



# SEATON TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

# SPRING 2026

## Welcome to the first edition!

**Seaton Town Council is working to create a quarterly newsletter that keeps residents up-to-date with town council news.**

In this issue, find out more about:

- Community Consultation Feedback
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Annual Town Meeting 2026
- Precept News
- Community Grants
- Community Groups

## Contact Seaton Town Council

Marshlands Centre,  
Harbour Road, EX12 2LT

 01297 21388

 [admin@seaton.gov.uk](mailto:admin@seaton.gov.uk)

 [www.seaton.gov.uk](http://www.seaton.gov.uk)



# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who completed Seaton Town Council's Community Consultation, last Autumn. This gave residents a voice at a

moment of significant change in local government in Devon. With services and assets likely to transfer to the town council by 2027/28, your feedback will help shape future priorities, funding bids and budget decisions to ensure services reflect what matters most to our community.

## Seaton Town Council Community Consultation 2025 KEY FINDINGS



### Parks & Open Spaces

Parks and open spaces are highly valued, play areas are a key priority for younger residents



### Environmental Projects

80% of those who responded support ongoing investment in projects such as Seaton Beach School and rewilding



### Town Cleanliness

Unanimous agreement that street cleaning and keeping the town tidy is a high priority



### Tourist Information Centre

Opinions are divided on the importance of retaining the TIC in its current form, with many supporting a different model, including online provision



### Seafront

Seaton's most valued asset, unfinished and derelict buildings are an ongoing concern



### Communication & Engagement

42% of those who responded feel uninformed and only 18% feel fairly informed. Social media communication is popular with under-60s



### Public Toilets

90% of those who responded are in favour of retaining two toilet blocks



### Vision for 2030

A cleaner, tidier town, preservation of green spaces, more activities for young people, improving the seafront buildings

### For 2026/27

- Playpark upgrades
- Planning ahead for Local Government Reorganisation & asset transfers from EDDC
- Ongoing maintenance and repair of existing assets
- Growing community engagement

Seaton Town Council  
Priorities



**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May**  
**6pm**  
**at the Gateway Theatre**

**ANNUAL TOWN**  
**MEETING 2026**

**Seaton residents are warmly invited to join**  
**Seaton Town Council at the next**  
**Annual Town Meeting!**

Refreshments  
available!



Would you like to meet your town councillors, hear about the town council's plans for the year ahead and share your thoughts on local matters?

Would you like to know more about the Wild About Seaton Masterplan?

Would you like to chat to local community groups and understand more about their valuable work and how it benefits Seaton?

The guest speaker, at this year's Annual Town Meeting, will be James Chubb, Countryside Manager for East Devon District Council and the manager of Seaton Wetlands. James will join us to talk about the Wild About Seaton Masterplan - an exciting project commissioned to guide the future of Seaton's natural environment. This is a fantastic opportunity for residents to hear directly from James about the vision behind the masterplan and to learn more about the work taking place to protect and enhance our local wildlife habitats.



# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



Cycling Without Age Seaton (CWA) is part of a global movement that brings generations and communities together through trishaw rides – a three-wheeled cycle with a passenger cab at the front. It offers a safe and enjoyable way to explore the outdoors; passengers can enjoy the beauty of Seaton Wetlands and the picturesque seafront, taking in local wildlife, nature, and enjoy coastal views.

However, CWA's mission is more than just providing rides - it's about fostering social connections and creating meaningful

interactions as volunteer pilots and passengers can share stories and make memories.

Cycling Without Age Seaton provides fully insured rides for: Care home residents, people with disabilities and anyone who struggles to get out and about. For more information on this wonderful initiative visit [cyclingwithoutage.org.uk/england-chapters/seaton](http://cyclingwithoutage.org.uk/england-chapters/seaton)



## Seaton Summer School

18th July – 26th July 2026

Host Families **WANTED**

48 years and counting...

Payment of £250 per student for the Host Family

Contact Andrew or Emma:  
[seatonsummerschool@gmail.com](mailto:seatonsummerschool@gmail.com) / 07395 413363

### Host Family Responsibilities

- Provide Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Chat with the student(s) to help their understanding of English
- Spend time with the student(s)
- No German required - Ages 14-16

# SEATON'S CIDER BASH

1 - 2 MAY 2026

FRIDAY **THE BAREFOOT BANDIT**

SATURDAY **THE SKIMMITY HITCHERS**

FULL MUSIC LINE UP TO BE ANNOUNCED



# PRECEPT NEWS



Across Devon, local government reorganisation will bring changes to how services and community assets are owned and managed.

Although details are still emerging, town and parish councils have been encouraged to plan ahead to ensure that local services are retained and well run.

To do this responsibly, Seaton Town Council made the difficult decision to increase the precept for 2026/27.

## **Q** What does this increase mean for households?

On a Band D property, the increase will be £43.75 per year or 84p per week. This increase only applies to the town council portion of the council tax bill.

## **Q** Why is the Council doing this?

The town council recognises the pressures on household budgets and has taken this decision after careful consideration. Having reviewed various alternatives, councillors agreed that planning ahead is the most responsible way to safeguard important local services and ensure Seaton is well-placed to manage the upcoming changes.

By gradually increasing the precept now, this will protect against sharper increases later on.

## **Q** What will the additional income be used for?

It will enable the town council to:

- increase reserves and respond to change quickly and efficiently
- prepare for the transfer of community assets or facilities
- maintain continuity of valued local services



# COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED

In 2025/26 Seaton Town Council supported the following organisations through its community grant scheme



## Community Group

## Amount Awarded

Cycling Without Age

£1500.00

Seaton Chamber

£1000.00

Operation Rudolph

£1000.00

Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty

£750.00

Seaton Primary School PTFA

£2000.00



In addition to the above, Seaton Town Council has also assisted with the funding of the following community activities:



Grizfest 2026

£2000.00

Seaton Youth Group

£2000.00



## Operation Rudolph explains how these community grants make a difference:

“The community grant awarded to Operation Rudolph helped them to support over 68 households, specifically within Seaton, providing essential meals and a festive connection. Their commitment to “no one slipping through the net” was put to the test on Christmas Day when they received an urgent call from an individual who had not been on their initial list. But thanks to the resources they had in place, they were able to deliver hot meals and conduct a much-needed community check-in that same afternoon”.

Sharon Thorne, founder and director, reported that “demand across East Devon rose by 25% this year and, quite simply, without the support of Seaton Town Council, Operation Rudolph would have truly struggled to provide the level of care and logistics required to meet this need”.



## What is LGR?

LGR is part of a wider central government effort to devolve more power to local areas and streamline existing council structures.

Devon currently has 11 local authorities: 1 county council, 2 unitary authorities (Plymouth and Torbay) and 8 district councils. LGR aims to replace these with a smaller number of unitary councils that deliver all local services.

Different options have been put forward for consideration including the "Reimagining Devon" proposal which suggests 3 new unitary authorities for Devon and alternative submissions, including a single county-wide or 4 unitary models



## Current Status

The competing models include:

- Case for Devon - proposed by DCC: 1 unitary authority for the county with Plymouth and Torbay remaining as they are
- Reimagining Devon - supported by most district councils, including EDDC: 2 unitary authorities for South Devon and 1 for North and East Devon

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

- Urban-Rural Split - proposed jointly by Plymouth and Exeter city councils: the creation of 4 unitary authorities

## Next Steps

The government launched a seven week statutory consultation with stakeholders in early February 2026 .

As of January 2026, local elections scheduled for May 2026 in areas like Exeter are being postponed to allow councils to focus on LGR.

A final decision from the Secretary of State on the new chosen model is expected in summer 2026

As an interim measure "shadow authorities" are expected to be created in 2027, with the new unitary authorities coming into being on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2028



# MEET YOUR TOWN COUNCIL



## Town Councillors



Cllr Amrik Singh  
Mayor & Chairman



Cllr Marcus Hartnell  
Deputy Mayor &  
Deputy Chairman  
EDDC Councillor



Cllr Dan Ledger  
Town Councillor &  
EDDC Councillor



Cllr Jack Rowland  
Town Councillor



Cllr Andrew Gwyn Davies  
Town Councillor



Cllr Tamsin Pengelly  
Town Councillor



Cllr Kathryn Pike  
Town Councillor



Cllr Peter Burrows  
Town Councillor



Cllr Cheryl Wood  
Town Councillor



Cllr Eric Bowman  
Town Councillor



Cllr Neil Dyke  
Town Councillor



Cllr Paul Wright  
Town Councillor

## Council Officers



Julia Mutlow  
Town Clerk



Jo Hemery  
Deputy Town Clerk



Stephanie Hidson-Jones  
Planning Clerk



Hester Johnson  
Administration &  
TIC Officer



Paul Johns  
Facilities & Projects  
Officer



Phil Tuckley  
Town Maintenance  
Officer



Thank you to Kay Clark Photography, Cycling Without Age and Operation Rudolph for providing photographs