

# **North Devon Councillor's Report**

## **December 2025**

NDC is reintroducing a grant scheme for parishes with a population of less than 1,000, so this won't include Lynton & Lynmouth but will be available to Parracombe, Brendon & Countisbury, and Martinhoe. The Climate & Environmental Grants scheme is to support projects by small Parish Councils which are sustainable and look to improve the environment or tackle climate change issues such as reducing carbon and improving biodiversity. This could include "wilding" open spaces, wildflower meadows, more sustainable approaches to graveyards, renewables, new windows and other similar things.

In early December I was surprised to be presented with a report proposing that NDC stop providing a trade waste service because it is losing money and needs a lot spent on it to meet new regulations on what is collected. Councils aren't required to collect trade waste or trade recycling, unlike domestic waste and recycling which must be collected. In fact half of Devon doesn't. However, there are only two other organisations in North Devon that provide a similar service, SWM and Biffa, and they won't collect everywhere. To me this change seems a bad idea because it will threaten small businesses in more remote areas, and that is the last thing anyone wants. The decision on whether to end the service or not will be taken early in the new year.

A housing needs survey will be carried out in all the parishes of Exmoor in February. This will help assess how much housing is needed in each area, and of what size and type. Every household will receive a letter, but the survey itself will mainly be online. Please reply whether it affects you or not so that as accurate a picture as possible is known.

You might know that each year each District Councillor is allocated £1,000 to help support local organisations. This year here is where my grant money went:

- £292.95 to Lyn Lawn Tennis Club towards new equipment

- £200 to Exmoor Search & Rescue towards vehicle costs
- £200 to the Pickwell Foundation towards the costs of their new Welcome Hub
- £150 to Lynton & Lynmouth Twinning Association towards the 2025 Twinning Visit
- £115.05 to Sunrise Diversity towards their running costs
- £42 to Parracombe Community Land Trust for the Parracombe Post

And finally, the Lynmouth Pavilion toilets will be refurbished in time for 2026 season.

John