

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT JUNE – JULY 2026

- 1- I have made further representations to DCC Highways over the quite frankly appalling and dangerous state of Court Barton Hill and they have identified this stretch of road for surface dressing.
- 2- I am happy to support Branscombe parish council in ensuring there is a review about the decision to close Branscombe primary school. Whilst I appreciate there are only 7 children on roll the Trust and DCC needs to clarify whether the pupil numbers have been deliberately kept low in order to justify its closure.
- 3- I have been liaising directly with EDDC Housing to repair and renovate the void (empty) social housing properties in Underleys. There are some technical and legal issues which need to be addressed before the go ahead to make the properties fit for reletting. Therefore, regrettably I cannot be as open and transparent as I would like at this point in time but as soon as specific issues have been resolved and I have permission from senior housing officers I will update you. I have also clarified with EDDC Housing that no decision has been made yet on the status of Hillside, but I am pressing Housing for a decision.
- 4- I am a member of the Chapel of Rest working group, and we are progressing well to ensuring the Chapel is preserved and can be used to benefit the village. The working group have put in lots of time and effort to ensure the chapel is repaired and renovated for current and future generations.
- 5- I invite you to view Richard Foord's excellent statement to parliament regarding the preservation of community hospitals in the area, especially Seaton. You will find his speech on Facebook or You Tube and on his blog.
- 6- The repair and renovation of the Peazen Flats is going well and is on target to be completed by July. This necessary work has been a real bonus to the tenants and will significantly improve their lives.
- 7- Please let me know if you need support or representation on any matters of concern. Also, by asking me directly and requesting support this creates an audit trail and I will use a councillor enquiry form to generate a response from the officers concerned. This means I can hold them to account if they fail to respond. Most officers are very good and do their best to assist me in my duty of care to you. I will always do my best to assist and support residents whenever requested.
- 8- The district council will continue until 2028 and along with the county council will be superseded by unitary authorities. This means there will be no elections next year. I'll keep you updated regarding LGR (local government reorganisation) once these arrangements have been finalised. The date for clarification on LGR from the government is 16 July. It is inevitable that town and parish councils will have to take on more responsibilities once the unitaries become operational.

District Councillor John Heath