Cllr Horner Report to Kingskerswell Parish Council - October 2026

Devon County Council Full Council Meeting

The meeting was held at County Hall on 3 September 2026 and covered issues relating to governance, planning and democracy.

The meeting was dominated by motions. Brexit, a tourist tax, quarry dust and planning reform were debated and decided. Several motions were referred to Cabinet without debate. The Council also formally objected to proposed national planning rules that would reduce councillor involvement in planning decisions.

The changes to national planning legislation could significantly affect what local councils can decide. Parish councils, community groups and residents should take these changes into account when making representations on planning matters.

Conversion Practices Draft Bill

At the Full Council meeting, the Council agreed to invite the appropriate Scrutiny Committee to consider the safeguarding, legal and operational implications of the Government's draft Conversion Practices Bill for Devon County Council.

This was discussed at the Children's Scrutiny Committee meeting on 8 October and the officers are currently reviewing the bill and will revert to the committee at the next meeting.

Fostering

The Scrutiny Committee were also provided with reports from the Devon County Council fostering team. The report's overall conclusion was that the Fostering Task Group recommendations had largely been implemented and improvements made. The focus now is on:

1. recruiting and retaining more carers;
2. improving payments and practical support;
3. strengthening corporate parenting;
4. developing fostering and kinship services;
5. improving digital systems and data; and
6. enabling more Devon children to live in safe, local, family-based car

Councillors were requested to include this in their Town/Parish reports to raise awareness of the need for additional foster families as the goal is to increase the number of families offering foster care to ensure the children of Devon are housed within the County and preferably within their existing district.

Torquay Road Bollards

I received notification that work was to be carried at the end of September, however I note that the reflective tape has still not been replaced. I will chase this again and express the urgency of this

Locality Budget

I am pleased to advise that I have supported the Kerswella Cafe with funds from my locality budget again to allow them to provide much needed support to residents of Kingskerswell and Ipplepen and continue the great work they do in the community.