, Doverhay Car Park	0858	0958	1153	1313	1453	1628	-	-	Lynmouth Lyndale coach park dep	1045	1215	1400	1515	1720	1815
Whitstone Post View Point	0908	1012	1207	1327	1507	1642	-	-	Countisbury, Blue Ball Inn	1052	1222	1407	1522	1725	1820
County Gate	0918	1022	1217	1337	1517	1652	-	-	County Gate Car Park	1102	1232	1417	1532	1734	1829
Countisbury, Blue Ball Inn	0926	1030	1225	1345	1525	1700	-	-	Whitstone Post View Point	1112	1242	1427	1542	1744	1839
Lynmouth Lyndale coach park arr	0933	1038	1233	1353	1533	1708	-	-	Porlock, Doverhay Car Park	1124	1254	1439	1552	1753	1848
Lynmouth Lyndale coach park dep	0940	-	1240	-	1540	-	-	-	Alford, Bus Shelter	1128	1258	1443	1556	1757	1852
Barbrook, shelter	0952	-	1252	-	1552	-	-	-	Selworthy Turn	1129	1259	1444	1557	1758	1853
Woody Bay Station	0958	-	1258	-	1558	-	-	-	Bratton Turn	1134	1304	1449	1602	1803	1858
Blackmoor Gate	1006	-	1306	-	1606	-	-	-	Minehead, The Parade	1140	1310	1455	1608	1808	1903
Wildlife and Dinosaur Park	1015	-	1315	-	1615	-	-	-	Minehead, WSR Rail Station	1144	1314	1459	1611	1811	1906
Combe Martin King Street Stores	1022	-	1322	-	1622	-	-	-	Minehead, Butlins Main Gate arr	1150	1320	1505	1617	1817	1912
Sandaway Beach opp holiday park	1027	-	1327	-	1627	-	-	-	Minehead, Butlins Main Gate dep	1155	1325	1510	1625	1820	1915
Watermouth Castle	1031	-	1331	-	1631	-	-	-	Minehead Opp, Premier Inn	1156	1326	1511	1626	1821	1916
Hele Bay Hotel	1035	-	1335	-	1635	-	-	-	Dunster Steep (A39)	1159	1329	1514	1629	1824	1919
Ilfracombe Wilder Road Car Park	1042	-	1342	-	1642	-	-	-	Carhampton, Community Hall	1202	1332	1517	1632	1827	1922
Ilfracombe Harbour Ropery Road	1048	-	1348	-	1648	-	-	-	Blue Anchor Hoburne Holiday Park	1209	1339	1524	1639	1834	1929

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Minehead, WSR Rail Station	0837	1132	1432	1722	Ilfracombe Wilder Road Car Park	-	1103	1403	1703
Minehead Avenue	0840	1135	1435	1725	Hele Bay Hotel	-	1110	1410	1710
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## Summer Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

The Government-funded scheme provides activities and nutritional meals over the holidays for children aged five to 16 who receive benefits-related free school meals.

If your child is not eligible for benefits-related free school meals they still may be able to access activities under the 'extended criteria.'

More information about the extended criteria on [information for parents and carers](#) on our [children, families and education](#) webpage.

It is now possible to book activities online. The new EEQU system displays all the holiday activities on offer, with links detailing where and when the activity is, how to get there and other important information. Once you've applied the booking system will carry out an instant assessment of their eligibility to attend. If eligible, you will receive a confirmation of the booking and you will be sent reminders ahead of the session.

If you need to cancel it's easy to do and will free up the slot allowing those on the waiting list the chance to book.

There are over 100 holiday activity providers around Devon who provide a wide range of activities for children and young people.

From arts and crafts workshops to sports and outdoor activities, the programme is designed to keep children engaged, active, and well-nourished during the school break. All clubs will be operating for a minimum of four hours and will include a hot meal.

One of the venues available is the Calvert Trust which offers a range of activities and is a great opportunity to try something new.

### **Refurbished White Goods**

A new workshop dedicated to refurbishing large domestic appliances for resale across Devon has now opened.

SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd, who operate 18 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), has opened their new reuse hub in North Devon.

Skilled technicians will thoroughly clean and refurbish a wide range of white goods such as refrigerators, freezers and washing machines which will then be distributed to reuse shops in our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) across the county for resale.

The refurbished items will be safety and function tested to ensure they meet safety and quality standards.

Depending on availability, the refurbished appliances are now being sold at Devon Reuse Shops in the following HWRCs: Bideford, Brunel Road in Newton Abbot, Marsh Barton Exeter, Ivybridge, Knowle Hill in Exmouth, Pinbrook Road in Exeter, Sidmouth, and **Seven Brethren in Barnstaple**.

Each appliance will each have a 30-day money back guarantee.

Initially set up in September 2023 to safety test small electrical items such as radios, televisions, and electric lamps for resale, the hub then began refurbishing bikes.

The expansion of the reuse hub follows a major recycling milestone being reached. As of last autumn, more than 10,000 tonnes of discarded everyday items, such as

bikes, televisions, and furniture, have been diverted for reuse since 2012 thanks to our recycling centres.

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

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

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

Winter road updates; <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/safe-travel/winter-travel/>

Travel Devon website; [home - Travel Devon](#)

*Andrea Davis*

*County Councillor*

*Combe Martin Rural Division*

*Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk*