

MDDC Report for July 2026

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<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/news-items/>

Could local council please email or call with any work they would like us to uptake.

County Council hosts LGR event for Towns and Parishes

On 22nd June, DCC and the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) facilitated a workshop for Devon's larger towns and parishes on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This was to ensure that information on the timeline and process is being shared widely and that the strong relationship with local councils and their communities is championed as we move through the process of LGR. Mid Devon has previously run its own well-attended sessions for its towns and parishes, and the value of these is in both strengthening those individual relationships, as well as ensuring towns and parishes have full visibility on the various steps in the fairly complex journey moving forward. While some immediate attention has been on the consideration of specific community assets, there is also a desire from local councils to look forward and shape what area-based and community decision-making feels like in the future. Everyone knows the journey ahead will have its challenges, however the message in the room was clear that these will be better faced, and more easily overcome, by working together across all levels of local government to ensure that LGR delivers the best possible outcomes for our communities.

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) Published

Mid Devon District Council has published its latest Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), an important evidence document that will help inform preparation of the new Local Plan, *Plan Mid Devon*.

The HELAA assesses land that has been submitted to the Council by landowners, developers and other interested parties through the 2021 and 2025 'Call for Sites' exercises. It considers whether sites may be suitable, available and achievable for housing, employment, renewable energy or habitat creation.

It is important to note that inclusion of a site in the HELAA does not mean that planning permission will be granted, nor does it mean that a site will necessarily be allocated for development in the Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan. Instead, the assessment provides technical evidence to help the Council understand the potential supply of land available to meet future development needs.

The HELAA will now form part of the evidence base for Plan Mid Devon, assisting the Council in deciding which sites should be taken forward for further consideration and public consultation as the new Local Plan is prepared.

Parish councils may wish to review sites within their areas and consider any implications for housing, employment, infrastructure, environmental protection and community facilities as the Local Plan process progresses.

Further information:

- HELAA: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/planning-policy/housing-and-economic-land-availability-assessment/>

- Plan Mid Devon: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/plan-mid-devon-council-launches-new-local-plan/>
- Let's Talk Mid Devon: <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/>

Plan Mid Devon Consultation Now Underway

Mid Devon District Council has launched work on a new **Local Plan**, which will guide how the district develops over the next 20 years. The plan will identify land for new homes, jobs, infrastructure and community facilities, while also considering environmental protection and the response to climate change.

The new plan is being prepared under updated Government requirements which require councils to complete Local Plans within a 30-month timeframe. The Council formally commenced work on **26 May 2026** and has opened an initial **scoping consultation**, inviting residents, businesses, community groups and parish councils to help shape the plan from the outset.

The consultation seeks views on the key issues facing Mid Devon, what the new Local Plan should cover, and how people would like to be kept informed as the process progresses. A further consultation on draft policies, evidence and potential site options is expected in early 2027, followed by consultation on the full draft plan in early 2028. Subject to examination by a Planning Inspector, adoption is anticipated in spring 2029.

The current consultation remains open until **5pm on Friday 10 July 2026**. Parish councils and residents are encouraged to take part and ensure local priorities are reflected in the emerging plan.

For further information and to participate in the consultation, visit:

 <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/plan-mid-devon-council-launches-new-local-plan/>

 <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/>

Alternatively, comments can be submitted by email to: **planmiddevon@middevon.gov.uk**.

What can parish councils do?

Parish councils are encouraged to take part in the current Plan Mid Devon consultation and help shape the district's future development strategy. This early stage consultation provides an opportunity to raise local priorities, identify infrastructure needs, highlight environmental concerns and ensure that the views of local communities are considered before draft policies and potential development sites are prepared. Parish councils can also encourage residents to participate in the consultation process.

New Pitch Ready for Cullompton Cricket Season

Cullompton Cricket Club will begin the 2026 season at its new Horn Road ground, with the wicket and outfield now fully established and ready for play. Built to modern ECB standards, the facility includes improved drainage and irrigation systems, with temporary clubhouse and changing facilities already in place and permanent facilities due in 2027. **The new ground forms part of the wider Cullompton Relief Road project** and represents a significant investment in community infrastructure. Alongside the transport benefits of the relief road, the facility provides a long-term asset for local sport, supporting health and wellbeing, increasing opportunities for participation and helping to secure the future of cricket in the town.

Grand Western Canal Retains Five-Star Award

The Grand Western Canal Country Park has retained its prestigious **five-star Pride in Parks Award** from the Royal Horticultural Society's South West in Bloom scheme for the second year running. Judges highlighted the quality of the Canal Visitor Centre, recent towpath improvements and the contribution of volunteers working alongside the Canal Ranger Service.

The award recognises the high standards of maintenance, conservation and visitor experience provided at one of Mid Devon's most valued natural and heritage assets. Stretching more than 11 miles through the district, the canal continues to attract residents and visitors for recreation, wildlife and tourism.

Why it matters: The award is recognition of the dedication of staff and volunteers and helps raise the profile of one of Mid Devon's premier visitor attractions, bringing environmental, community and economic benefits to the district.

Bin It 123 – Mid Devon Among England's Best for Recycling

Mid Devon continues to be one of the highest-performing councils in England for waste and recycling. Latest national figures show the district ranks 6th lowest out of 197 collection authorities for residual household waste and 10th highest for recycling rates, placing Mid Devon among the country's top-performing councils.

A programme of service improvements is planned over the coming year to help residents recycle more and reduce waste. Recent changes include accepting metal baking trays in household recycling collections, while future initiatives will include trials of soft plastic collections, additional recycling containers and food waste caddies.

Working with Devon County Council, Mid Devon will also launch the **Monster Bins Project** in primary schools from September 2026, using assemblies and educational activities to encourage food waste recycling among younger residents and their families.

Town and parish councils may also be interested in upcoming tours of the waste depot, where members can learn more about recent service developments and new collection technologies.

Why it matters: High recycling rates reduce disposal costs, support environmental objectives and help keep Mid Devon among the best-performing districts in the country. The planned improvements aim to make recycling easier for residents while increasing participation across the district.

New Mid Devon Residents' App Launched

Mid Devon District Council has launched a new free residents' app, giving people easier access to council services from their smartphones. Residents can report issues, contact councillors, receive waste collection reminders, read council news, check planning applications and access local service information. [\[middevon.gov.uk\]](https://www.middevon.gov.uk)

The app is designed to make it easier for residents to access services, receive important updates and stay connected with the Council.

Download: www.middevon.gov.uk/app [\[middevon.gov.uk\]](https://www.middevon.gov.uk)

Why it matters: The app provides a simple, accessible way for residents to engage with council services, receive timely information and report issues while reducing reliance on phone calls and paper communications.

Apprenticeships Supporting Skills and Careers at Mid Devon

Mid Devon District Council currently supports **17 apprenticeships** across a range of services. These include both traditional apprentices and existing employees who are undertaking apprenticeship qualifications alongside their day-to-day roles.

The apprenticeships are delivered through **eight different training providers** and cover a diverse range of subjects including plumbing, procurement, housing management and environmental health.

The Council has a strong track record of apprentices progressing into permanent roles, helping to develop local skills and build a talented workforce for the future.

Why it matters: Apprenticeships provide valuable career opportunities for local people while helping the Council attract, develop and retain skilled staff in key service areas.

Anyone interested in future opportunities with the Council can sign up for job alerts via the Council's recruitment notification service.

Strategic Sustainability Grants Launched

Mid Devon District Council has launched a new **Strategic Sustainability Grants (SSG) scheme** to support community organisations delivering local action on sustainability, climate change and nature recovery. The programme will provide seed and core funding to help community groups strengthen partnerships, build resilience and deliver practical environmental projects. A total of **£80,000** has been allocated to the scheme over the next two financial years.

[\[middevon.gov.uk\]](https://www.middevon.gov.uk)

The scheme offers new funding opportunities for local organisations to develop projects that support climate action, biodiversity and environmental sustainability across Mid Devon.

[\[middevon.gov.uk\]](https://www.middevon.gov.uk)

Further information: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/new-strategic-sustainability-grants-to-support-community-climate-and-nature-action/> [\[middevon.gov.uk\]](https://www.middevon.gov.uk)

Cllr Cathy Connor and Cllr Gwen DuChesne

4th July 2026