

Report to Ugborough Parish Council, 19/08/26

Cllr Victor Abbott, Devon County Council

Local Government Reorganisation

Unless there are any successful court cases, we move ahead to a Unitary Plymouth Council with the positive but disproportionate allocation of elected members for Ugborough & Ermington and the other Wards currently within the South Hams. We are expecting the election to the Shadow Authority on the 6th May 2027. The essence of local democracy will be at Parish level.

Saxon Gate

I continue to contribute to putting pressure on Wain Homes to complete their site satisfactorily. Nevertheless, the current situation is:

- . mis-erected barriers off Exeter Road leading into/ out from the footpath into the middle of the western portion of the estate;
- . the failure to erect road names, has been largely addressed (and thanks to Rebecca Smith for her contribution) but with these signs lying un-deployed for some time, they're not all in the best condition;
- . the failure to address flooding into the neighbouring estate to the west;
- . the presence of incompletely working drainage.

Disposal of Assets

The disposal of land is part of the ongoing Property Change Programme which received Cabinet approval on 11 October 2023. Consideration has been made as to whether an asset is likely to be required for DCC use.

The Ivybridge Rugby Club Training Ground was presented to the DCC Land & Property Committee on 22nd July 2026 for consideration of being declared surplus to DCC operational requirements.

I expressed my concern as to whether the current users were informed, whether they have first refusal, and whether they have limitations on their ability to purchase. The response was that Ivybridge Rugby Club currently leases and occupies the site, and it is to them that DCC were proposing to transfer the site. It was intended that any transfer will have a restrictive covenant included, which will prevent an onward sale without DCC's (or its successor in title) approval.

Brexit, Economic Harm and the Single Market

My Motion to Council came before the Cabinet on the 15th July and will return to County's Full Council on Thursday 3rd September. It asks for research to be undertaken to identify the local consequences of leaving the EU and whether joining a Customs Union would be beneficial.

Residents' issues

There has been a formal response to a resident on the mis-direction of walkers of the Erme Plym Trail to the roadside of the Erme Plying Fields hedge line. This is incorrect and unsafe. With no match in play walkers may follow the riverbank. When there is a match, walkers must be guided along the inside of the hedge. The road is unsafe for pedestrians.