

Brendon Parish Council
County Councillor's Report
May 2026

Library consultation- latest

The proposals follows a three month public consultation that attracted more than 25,000 responses, including 5,300 paper surveys and feedback from 2,246 young people.

Possible changes to staffed opening hours generated the strongest response, with many saying it would affect how often they use their local library.

Next Wednesday Cabinet will be asked to consider three options for statutory opening hours:

- reducing total staffed hours by 30 per cent
- reducing hours by ten per cent
- making no change to current staffed hours

A scrutiny committee has already recommended that any proposals should not include reductions to statutory opening hours.

The Cabinet report also sets out wider plans to develop the library service, alongside a new longterm vision. These include expanding Open Plus technology, making greater use of volunteers and community partnerships, and investing through a proposed library transformation fund.

Consultation responses highlighted strong backing for libraries as community spaces, particularly for children, older people and more vulnerable residents. More than 6,000 people also said they would be willing to volunteer in their local library.

Under all three options, there would be potential to extend opening hours in future through volunteering, technology and community partnerships.

A361 Safer Roads Scheme- cameras

I've had a few emails about this, not in the parish but we all use the road at times.

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.

Subsidised composting bins available

Making compost at home is a natural and affordable way of adding moisture, structure and nutrients back into the soil which supports the growth of healthy plants and increases biodiversity in gardens of all sizes.

Devon residents can purchase Blackwall Compost Converters from £25 by ordering online at www.getcomposting.com.

The Blackwall 220 Litre Black Compost Converter is the UK's best-selling home compost bin. Made in the UK from recycled plastic, it's UV stabilised for maximum durability and comes with a 5 year guarantee.

Priced at just £25.00 (plus delivery) due to a Devon County Council subsidy, it provides an affordable and secure environment for compost, helping you transform your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden.

The Green Johanna 330 Litre Compost Bin is the natural waste composter with a difference. Unlike standard compost bins, this hot-composter turns garden and food waste including

cooked food, bones, meat and fish into nutrient rich, organic compost. Recommended as a Best Buy in Gardeners' World magazine and Which? Magazine, the Green Johanna can digest all biodegradable waste due to its enclosed base, meaning more nutrient rich compost for your garden. The Green Johanna is now reduced to £62 (RRP £144.99) for Devon residents.

Wormeries, water butts and other accessories are also available.

For more information about composting at home visit www.recycledevon.org.

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

Andrea