Shaldon Parish Council Report – March 2026

Cllr Heather Horner, Devon County Councillor – Ipplepen & The Kerswells

Teignbridge Highways & Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC)

Meeting held: 12 March 2026

There were no Shaldon-specific decisions at this month's HATOC meeting.

Discussions continue with Teignmouth Town Council regarding the potential reopening of the Upper Den Carriageway for seasonal parking. No final decision has been reached, and further assessment work is required before any trial could take place. It will remain closed until the assessment is completed.

Devon's Roads – Winter Update and ALARM Survey (March 2026)

This winter has been challenging across Devon's highway network:

- National ALARM data shows continued deterioration of local roads, with only around half categorised as being in "good" condition.
- Devon repaired nearly 48,000 potholes in the last year, and the countywide maintenance backlog now exceeds £400 million.
- Since November, over 34,000 potholes have been reported; at peak times, around 3,000 defects were awaiting repair. Highways teams have been working extended hours, completing approximately 2,500 repairs per week.

I await a response from the committee regarding the repairs to the A379 and will relay these to DCC once I receive the committees decision.

Budget 2026–27

Devon County Council has approved its budget for the coming financial year. Key points include:

- **Highways:** £32 million allocated for general road maintenance, plus an additional £4 million for repairs, drainage, and gully clearance. Greater emphasis will be placed on preventative works, which should help reduce longer-term issues in coastal and rural areas such as Shaldon.
- **Children's Services:** Increased funding to £268 million, primarily to support improvements for SEND provision countywide.

- **Locality Budgets:** Protected for another year, ensuring councillors can continue to support small community projects, including road-safety schemes, accessibility improvements, footpath works, and local environmental initiatives. The new budget limit is £10,000 and will be available from mid-May.
- **Council Tax:** A 4.99% increase (approximately £90 per year for a Band D property), which helps safeguard essential services.

Support for Heating Oil Households

Devon has been awarded £1.3 million to support eligible low-income households reliant on heating oil, following significant price rises linked to global instability.

While Shaldon is predominantly on mains gas, some properties in rural fringes of the parish and surrounding lanes may be eligible. District councils will administer the scheme from 1 April, with details on how to apply being published shortly. Support will not be automatic; it is intended for those most in need.

Devon Educational Trust

At the recent Trust meeting, 35 applications for support were received, and £13,500 was awarded. Funding is targeted at children who need IT equipment for home learning or financial help to access residential trips. Though countywide, families in Shaldon can and do benefit from this support mechanism.

Abandoned Boats on the Beach at Shoreside - I have again contacted Teignbridge District Council about this and the general state of the beach at Church Corner. I am still awaiting a response and will continue to chase until this matter is resolved.

Teignmouth Lido – I have attended the Teignmouth Town Council meeting regarding the sale of the Teignmouth Lido and have given my support to the CIO group to take over the running of the Lido going forwards. The Town Council have also given their support. Teignbridge District Council are now recruiting for summer staff.