

District Councillor Annual Summary 2025–2026

Gill Westcott, Councillor for Canonsleigh, Mid Devon District Council

This summary sets out my work and activity as a District Councillor between May 2025 and April 2026.

Full Council meetings

Attended to represent the interests of the Canonsleigh parishes in regard to Planning and other matters. Recently this has included discussion of the Mountain Oak applications for new housing in Sampford Peverell, where I represented both supporters of the application wanting provision of social housing through Sampford Peverell CLT, and also the critics of South West Water's appalling record of allowing sewage-laden storm overflows into Spratford Stream and thence to the Exe Estuary and coastal waters.

In the light of SWW's intention to review the adequacy of their provision only in 2040, and poor record of investment, further conversations with their representative are planned with myself and a representative from Sampford Peverell.

I attended numerous Planning training sessions through PPAG, and meetings of the **Net Zero NZAG and PES**, Planning, Environment and Sustainability Policy Committees. I also supported the Full Council motion recognizing the Rights of Rivers, including the right to flow with clean waters and support distinctive ecologies and a rich mix of natural and wildlife species.

I attended meetings of **Borden Gate, Uplowman, Holcombe Rogus and Sampford Peverell Parish Councils**, sharing developments and news from the District Council and taking forward concerns from the PCs. I have also updated PC's with prospects for **Local Government Reorganisation**, whereby Mid Devon is likely to become part of a much larger Unitary Authority in 2028.

In that connection, Parish Councils and other bodies interested in taking over the management of **Community Assets** in their area should put in an **Expression of Interest by 30th June this year**. Commercial businesses cannot apply, only bodies with public interest at heart such as Parish Councils, CIC's, charities etc. They will need to provide reasons for the transfer such as aims for the asset, evidence of the resilience of the organization, expertise, track record of maintaining and/or developing such assets.

I attended the **Grand Western Canal** Joint Committee, supporting the maintenance of the canal as a key asset for residents, tourists and wildlife in Mid Devon.

I also serve on the **Green Enterprise Grants** panel; this MDDC fund makes grants for energy saving to local enterprises. I am also able to obtain small grants for local projects through the **Locality Fund**.

Individual concerns: Responding to particular concerns and questions from residents is a large part of my work as a councillor. These include prominently, issues of planning and enforcement.

Gill Westcott District Councillor for Canonsleigh

gwestcott@middevon.gov.uk