

WDBC Councillor Update – Jeff Moody Oct 2025

Tavistock Christmas Tree Festival

West Devon Borough Council will once again be participating in the Tavistock Christmas Tree Festival at St Eustachius' Church. This year, the Tidy Tavi Community litterpick group will also be participating.

The festival, which has become a much-loved tradition in Tavistock, brings together local organisations, schools, community groups, and businesses to decorate Christmas trees that transform the church into a festive wonderland.

West Devon Borough Council's tree will highlight the Council's ongoing commitment to promoting community engagement and celebrating local achievements. The inclusion of the Tidy Tavi Community litterpick group this year is a testament to the group's dedication to keeping Tavistock clean and beautiful, and recognises their valuable contribution to the town.

Local Government Reorganisation – Devon-Wide Collaboration

The topic of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) has been front and centre this month. West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) has been actively involved in discussions around the proposed changes to the structure of local government across Devon.

The rationale behind this reorganisation centres on achieving better value for residents, enhancing the effectiveness of local democracy, and fostering closer collaboration between district councils. The Council has emphasised its commitment to ensuring that the changes will deliver tangible benefits for communities, such as more responsive services, improved efficiency, and a stronger voice for local people in decision-making processes. Regular briefings and updates have been provided to keep members informed about the progress of the reorganisation and what it means for the future of local government in Devon.

The WDBC's preferred 1-4-5 proposal, due to be sent to government by the end of November, aims to streamline services, reduce duplication, and strengthen local governance and representation across the county.

Viaduct Safety and Mental Health Awareness

Following recent tragic events at the Tavistock Viaduct which is a listed structure and owned by WDBC, I've been actively engaged in discussions with council officers, police, and fellow councillors to explore safety issues and any possible resolutions.

Kiosk Opportunity at Tavistock Bus Station

West Devon Borough Council is currently accepting expressions of interest for the lease of a retail kiosk at Tavistock Bus Station, situated on Plymouth Road. The kiosk occupies a prime location with high visibility and consistent foot traffic, presenting an excellent opportunity for small or start-up businesses to operate in the heart of Tavistock. Interested parties are encouraged to review the full details and submit their applications via the West Devon Borough Council website. The closing date for applications is Friday, 31 October 2025.

Junior Life Skills – Empowering Our Youth

The Junior Life Skills programme has wrapped up another successful season, engaging pupils from Tavistock and across the borough. Delivered in partnership with emergency services and community organisations, the sessions teach essential safety and wellbeing skills—from fire safety and first aid to online awareness and decision-making. Feedback from schools has been overwhelmingly positive, with children gaining confidence and practical knowledge that will serve them well. It's a shining example of how we invest in our young people.

Thermal Camera Scheme Returns

West Devon Borough Council has relaunched its well-received Thermal Camera Scheme, giving residents the opportunity to borrow a thermal imaging camera free of charge. This service is available to anyone living in West Devon and is designed to help households and community organisations detect areas where heat may be escaping from their properties. By pinpointing draughts, poor insulation, and other energy inefficiencies, users are empowered to make informed decisions about home improvements that could lower energy consumption and heating costs.

The scheme is part of the council's wider commitment to supporting local action on climate change, reducing carbon emissions, and helping residents save money—particularly as winter approaches. To participate, residents simply need to complete a short application form on the West Devon Borough Council website; the camera can then be collected from the council offices at Kilworthy Park. Guidance and support are provided to ensure users get the most out of their experience, making it a practical, community-focused initiative that demonstrates how small steps can lead to significant benefits for both individuals and the environment.

Fly-Tipping Awareness – Tavistock in the Spotlight

West Devon Borough Council recently took an innovative approach to addressing the issue of fly-tipping by organising a staged fly-tip event in Tavistock at the Anderton Lane layby. This initiative aimed to raise public awareness about the detrimental effects that illegal dumping has on both the environment and council resources. Through the campaign, residents were encouraged to report any instances of fly-tipping and were provided with clear guidance on how to dispose of waste responsibly. The project forms part of the council's broader commitment to maintaining clean and safe public spaces, while also promoting a community-wide sense of responsibility for the local environment.