



Budleigh Salterton Town Council

Town Clerk: Mrs Alice Gater-Wildgust
Council Offices, Station Road
Budleigh Salterton
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T: 01395 442245

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Annual Parish Meeting

Your questions answered

Thank you to all those who joined the Annual Parish Meeting on 12 March 2026.

It was great to meet you all and to hear your views in the [Ideas Generator](#).

The following questions were also submitted. As promised, a response to each question is provided below.

Why wait to be heard?

We are ready to hear from you all year round – simply get in touch office@budleighsaltertontowncouncil.gov.uk

If you are interested in a particular issue, you may find the information you need in the minutes of the Town Council or its committees, which provide a detailed record of discussions, decisions, and actions taken. All meeting dates are published on the Budleigh Salterton Town Council (BSTC) website and on the public noticeboard located on Station Road or simply join a meeting and hear all about it first hand.



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Is it possible to increase the time for parking on the street to 2 hours? It would help traders.

Thank you for your question. Reply:

The current parking time of 30 minutes in the High Street has enabled deliveries and those parking for a short period to do so in the High Street. This length of time is unlikely to be extended as it would reduce opportunities for deliveries and the number of individual vehicles parking.

Budleigh Salterton is well provided with parking within easy walking distance of the High Street:

- Parking in Brook Road car park is free for up to 2 hours
- Parking in the Upper Car Park in Station Road is free
- There are two EDDC run Car Parks in Station Road and Rolle Mews, free after 18:00

In general, to reduce traffic emissions, noise, and increase safety, especially within the 20 mph zone in the centre of town, it is hoped that more residents and visitors will consider walking or cycling to the High Street and the Council is looking at ways to encourage this*

*to hear more about a new initiative that BSTC are launching in May join in the following:

An Invitation For You

BSTC Climate Event – Gala Week

Budleigh Salterton Town Council invites everyone to join our Climate Event during Gala Week 2026

Wednesday 27 May 2026

Public Hall

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Come along to take part in fun activities chat with the Climate and Environment Committee and other local groups or just enjoy a rest in the café.

All are welcome – whether you want to learn, get involved, or just enjoy a coffee and a friendly conversation.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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Is it possible to have better signage for the High Street Business? ie in the car parks.

Thank you for your question. Reply:

The Town Council cannot promote individual businesses however it may be possible to improve general signage from the car parks. This will be placed on the agenda for the Traffic and Transport Group. Four of the five car parks are owned by East Devon District Council so any signage will have to be by agreement with them.

In addition to signage, the traders and Council may wish to consider a street wide banner highlighting the High Street as a destination.

The Council has supported a grant for Christmas lights, encouraging activity in the area.



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Are BSTC aware of the withdrawal of the 356 bus service from
2.4.26. Is there a contractual obligation for DCC to continue this
service?

Thank you for your question. Reply:

The Council is aware of the withdrawal of the 356 service which runs from Budleigh Salterton via Aylesbeare to Exeter and back once a day.

The Council is disappointed, however notes that the timetable meant the time in Exeter was limited only 3 hours maximum until the return journey and therefore the route was perhaps not popular.

The villages on the route, including our neighbours in East Budleigh and Otterton will no doubt feel the effect even further.

At present the routes 157/357 continue to operate.

As the Local Transport Authority, Devon County Council is under a statutory obligation to provide socially necessary transport. In the case of the 356, all areas of the route continue to be served by other services (mainly the 157 & 357 services), providing links into Exmouth, Sidmouth or Budleigh Salterton centre. It is their view that these more than cover the requirements of providing socially necessary transport.



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How much impact, financially & working procedures, will the new authority have on BSTC?

Thank you for your question. Reply:

At the moment the various options about re-organising local government above town and parish are still to be decided. Therefore is it unclear exactly what the impact will be, whether financially or ways of working.

The proposals were out for consultation from government until 26 March 2026 and residents were encouraged to take a look at the proposed changes affecting this area. Devon Association of Local Councils has produced an excellent summary of the proposals (available on the BSTC website) and are explained in full [here](#)

At the moment for example the two upper Councils deal with the following:

East Devon District Council run various services for residents, for example Waste Collection, Planning, Tourism and Culture, Managing the Natural Environment, Housing, Car Parks, Play Parks, Green Spaces, Public Conveniences. EDDC owns or leases various local buildings and assets

Devon County Council deals with Adult Social Care, Special Educational Needs, Highways, Footpaths, Health and Well Being, Economic Development

The move towards a single authority will see it take on services for the new designated area, funded by the Council Tax. What isn't clear yet is what will happen to the various community assets held and eventually many may well transfer to Town and Parishes with them having to take on the finances and management of them through the Preceptorship (the Parish and Town element within the Council Tax paid).

“The government has suggested that “Neighbourhood Area Committees, led by frontline ward councillors, offer a model of place based engagement and leadership which maximises the structural efficiencies brought about by Local Government Reorganisation and strengthens localism and community participation across all areas. Neighbourhood Area Committees help councils fulfil their commitments to working in partnership with communities at the neighbourhood level. They can also include other service providers, such as town or parish councillors, when applicable.”

Budleigh Salterton Town Council awaits the decision of which proposed organisation will apply to the town and surrounding areas and looks forward to participating fully in the changeover and into the future.



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Why do we have to pay for toilets on the seafront when they used to be free?

Thank you for your question. Reply:

Unfortunately, Councils are not obliged to provide toilets and as the finances of Councils has got tighter and tighter, difficult decisions about those extra services have had to be made. They were never free, simply free at point of use. All council services are paid for, whether at the point of use (such as the sea front toilets) or via council budgets / precept (like Station Road Toilets). They are never free.

Several years ago, there was a consultation about the provision of toilets in each of the towns and parishes.

To keep the Station Road block of toilets open, Budleigh Salterton Town Council took them over and for the last year have been responsible for them. The Council has decided at present to enable them free, at point of use. However, the overall running costs are currently over £20,000 a year which is funded through the Precept, (the portion of the Council Tax for the Town Council). So, residents are paying for them albeit through the Precept.

Interestingly the concept of charging a small fee for using toilets was introduced at the Great Exhibition of 1851, the spectacular industrial event devised by Prince Albert and housed in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park. The public flushing water closets installed at the Crystal Palace by George Jennings were reportedly used by 827,280 visitors, many of them 'spending a penny', demonstrating the principle of charging for access to public toilets. In today's money, the equivalent of that 1d would be a great deal more.

East Devon District Council replaced the toilet block on the Esplanade and have found it necessary to charge for use to recoup the cost. If BSTC took over those, or Steamer Steps toilets, further decisions would need to be made as to how to fund the provision and any refurbishment.



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Can the Chair please explain to me how the committee addresses concerns regarding adequate parking provision in developments not located in the Town Centre?

Thank you for your question. Reply:

In terms of Planning, Budleigh Salterton Town Council is an advisory consultee only and cannot comment on individual recommendations previously made.

The Committee always looks at the proposed plans and comments recorded on the Planning Portal. Members of the Public are encouraged to submit their views on the Planning Portal and always have the option of attending Planning Meetings and if desired addressing an agenda item within the designated public speaking period. The committee cannot engage in any discussion with the public during the meeting.



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Can the Chair please advise me what the Council is doing to liaise with the Coroner, the Coastguard Agency, EDDC and other relevant agencies (Harbourmaster?) to prevent a recurrence. In particular the Council should share with the local community any recommendations made by the Coroner. (For some inexplicable reason this matter did not feature in the agenda for this committee for 9th March 2026)?

Thank you for your question. Reply:

You are referred to the MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 26 January 2026.

25.388 Chair's Report

“The Chair began their report by inviting all those present to observe a one-minute silence in light of the tragic events of Christmas Day. A one minutes silence was observed.

The Chair reflected that the events of Christmas Day 2025 would always be remembered by the town, and that their impact continued to be felt by many within the community. On behalf of residents and visitors, the Chair expressed sincere thanks to all emergency services and volunteers for their prompt, professional, and compassionate response in supporting those affected. The Chair also conveyed the Council's sympathies and condolences to the families and friends of those who tragically lost their lives. The Chair confirmed that a statement had been issued in their capacity as Town Mayor on Monday 28 December 2025”.

The Town Council will as a matter of course answer any questions posed of the Council by the Police or Coroner's Officer and if requested and required liaise and assist the Emergency Services in any follow up discussions and decisions.

The Council will be guided by the Coroner and Emergency Services on what will be made publicly available. If findings relate to the work and remit of the Council, they will be noted and discussed in an open Town Council Meeting and recorded accordingly.

The Council was minded that Christmas Day 2026 was a tragedy for two families and groups of friends and respected their request to grieve in private.



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Traffic and Transport Group: The material regarding this group does not appear to address speed, parking on footpaths and noise. Can you please explain why this is the case.

Thank you for your question. Reply:

The Budleigh Salterton Traffic and Transport Group met on Tuesday 10 February 2026, covering a wide range of issues related to traffic speeds in the town. Following this, on 23 February 2026, the Town Council passed a resolution to promote the '20 is Plenty' campaign, encouraging safer and slower driving in residential areas.

The Council is seeking volunteers to train and join Speedwatch. A previous attempt to establish a Speedwatch group did not succeed, as no members of the community came forward. Community involvement is essential for this initiative to take off.

The Council is exploring ways to remind drivers of the 20 mph zones and encourage slower driving throughout the town. For example, the junction of Station Road and West Hill and up Station Road to the Public Hall falls within a 20 mph zone, and pedestrians are advised to use the pedestrian crossings linked to the traffic lights for safety. Devon County Council have a live project that is converting 20mph zones (not legally enforceable) to 20mph limits (legally enforceable). However, this is contingent on resource and is expected to take some time to complete.

Parking continues to be a challenge on the High Street. The updated Highway Code provides clear guidance on waiting and parking rules. The Council encourages residents to use designated reporting channels if illegal parking or noise occurs.

Residents can report illegal parking, noise, or other traffic-related concerns through the East Devon District Council (EDDC) or Devon County Council (DCC) online portals, providing photographs and specific locations to support enforcement. Illegal activity is a matter for the police and should be reported via the non-emergency 101 service. These authorities have robust mechanisms to receive, record, and act on complaints, but public support and evidence are crucial to their effectiveness.

The Town Council remains committed to promoting safer streets and working with residents to make Budleigh Salterton a safer and more enjoyable place for everyone.

Some useful contacts are:

Noise: EDDC – Environmental Health - www.eddc.gov.uk / 01404 515 616

Pavement Parking: Devon County Council - [Pavement parking - Roads and transport - 0345 155 1004](#).

Speeding: this is a police matter and evidence can be reported via the police 101 service.