

West Down Parish Council

County Councillors report

June 2024

Free Sunday bus travel in North Devon

Residents and visitors across North Devon will be able to benefit from the offer, which started last Sunday (2 June) on all services in and out of Barnstaple. It will also be available on Sunday 9 June and Sunday 16 June.

The free Sunday travel is being delivered through the DevonBus Partnership on all Sunday bus services in North Devon, in conjunction with operators Stagecoach and Filers Travel. It is supported through our Bus Service Improvement Plan using DfT funding.

The offer is designed to encourage more people to use the bus for leisure to explore their local area, visit family and friends and enjoy the scenic North Devon coast without the worry of transport costs.

The routes included in this offer cover a wide area across North Devon and detailed information about the specific routes and timetables can be found on the [Stagecoach South West website](#).

This partnership offer is part of the joint long-standing commitment to providing reliable and affordable services while working together to enhance the travel experience for passengers and support sustainable travel solutions.

Barnstaple Railway Station interchange between buses and trains.



From Monday 22 May until Wednesday 26 June, we are inviting the public to view the plans and provide feedback on our Have Your Say [website](#).

Our proposals aim to improve bus-rail integration at the busy station, which is used by over 500,000 passengers per year.

They also aim to provide an improved gateway to Barnstaple, with a simplified road layout making it easier for people to access the station and bus stop.

The changes include an upgraded bus stop directly outside the main entrance, which would be served by all buses and would incorporate shelters and real-time information screens.

It is also proposed to install a bus access on Sticklepath Terrace, to enable buses to use this road when travelling towards Barnstaple town centre, avoiding queues of traffic on Station Road.

The plans are being developed in partnership with Network Rail, who own the station and other rail infrastructure, and Great Western Railway, who operate trains serving the station.

It would be very helpful if the Parish Council would submit a response and please share as the more responses the better, thank you

Link Road Update

An update on the expected completion dates for the North Devon Link Road scheme;

- Landkey Footbridge will be erected by the first few days in June, mostly complete now.
- A large section of the road will be substantially completed prior to the summer holidays from Portmore roundabout down to Landkey Viaduct at Swimbridge, any remaining works focused around the footbridge.
- Borners Bridge roundabout will also be completed mid-July.
- The central section from Landkey Viaduct through to the Filleigh cutting will be the last area to be completed over the summer with the West Buckland Junction being the last section in late September.
- Landscaping works will have to be done over the winter period due to the planting season.

40mph speed limits (30mph at Borners) will be taken off at the same time as the programmed completion dates.

Overnight maintenance work will be carried out on the A361 17th- 22nd June (dual carriageway section)

A number of overnight closures will be needed to undertake the work which includes re-tensioning of safety barriers, line marking, grass cutting, gully emptying and bridge inspections. All of the closures will be from **8pm to 6am**.

The **A361** will be closed overnight in both directions between **Bolham roundabout and Gornhay** from 8pm on the evening of Sunday 16 June until 6am the following morning (Monday 17 June).

On the evenings of **Monday 17 June and Tuesday 18 June**, the road will be closed eastbound only between **Gornhay and Sampford Peverell from 8pm-6am**. On the westbound carriageway, the outside lane will be closed in short sections at a time while work is carried out in the central reservation. These lengths of lane closure will move with the area being worked on.

Overnight on Wednesday **19 June and Thursday 20 June** the road will be closed westbound between **Gornhay and Sampford Peverell** from 8pm-6am. Eastbound, the outside lane will be closed in short sections at a time while work is carried out in the central reservation. These lengths of lane closure will move with the area being worked on.

From 8pm on Friday 21 June until 6am the following morning (Saturday 22 June) lane closures will be in place from J27 M5 to Bolham roundabout.

General Devon updates.....

Growing Communities Fund

If you know of a community group that has a project that could improve people's wellbeing, relieve hardship, or provide a warm space to work, learn or socialise in the area there is a grant available:

Information at communitygrants@devon.gov.uk

DCC awarded more than £7m to deliver more Electric Vehicle charging points

Devon County Council has been awarded more than £7m of Government funding to support its delivery of thousands of new, publicly accessible, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points across the county over the next few years.

The capital funding comes from the Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund. The Fund aims to support the roll-out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across England, for drivers without off-street parking. and we've received one of the largest allocations in the country.

Personal news

At the recent annual meeting I was voted in as Deputy leader for Devon County Council. I will retain the Climate change and Environment and Transport portfolio.

Highway emergency number is :0345 155 1004 (If you are reporting an emergency that is very likely to present an imminent threat to life or serious injury or serious damage to property).

Reporting defects on the highway the Devon County Website [Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

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