

Mid Devon District Council Update: January/February 2025 – Lower Culm Ward

Dear Parish Councils,

This update provides information on key developments within Mid Devon District Council for January and February 2025 that could have an impact on the Lower Culm Ward, covering Kentisbeare, Willand, and Uffculme. It is important for parish councils to be aware of these initiatives as they could affect the local community, planning, and infrastructure.

1. Local Plan Review and Housing Developments

The Mid Devon Local Plan Review remains a significant focus for the council in early 2025. Several planning applications for new developments in the Lower Culm area, including Uffculme and Willand, are currently under consideration. The proposed housing developments in these villages are set to impact local infrastructure, with concerns raised about road congestion and school capacity. Parish councils are encouraged to continue engaging with the planning process to ensure that community interests are represented.

The latest stage of the Local Plan also involves consultation on proposed land allocations for housing and employment growth. It is essential that local stakeholders have their say on these proposals to ensure sustainable development. Parish councils in Lower Culm are

urged to review the consultation documents and submit any feedback to the council.

2. Road Safety and Infrastructure Improvements

Improving road safety in rural areas has been highlighted as a priority for the District Council. Kentisbeare, Willand, and Uffculme are all set to benefit from an upcoming scheme focused on road maintenance and improvements to key junctions. These works aim to address longstanding traffic issues and increase safety, particularly around areas with high foot traffic, such as near schools and local shops.

Additionally, discussions are ongoing about the potential for enhanced signage and traffic calming measures in Willand, where there have been concerns raised over speeding vehicles through the village centre. The Parish Council should liaise with the relevant authorities to ensure that these issues are addressed as part of the proposed updates.

3. Climate Change and Sustainability Initiatives

Mid Devon District Council is actively pursuing its Climate Change Strategy and encouraging local communities to adopt greener practices. A new initiative that will affect the Lower Culm Ward is the roll-out of more community-based recycling hubs. These will provide more accessible locations for residents to dispose of items such as textiles, small electrical goods, and other hard-to-recycle items.

Parish councils are invited to nominate potential locations for these hubs, which could include village halls or public spaces.

Additionally, the council is working on enhancing green spaces across the district. Parish councils in Lower Culm are encouraged to apply for funding to improve local parks or conservation areas, in line with Mid Devon's broader environmental objectives.

4. Budget and Financial Support

Mid Devon District Council has recently outlined its budget for 2025, with particular attention given to supporting rural communities. There will be increased funding for community grants, which can be used for a variety of local projects, including those focusing on heritage, local amenities, and environmental sustainability. Parish councils should keep an eye on the application periods for these grants and consider submitting bids for any local initiatives that could benefit from this support.

5. Health and Well-being Initiatives

The District Council is working with Devon County Council and local health partners to support community-based health and well-being initiatives. As part of this effort, a number of outreach programmes will be launched across Mid Devon, including within the Lower Culm Ward. These will focus on mental health support, elderly care, and services for families. Parish councils are encouraged to promote

these services within their communities and consider any local gaps in provision that could be addressed through collaborative efforts.

6. Council's Tree Planting Efforts Continue into 2025

Mid Devon District Council is kick-starting the New Year by planting 172 trees across the district following another successful bid to the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf). The trees have started to be planted on council-owned housing and open space land, and the entire tree planting project is expected to be completed by March. This initiative aims to improve the environment and support local wildlife.

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

Call for Sites 2025

Mid Devon District Council is currently running a Call for Sites initiative for the 2025 Local Plan Review. This process invites landowners, developers, and other stakeholders to submit potential sites for future development. These sites may be considered for housing, employment, or other uses in the district. Parish councils and residents are encouraged to review the Call for Sites and submit any relevant feedback or proposals. More details can be found at [Call for Sites 2025](#)

We encourage all parish councils in the Lower Culm Ward to stay involved with these ongoing projects, as community input is vital in shaping the future of the area. If there are any specific issues you would like to discuss with the council, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant council officers or attend upcoming public consultations.

Best regards,

Cllr Andrea Glover

Cllr Cathy Connor

Cllr John Poynton

Mid Devon District Council