

WHIMPLE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WHIMPLE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT 2025/26

During the year 2025 - 2026:

We have continued to maintain the village with our Ground Maintenance contractor. In particular, we have used grant funding obtained from Devon County Council to clear the banks of the stream through the village square, which greatly improved the area while it coped with the amount of rainfall seen this year. We have also shared information about the work required to tidy the wiring from the telegraph poles in the square.

Our "Welcome to Whimple" signs have been damaged twice this year by unknown persons and we have taken steps to have these repaired.

Repair work has been completed on the Lomas Seat for all to enjoy.

We have also cleared the Town Lane play area ready for a further project on using the space as a relaxing garden area.

We continue to manage the allocation and upkeep of the allotments in Grove Road and Herberton Close.

We provided grant funding to the Whimple History Society for a 1920s style production.

We have supported the WhimpleFest committee with the use of the Parish Field for the annual village event.

We are continuing to liaise with the ambulance authority to register the defibrillator located at the Victory Hall onto their system.

We have submitted the Council's views to Central Government in relation to the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation and await their decision about that.

We will continue to support the village in achieving the following:

We have reported the state of the village roads to Devon County Council on numerous occasions and look forward to steps being taken to deal with those.

We have considered all planning applications that EDDC have consulted the Council on (Cllr Yarwood will give a more detailed update)

We continue to communicate with our parishioners through articles in the Whimple News and on Facebook. We also provide updates on our website which is now a [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) hosted site, as are our Councillor email addresses, which improves the security of our information held in our website and email accounts.

We have maintained our governance work and reviewed and updated our existing policies throughout the year. We also continue to have an online bank account for managing our finances through:

- Monthly reports on receipts and payments
- Monthly bank reconciliation
- Monthly budget monitoring reports
- All information is published with the meeting agendas in order to be more transparent about the Council's financial position.

The Neighbourhood Plan

Work on this Plan continues. In our survey, parishioners have highlighted a lack of affordable housing in the village which has an impact upon the younger generations not being able to afford to live within it. We are reviewing the village for potential sites for affordable housing to see if this situation can be improved.

We are also working upon the production of a village Design Code, which will set out specific, detailed parameters for the physical development of a site or area, including street character, building type and layout, use of public space, and considerations related to the sustainability of new development.

We have also supported our residents in their objections to the Local Plan proposals of East Devon District Council.

Community Speedwatch Initiative

Thank you to the volunteers that took the time to complete the Police training for this exercise and then record vehicles moving through the village. The collated information was shared with the Police. The Council will liaise with them and also the Highways Department at Devon County Council in relation to improving the safety of our roads.

Play Equipment

New equipment has been installed in the Slewtton Crescent play area by East Devon District Council. Because they were unable to install all of the equipment that they had purchased, they are holding this play equipment for installation upon the Parish Field as part of our project to renew the play and exercise facilities there. We have also asked the contractor to include equipment for the under 5s following feedback from residents about the new equipment in Slewtton Crescent. We will use Section 106 funding to complete the project this year and look forward to seeing them being used by the village.