Okehampton Town Council
30th November 2026 Meeting Report

Date:	23rd November 2026
Name:	Emma James

11.3 Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service: Community Risk Management Plan Consultation – Consultation closes on 4th January 2027

Survey

REFERENCE: CONSULTATION ON HOW WE ASSESS AND MANAGE RISK IN OUR COMMUNITIES

I hope you are well. I am writing to seek your opinion on our five-year strategic plan for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, our draft Community Risk Management Plan.

This plan is a strategic review of the risks that we might face now and in the future. It also considers what actions we need to put in place to mitigate these risks to our communities.

Earlier in the year, we undertook an engagement exercise where we heard from more than 1,000 people as to the risks that they feel we ought to consider and also invited their views as to the role of the fire and rescue service and our focus moving forward. We have incorporated the feedback into our draft plan.

We plan to continue to put people at the centre of our prevention, protection, response and community resilience work, tailoring our services for those most at risk. In developing this plan, we have also considered new and future risks that could affect our services, communities and staff.

Please let us know your views on our draft Community Risk Management Plan, which will run from April 2027 until 2032.

You can let us know your views by filling in the online survey, found on our website, which will remain open until 9am on Monday 4 January 2027. If you or colleagues would prefer to respond in another format or have a further conversation about the draft plan, please get in touch through the consultation and engagement team. I would be most grateful if you could arrange for this to be completed, please.

We want to hear from a range of people across Devon and Somerset to make sure we're aligning our future plans with the risks in the communities we serve, so please share across your networks.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us continue to provide a fire and rescue service which is focused on preventing incidents from happening but also one able to respond effectively to emergencies when required.

12 Correspondence

12.1 Royal Mail Deliveries – To consider correspondence from a member of the pubic

Re: Royal Mail Postal Deliveries in Okehampton

I am writing to ask whether an item could be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of Okehampton Town Council concerning the increasingly ad hoc and, in some cases, failing Royal Mail delivery service being experienced by residents in Okehampton.

I understand that some residents are now receiving postal deliveries only once a week at best, while in certain cases deliveries appear to be taking place only two or three times a month. This is understandably causing concern, particularly given the importance of the postal service for hospital and medical correspondence, appointments, financial and legal documents, bills and other time-sensitive communications.

I would like to emphasise that this is not intended as criticism of the individual delivery staff working from the Okehampton delivery office. My understanding is that the local delivery team are extremely dedicated and hardworking and are doing their best in difficult circumstances.

However, it would appear that the service may be significantly under-resourced in terms of the number of staff available to undertake deliveries. I therefore wonder whether Okehampton Town Council could consider this matter and ascertain what is causing the present problems with Royal Mail deliveries in the town.

In particular, could the Council consider contacting Royal Mail on behalf of the community to establish the extent of the staffing or operational difficulties affecting Okehampton, what action Royal Mail is taking to address them, and when residents can reasonably expect a return to a regular and reliable delivery service?

Given that this appears to affect a number of residents rather than being an isolated problem

concerning an individual item of mail, I believe it would be helpful for the matter to be discussed publicly by the Town Council and, if appropriate, for representations to be made to Royal Mail on behalf of Okehampton residents.

I would therefore be grateful if you could consider placing this matter on the agenda of the next appropriate Council meeting and advise whether there is any further information I can provide to assist.

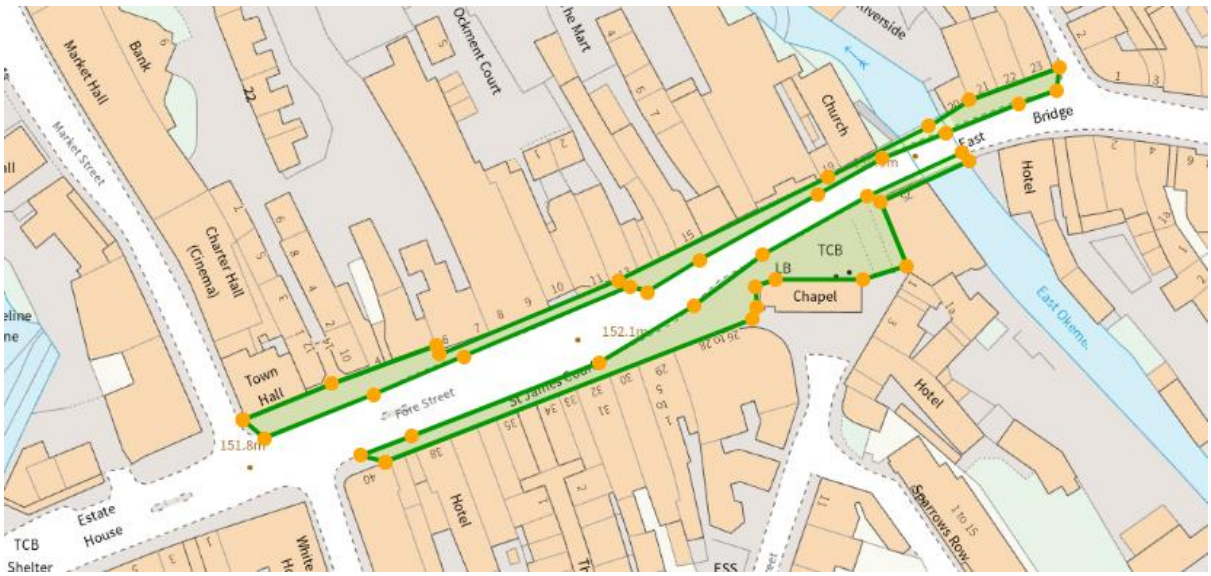
12.2 Fore Street Pavements – To consider correspondence from Devon Highways Neighbourhood Highway Officer and Cllr Grainger

From:
Sent: 28 October 2026 12:00
To:
Subject: Fore Street, Okehampton

Hi James,

I hope you're well, and thank you for including me in this discussion.

There is an existing scheme at this location that was raised in 2023. The extent of the proposed works is shown on the map below:



The scheme involves re-bedding the footway slabs, with the existing slabs being reused where possible. Given the scale of the works, this is likely to be a high-cost scheme and may need to be delivered over several financial years.

I wondered whether the Town Council might be interested in exploring opportunities to apply for government regeneration funding to help contribute towards the scheme. In addition, I would be interested to know whether you would be willing to consider a contribution from your locality budget.

It would be great if we could work collaboratively on this and explore any available funding opportunities together, as a combined approach may help bring the scheme forward sooner and maximise the benefits for the local community.

Many thanks for your time and consideration.

Neighbourhood Highway Officer

Western Neighbourhood Highways Team

Devon Highways | Devon County Council

Email: csc.roads@devon.gov.uk

Disclaimer: www.devon.gov.uk/email.shtml

Good afternoon xxx,

Unfortunately, due to the costs involved in such a scheme, I am unwilling to provide funding from my locality budget for this. The small amount of funds I could put into this project would seem insignificant whilst the same amount of money spent elsewhere could have a much greater impact.

I believe that these costs should be covered from DCC's budgets, but if we do need additional funding, I have attached a list of grants that OTC can explore. We have successfully used one of these grants recently in Okehampton to fund putting dropped kerbs on Hameldown Road.

I would fully support any improvements and would happily give this project the green light if we can get funding for it.

Kind regards,

18. <u>2027 Elections</u> – To note plans for pre-election community engagement and consider any further actions including the provision of information sessions

Working with other Devon local councils communication material is being created and locally an engagement schedule is being compiled to:

- Raise awareness of local councils, what they do
- Provide information about the work of OTC, the services and facilities provided
- Explain the councillor role
- Promote the elections and the process for standing

To complement this, the provision of open/information sessions is being planned.

20. <u>Remembrance Poppy Display</u> – To consider the provision of a poppy display at St James' Chapel by encouraging the community to make poppies with materials supplied by the council.

It is envisaged that local groups such as the Inner Wheel could be invited to take part and the council could provide a space for members of the community to come together to make their poppies.

The Council Chamber, Committee Room or Charter Hall, whichever space is available, could be made available during working hours which would minimise costs. Over the winter this could also be warm space for which grant funding may be available.

Costs would include provision of wool, knitting needles/crochet hooks and tea/coffee.