

Berrynarbor Parish Council

County Councillors report

April 2025

Exmoor Coaster (now being renamed by the bus company to the EX1)

I am very pleased to advise that the Exmoor Coaster thanks to being able to step in and put some funding towards it, will be running this year again. I was very concerned that First the company who run it were not going to operate this year, not only is this service well loved by residents it is as very popular tourist service which brings in a lot of trade for our businesses on the North Devon coast.

The timetable isn't out yet but the service will be operate in from the end of May in time for the half term holidays.

And even more good news re our own 301 service

A summer Sunday service will run on our own 301 service, from 25th May to 14th September

Please do give it a try, and would you also encourage others to use it? The bus goes to the railway station so a lovely opportunity for a car free day out.

Sunday and Public Holidays

BARNSTAPLE, Rail Station	-	1135	1535
BARNSTAPLE, Bus Station Stand F	0845	1145	1545
N.DEVON HOSPITAL, Main Entrance	0854	1154	1554
MUDDIFORD	0859	1159	1559
ILFRACOMBE, Tesco	0917	1217	1617
ILFRACOMBE, Worth Road	0921	1221	1621
ILFRACOMBE, High St, opp Garage	0930	1230	1630
HELE HOTEL	0937	1237	1637
WATERMOUTH CASTLE	0941	1241	1641
BERRYNARBOR CORNER The Sawmill Inn	0943	1243	1643
COMBE MARTIN, Seaside	0947	1247	1647
COMBE MARTIN, Holdstone Way	0954	1254	1654
COMBE MARTIN, Wildlife Park	0959	1259	1659

- STOPS CLOSE TO RAIL STATION

- STOPS CLOSE TO HOSPITAL

ported by Devon County Council

COMBE MARTIN - BARNSTAPLE Via Ilfracombe, Muddiford Stagecoach 301 Saturday (Except Public Holidays)

COMBE MARTIN, Wildlife Park+	1005	1305	1705
COMBE MARTIN, Holdstone Way	1010	1310	1710
COMBE MAF Royal Marine	1016	1316	1716
BERRYNARBOR CORNER The Sawmill Inn	1020	1320	1720
WATERMOUTH CASTLE	1022	1322	1722
HELE HOTEL	1027	1327	1727
ILFRACOMBE, High Street, Murco Garage	1035	1335	1735
ILFRACOMBE, Worth Road	1040	1340	1740
ILFRACOMBE, Tesco	1043	1343	1743
MUDDIFORD	1058	1358	1758
N DEVON HOSPITAL, Main Entrance	1106	1406	1806
BARNSTAPLE, Queen Street	1115	1415	1815
BARNSTAPLE, Rail Station	1125	1425	1825

CODE: - STOPS CLOSE TO RAIL STATION

- STOPS CLOSE TO HOSPITAL

This service is financially supported by Devon County Council

A399 Bray Valley

Many of you will know I've been campaigning for the road to be repaired for many months, it is not in the area I represent but it is a vital road for many of us accessing the A361 North Devon Link Road.

The road will be repaired under a full closure, subject to weather and any extenuating circumstances overnight Monday 7th April to Wednesday 16th April 7pm-06.00am

Local Government Reorganisation

The update is that Devon County will have a full council meeting last month councillors voted on the County Submission: several options have been submitted so that the new council after May 1st can work on what is the best option for the whole of Devon.

Link to the report; [Agenda for Council on Thursday, 20th March, 2025, 2.00 pm - Democracy in Devon](#)

Background below;

The English Devolution White Paper was published just before Christmas.

Extract from the ministers letter probably gives some explanation as to where we are heading as residents in a two tier area;

Local government reorganisation My intention is to formally invite unitary proposals in January 2025 from all councils in two-tier areas, and small neighbouring unitary councils. In this invitation, I will set out further detail on the criteria I will consider when taking decisions on the proposals that are submitted to Government. I intend to ask for interim plans by March 2025. As set out in the White Paper, new unitary councils must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. For most areas, this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more. However, there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including on devolution. Final decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. We will ask you to work with other councils in your area to develop unitary proposals that are in the best interests of the whole area, rather than developing competing proposals.

Statement from Andrea

Following publication of the Governments Devolution White paper it is clear that considerable change is going to happen in Local Government in Devon.

We have two options;

1. Do nothing and the government will impose changes
2. Engage with government to get the best result for the residents of Devon.

I believe that engagement with the government is the best option.

While I may not agree with all the government's proposals, I need to do everything I can to ensure that the changes will make local government sustainable for the long term and able to withstand shocks like the pandemic and the world financial crisis. At the heart of all this must be a stronger voice to inform the government of the issues my residents in Combe Martin Rural and the residents in the wider area of Devon face.

Update 05.02.25- The Government has turned down Devon County Council's request to postpone its elections in May.

This afternoon Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Angela Rayner announced that the council's request was among those which have been rejected, meaning that the council's May elections will proceed as planned.

The announcement coincides with confirmation that the Government has signed the necessary legislation to bring the Devon and Torbay's Combined County Authority (CCA) into being.

The Devon and Torbay CCA is the governance needed for devolved decision-making powers and funding to flow from Whitehall to local decision-makers in Devon and Torbay. Through the Devon and Torbay CCA, it means that decisions that were previously made in Whitehall will now be made locally on priority issues including housing, jobs and skills, transport and economy.

Letter received from minister Wednesday 5th February

We ask for an interim plan to be submitted on or before 21 March 2025, in line with the guidance set out in the attached Annex. My officials will provide feedback on your plan to help support you to develop final proposals. I will expect any full proposal to be submitted by 28 November. If I decide to implement any proposal, and the necessary legislation is agreed by Parliament, we will work with you to move to elections to new 'shadow' unitary councils as soon as possible as is the usual arrangement in the process of local government reorganisation. Following submission, I will consider any and all proposals carefully before taking decisions on how to proceed.

School holidays activity and food programme

The Programme for Spring is now live.

DCC have partnered with EEQU to use a new booking system which is better for families, here is the link please have a look at the activities available there is a map you can search in your own area. [EEQU Booking System](#). It will automatically check eligibility as well.

There are over 100 schemes offering physical activity and food for 4 hours for 4 days over the Spring holiday parents may book up to 4 sessions per child.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/eys/new-booking-system-makes-it-easier-for-parents-to-access-holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>

The DCC website is very useful for reporting highway problems and the reports go straight to the contractor.
[Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

Alternatively, the highway contact number is 0345 155 1004

If it's a river flooding the environment agency can be contacted on 0345 988 1188

Winter road updates; <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/safe-travel/winter-travel/>

Travel Devon website; [home - Travel Devon](#)

Finally from me a personal note;

Thank you for being such a lovely Parish Council and residents, I've had a great time coming to the meetings and meeting so many of you, I hope to be back after May 1st but if I'm not re elected I want to wish you well for the future.

Andrea Davis

County Councillor

Combe Martin Rural Division

Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk