

## **Yeo Ward – February 2026**

### **Mid Devon District Council Report (Cllr Sandy Chenore)**

#### **Planning Update (NPPF)**

The Government published a draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2025, currently open for consultation until March 2026. The changes aim to speed up planning decisions and support sustainable growth, with potential implications for rural parishes.

Mid Devon District Council is holding a Town & Parish Planning Event for councillors on **Wednesday 26 March 2026, 6:00–8:30pm**, to explain the changes and local impacts.

#### **Support for Local Businesses**

Significant Business Rates changes are coming in for 2026/27. An extra 15% relief for qualifying pubs and live music venues and around 53 Mid Devon businesses expected to benefit

Business Rates Drop-in Day:

Tuesday 17 February 2026, 10:30am–5pm

Phoenix House, Tiverton (no booking needed)

Businesses can also email [revenues@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:revenues@middevon.gov.uk) for advice and are encouraged to sign up to the Council's business e-newsletter for grants, training and support updates.

#### **Council Budget**

After earlier warnings of large funding cuts, the Government has now confirmed a smaller reduction of 2.1% and full protection of business rates income.

This means Mid Devon District Council is now expecting to, set a balanced budget, keep Council Tax rises within limits and maintain existing service levels without using reserves

#### **Leisure Services**

To support affordability, leisure memberships will be frozen and pay-as-you-go prices will rise slightly in line with inflation

#### **Council Communications**

The Council has stopped using X (formerly Twitter) due to concerns about abusive content. Updates will continue via the website, newsletters and other channels.

#### **Waste, Recycling & Batteries**

Check your 2025/26 waste and recycling dates online.

Household batteries can be recycled with your fortnightly recycling, please place in a clear bag or container on top of the black box.

#### **Green Enterprise Grants**

The Green Enterprise Grant scheme returns from March 2026 until March 2028 (£20k per year), helping Mid Devon businesses reduce energy use and costs.

Village halls, parish halls and church halls will find it easier to apply in this round.

#### **What's On**

- 26 Feb – Grand Western Canal Illustrated Talk
- Tiverton Westex Rec Junior Parkrun – Sundays, 9am (ages 4–14)
- 3–4 Feb – The Source Trade Show, Westpoint Arena (free for trade visitors)

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