

**West Devon Borough Council Councillor Report to Tavistock Town Council****Cllr. Graham Reed – Tavistock North Ward**February 24<sup>th</sup> 2026

What's been happening through your Borough Council this year?

**1. Waste & Recycling – Removal of Bottle and Recycling Banks**

West Devon Borough Council has announced that the remaining bottle and recycling banks across the borough, including those serving Tavistock, are being removed. The Council states that the banks date back to the 1980s, before comprehensive kerbside recycling, and that usage has declined significantly. The Council highlights continuing issues including fly-tipping, contamination, and the cost of servicing banks, with no recycling credits received. Residents are being encouraged to use kerbside recycling services and household waste recycling centres instead. Your Council may wish to seek retention of one or more Recycle Banks for the Town Centre?

<https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/news/2026/were-removing-bottle-and-recycling-banks-west-devon>

**2. Waste & Recycling – Service Disruption During Ice and Snow**

WDBC issued public updates during early January advising that ice and snow affected waste and recycling collections, including in Tavistock. Safety considerations meant some routes could not be accessed, with assurances that missed collections would be recovered when conditions improved.

<https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/news/2026/ice-and-snow-affecting-waste-and-recycling-collections>

**3. Environmental Enforcement – Action on Abandoned Vehicles**

WDBC has confirmed it has begun issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for abandoned vehicles that meet the legal criteria. The Council states this is part of a wider effort to improve local amenity and tackle long-standing nuisance issues. This enforcement activity applies borough-wide and is relevant to Tavistock locations where abandoned vehicles have been reported.

<https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/news/2026/taking-action-abandoned-vehicles>

**4. Local Government Reorganisation – Public Engagement**

WDBC is encouraging residents and organisations to share views on potential changes to local government structures in Devon as part of national Local Government Reorganisation [LGR] proposals. The Council frames this as an opportunity for local voices, including those in Tavistock, to influence how services and governance could be delivered in future.

Relevance to Tavistock Town Council: Engagement outcomes may affect future governance arrangements, service accountability, and partnership working with town and parish councils.

<https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/news/2026/west-devon-residents-encouraged-share-their-thoughts-shakeup-devons-council-setup>

**5. Civic Recognition – West Devon Mayoral Awards 2026**

Nominations have opened for the 2026 West Devon Mayoral Awards, celebrating individuals and groups who make a positive contribution to their communities. This provides an opportunity for Tavistock residents, volunteers, and community organisations to be recognised at borough level. I have submitted a proposal for a strong Community champion!!

<https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/news/2026/west-devon-mayoral-awards-return-celebrate-our-unsung-heroes>

**6.**

As a member of the Planning and Scrutiny committee, I have attended every WD meeting and the recent Tavistock Town Council DML meeting as an observer of the two applications on Violet Rd and Callington Rd. I am cognisant of the considerable concerns thus expressed; it is vital that I voice no views until such time as these matters come to the BC planning committee. I voiced my views and voted against the rejection of the applicant's submission for the Sandy Lane application. I stated that I consider that People's welfare is more important than strict adherence to Policy.

**7. Public Space Protection Order – Tackling Antisocial Behaviour**

WDBC has introduced a Borough-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to address antisocial behaviour, particularly in relation to alcohol misuse in public areas, giving enforcement officers additional powers to intervene where behaviour is causing harm or distress. Tavistock is mostly a safe and welcoming town but there

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are areas where residents have raised concerns. I will be monitoring the implementation of the PSPO to ensure it is used proportionately and effectively to support public safety. I have been leading on a specific issue along Bannawell St. in conjunction with fellow Ward Councillor, Jeff Moody. It is a sensitive and troubling ASBO related matter. I have called a meeting with WD Officers who are working on trying to resolve the problems that have inconvenienced nearby residents.

Go to: <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/environment-and-nuisance/nuisance/areas-covered-pspos>

### Changes to business rates multipliers from April 2026

From 2026/27, existing business rate relief for retail, hospitality or leisure properties will be replaced by a lower rates multiplier to calculate the business rates payable on those properties. At the 2024 Autumn Budget, the UK Government announced that from 2026/27, existing business rate relief for retail, hospitality or leisure (RHL) properties would be replaced by a lower rates multiplier to calculate the business rates payable on those properties. From April 2026, the UK Government will introduce five new business rates multipliers. These changes are part of wider reforms to create a fairer, more modern system that supports investment and protects the high street.

**What's changing:** The current system uses two multipliers based on property rateable value:

1. Small business multiplier: for properties with a rateable value (RV) below £51,000
2. Standard multiplier: for properties with an RV of £51,000 and above

From April 2026, the system will expand to five multipliers. These will reflect both business type and property value.

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**New multipliers:** The five new multipliers will apply as follows:

Type of business	Rateable value	Multiplier used
Retail, hospitality and leisure	Up to £51 000	38.2p
Non-retail, hospitality and leisure	Up to £51 000	43.2p
Retail hospitality and leisure	£51 000 to £499 999	43.0p
Non-retail, hospitality and leisure	£51 000 to £499 999	48.0p
All businesses	£500 000 and above	50.8p

### **Closing Remarks**

As your Borough Councillor for Tavistock North, I am committed to being visible, approachable, and responsive. I continue to work hard to represent your views, support local initiatives, and ensure that Tavistock continues to thrive as a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable Community. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have concerns, ideas, or would like to work together on local issues.

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