

## **West Down Parish Council**

### **County Councillors report**

**November 2024**

#### **Changes for disposal of upholstered furniture**

New environmental requirements will mean that from **Sunday December 1** we will only be able to dispose of their upholstered furniture at one of eight of our specially designated Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

It follows the introduction of new requirements from the Environment Agency which require our recycling centres to have segregated facilities to handle Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS). WUDS include sofas, sofa beds, armchairs, recliner chairs, upholstered kitchen and dining room chairs, upholstered garden furniture, stools and foot stools, office chairs, futons, bean bags, floor and sofa cushions.

These items contain large quantities of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs or forever chemicals) and other hazardous chemicals in the textiles and foam. These chemicals are often used as fire retardants; they persist in the environment, can accumulate in human and wildlife fatty tissues and can be harmful to health and the environment. All WUDS need to be sent for incineration separately where these chemicals are destroyed.

We are now required by the Environment Agency to ensure that all WUDS are segregated and transported separately from other waste. This segregation will require additional containers and facilities to be provided at HWRCs. However, due to space constraints, only a limited number of sites in Devon will be able to accept WUDS. This means that the majority of our recycling centres will not have the facilities to accept these items.

The HWRCs that will be able to accept Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating from Sunday December 1 2024 are: –

East Devon; Knowle Hill in Exmouth

Exeter; Pinbrook Road, Exeter

Mid Devon; Ashley, Tiverton

#### **North Devon, Seven Brethren, Barnstaple**

Torridge; Bideford

South Hams; Ivybridge

West Devon: Okehampton

Teignbridge: Brunel Road, Newton Abbot

WUDS cannot be accepted at any other Devon HWRC after December 1 and residents will need to ensure that they take their WUDS to a site that can accept them or book a bulky collection with their district council who will charge for the service.

**To be very clear we will have to go to Barnstaple with any Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (upholstered furniture, chairs, sofas, floor cushions etc)**

**The [‘Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority Regulations 2024’](#), a ‘statutory instrument’ (SI), has been laid in Parliament, paving the way towards the creation of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority.**

The Regulations will be debated in in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. When they are signed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Angela Rayner MP, under powers delegated by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) will come into being.

The CCA will make decisions about the powers and funding devolved from Whitehall to Devon and Torbay through the deal that was agreed in January this year.

Devolved power means that significantly important decisions, about key priorities such as housing, employment, education and skills, and the environment – priorities that make a real difference to all of our lives – can be made locally by people who live and work in Devon and Torbay.

Devon and Torbay recently received £16 million in capital funding as part of the authorities’ devolution deal.

The funding, which is just the start, will enable [16 projects to progress, to provide more affordable homes, sheltered accommodation, green jobs and business growth across Devon and Torbay.](#)

**I strongly suspect this will be rather outdated news by before the end of the month and a new conversation may well be needed.....just my opinion!**

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](#)

Andrea Davis

County Councillor

Combe Martin Rural Division [Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk)

