

i. Road Warden Scheme

ii. Highways Community Enhancement Fund

The HCEF, run by Devon County Council, provides grants to towns, parishes, and community groups in Devon to support highway maintenance and enhancement projects. Its purpose is to fund local works, encourage collaboration, and enable communities to improve their environment.

Eligibility: Town and parish councils, and community organisations operating within Devon.

Funding can cover: Volunteer protective clothing, materials for maintenance, and other project-related costs.

Application Process: Applicants should prepare a clear project proposal, identify required resources, and demonstrate alignment with community needs.

The fund offers communities a chance to take an active role in maintaining and enhancing local highways, with financial and collaborative support from the Council.

The Clerk has reached out to Emma Sampson, Highways Support Officer to request a discussion surrounding this. This scheme is heavily related to participation in the Road Warden Scheme. Additionally, the Clerk has further reached out to our neighbouring parishes to better understand their use of this or similar schemes (Road warden, path warden, snow warden etc)

How to take this forward?

Option 1: Identify a Specific Project and Apply Directly

- BSTC could identify a defined highway-related project that clearly benefits the local community.
- This would involve preparing a project proposal, estimating costs, and identifying any volunteer support or materials required.
- Once ready, BSTC could submit a formal application to the HMCEF for funding.

Option 2: Conduct a Community Needs Assessment First

- BSTC could engage with residents, local groups, and councillors to assess priority needs for highway maintenance or enhancement.
- The assessment could inform which projects would be most beneficial and feasible.
- Based on the findings, BSTC could then decide which projects to submit for funding.

Option 3: Collaborate with Volunteers or Local Groups

- BSTC could reach out to local volunteer organisations, schools, or community groups to gauge interest in participating.
- This collaboration could identify potential projects that have both community support and available manpower.
- A joint proposal could then be submitted, demonstrating strong local engagement and volunteer backing, which may strengthen the application.

South West Coast Path Closures – Cliff Falls

It is anticipated that further cliff movement may occur over the coming winter and beyond. Of particular concern to BSTC is the closure and notification of closure of affected cliff path.

Following concerns raised by BSTC regarding communication on path closures (after the significant cliff fall that occurred on 25 July 2025 in Budleigh Salterton) Devon Co Council have been asked to provide details on the following:

- What procedures are followed by Devon County Council in such circumstances to assess the safety status of a public right of way or coastal path?
- How decisions regarding temporary or permanent closure are communicated to the public?
- What arrangements are in place to ensure timely and clear signage at access points when a path is deemed unsafe or under assessment?

At time of writing a response is awaited.

Abandoned Boats

It has been noted in a number of foreshore inspections (since at least September 2024) that there are several degrading vessels on Budleigh Beach. There has been no attempt to remove these by their owners and BSTC is led to believe that the owners are unknown

Following a communication from EDDC confirming that there are no funds available for carry out this piece of work the Clerk has written back to seek clarification on the enforcement mechanisms in place regarding the management of licensed vessels and the removal of those abandoned on Budleigh Beach.

In correspondence to EDDC, the Clerk highlighted that, as boats are licensed, there should be a clear process to identify and contact vessel owners, require the removal of property where necessary, and apply sanctions in cases of non-compliance. The Clerk also questioned whether identifying details are present on the vessel currently abandoned on the beach and whether any effort has been made to trace or contact the owner or if these boats are in fact washed up.

EDDC have been requested to come forward with a proposal. Despite the statement that there is no funding available the current state of the seafront is untenable, given the aesthetic impact, public safety risks as vessels deteriorate, and potential environmental damage.

The Clerk further requested confirmation of what measures would be in place should multiple vessel owners abandon their boats, noting that the current approach does not appear to safeguard against that scenario.

In the letter, the Clerk made clear that Budleigh Salterton Town Council (BSTC) cannot accept that there is no solution to this issue. It was stressed that, as EDDC issues licences for vessels to use this area, it must be held accountable for ongoing management responsibilities.

The Clerk has requested that EDDC provide:

- Details of current enforcement and sanction mechanisms.
- Any legislative or regulatory powers available to pursue vessel owners.
- Information on efforts to identify or contact the owner of the abandoned vessel and an analysis of the status of these vessels. Are the abandoned or washed up?
- Proposals for a sustainable, funded process for future management of such cases.

A response is awaited, and the Clerk will report back to Council once received.