

North Devon Council News

13th April 2026

The Iran war has driven up energy prices, especially for those with oil heating, which are mainly in rural areas like ours. If you are in a low-income household you might be able to get financial support through North Devon Council's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF). This fund runs from April 2026 to the end of March next year and has been introduced to provide immediate crisis support for people who have suffered a financial shock, such as the doubling of heating oil costs. It isn't available to everyone, just those that meet the criteria, but it might well be you.

This is part of a national shift toward cash-first assistance, improved accessibility, and partnerships with local organisations to better support residents in hardship. Residents will be able to receive support from the CRF in other areas in addition to heating oil:

- Crisis Payments
- Housing Payments
- Resilience Services
- Oil/LPG Heating payments

To find out more ring the Council on 01271 388870.

North Devon Council has launched a renewed crackdown on dog fouling as part of its Clear Messages initiative - another attempt to address the environmental issues that matter most to residents. Dog fouling continues to be one of the most frequently reported problems received by the council's Environmental Health team. Beyond being unpleasant, dog mess poses health risks, particularly to children, impacts play areas and parks, and can cause tension between neighbours.

However, attention is mainly directed at the areas that report most! I know there are often problems in our area but they aren't reported to NDC frequently enough to get us the attention we deserve, instead it goes to Ilfracombe and Barnstaple. So please report any and all dog fouling to NDC providing photographs, locations and other details such as descriptions or vehicle registrations where it is safe to do so. If possible, this can also include a photo of the dog and its owner, but only if it can be done without putting yourself at risk. Evidence from the public is vital in helping NDC identify repeat offenders and issue penalties.

As usual, councillor's surgeries continue to be on the first Saturday of each month. Next is 2nd May. They are in the Jubilee Room at Lynton Town Hall.

I'll be there from 11am to 1pm, while Mayor Adrian Hobbs of L&L will be there from 10am to midday. Please come and talk to us.

John

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