

THE PARISH NEWS

www.rockbeareparishcouncil.co.uk

*Rockbeare, Marsh Green and
every Household in between!*

ISSUE TEN
FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome!

Welcome to the first 2026 newsletter!

A lot has happened since our last newsletter! Highlights include

- The wet weather has led again to concerns about drainage through the village. There are several challenges here, with increased and more intense rainfall and East Devon Council funding difficult to get. The Parish council is not responsible for drainage and cannot fund Highways projects, but is happy to centralize parishioner concerns to apply pressure to the relevant authorities.
- Ford Oaks Solar Farm development has allocated funds for Marsh Green and Westcott for community projects, and have offered to assist with further development of the Millenium Green. We are open for suggestions for suitable projects!
- Progress is being made on plans for a community café/meeting place to the north-east of Rockbeare village centre.
- An important East Devon Community Governance Review (Stage 2) is open until 24 April 2026 which can impact parish boundaries.



Read the detailed articles below!

Phil Franklin, Chairman

Developing New Social Facilities for Rockbeare Village

Progress is being made for designing new social facilities (café/meeting rooms/shop) on land adjacent to the village.

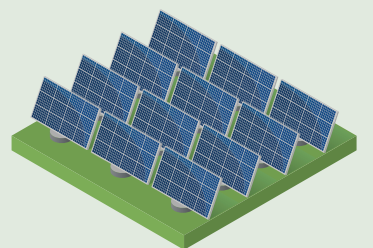
A draft feasibility study has been completed and we are now commissioning architects (Fairview Architecture Ltd) to draw up some example plans.

Once we have these there will be full Parish Council consultation open to all before any further steps can be taken.



Ford Oaks Solar Community Fund

A community fund of £92,000 is to be split three ways equally between Marsh Green, Westcott and Aylesbeare as the most affected areas by the development.



It is for parishioners to suggest community projects and there are no time limits to usage of the funds. Suggestions should be forwarded to the Parish Council clerk for consideration. Suitable projects will need to be approved by a Parish Council meeting.

Representatives of the fund plan to attend the 18 February 2026 meeting.

East Devon Community Governance Consultation (until 24 April 2026)

Councillor Todd Olive delivered an update to the January meeting (see full meeting draft minutes available on the Parish Council website).

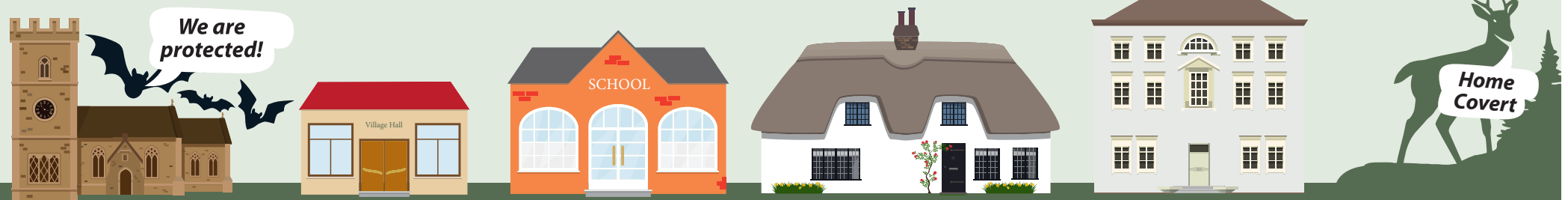
Current East Devon council legal views are controversial as they suggest carving out a large area south of the old A30 out of Rockbeare Parish where new housing developments have been agreed and allocating those areas to Cranbrook Town Council.

The financial grounds for doing this are not clear so we have requested the financial justification for this.

With forthcoming Devon council boundaries likely to see East Devon Council disappear, and the views of new inhabitants not possible to establish in advance, Rockbeare Parish Council feel it is premature to alter boundaries at this time so will be giving those views as part of the consultation.

You can give your own views by accessing <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/community-governance-review-cranbrook-and-surrounding-development-areas/about-the-community-governance-review-cranbrook-and-surrounding-development-areas/>, or writing directly.

PTO





Speed Limit Investigations

We continue to lobby for a 20MPH speed restriction through Rockbeare Village and for a similar restriction (at least 30MPH) for Rockbeare Hill.

If you would like to help us monitor speeds through the village please contact us through the Clerk (details on the website).

Cycle Racks

It was brought to our notice that cycle racks would be useful where parishioners may prefer to cycle rather than drive into the village.

On investigation free cycle racks may be obtainable for installation on parish council land in the village, so we are investigating further.

Rockbeare Church Window Restoration

Rockbeare Church is asking for help to restore its much-loved stained glass east window, a beautiful feature that has filled the church with colour and light for nearly 100 years. The window had to be removed for safekeeping when structural problems put it at risk. Restoring the window, alongside essential repair work, is about caring for something we all share: a place used for school visits, community events, and quiet moments of reflection.

Please support this project in any way you can – crowdfunding can be found at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/rockbearechurch>



Rockbeare Community Café

Rockbeare Community Café, run by Rockbeare Parish Council with fantastic volunteers, would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who continues to support and attend the café each week.

We are delighted to see so many children joining us before school to enjoy a free warm, hearty breakfast. With easy parking and a short walk to school, the café has become a convenient and welcoming start to the day for many local families. Thanks to donations, we are now welcoming around 40 people each week.

We serve a hot breakfast alongside a selection of cereals, toast and beverages charging only a minimal amount to cover costs. Wherever possible, we also use food waste apps to source some products, helping to reduce food waste while keeping costs low.

Our monthly bingo nights continue to be a huge success, offering a fun, family-friendly evening for the whole community and raising £200 or more at each session to support the café.

If you'd like to find out more, please visit our Facebook page Rockbeare Community Cafe, or simply come along and see us. We are open every Thursday from 8am to 12pm at Rockbeare Village Hall.



Update From Rockbeare Village School – from Sally Davies, Headmistress

Traffic Congestion• School staff have implemented several practical measures to help reduce congestion and promote safety, including clear signage, staggered drop-off windows, road safety education for pupils, and Bikeability training for our older children. We are also in regular contact with Devon Highways and the Parish Council, and continue to encourage calm, considerate behaviour from all road users.

The school does not have legal powers regarding parking or driving so residents are encouraged to report concerns directly to the police (non-urgent) or Devon Highways, who are best placed to act. We remain committed to working closely with the relevant authorities to support a safer environment for everyone.

Community connections• We value our close relationship with Rockbeare Church, and it was a pleasure to host our Christmas Nativity there once again. The warmth and welcome shown by the church community made the event very special for our children and families.

Years 5 & 6 also enjoyed a warm breakfast during their Activities Week breakfast during the autumn term. Looking ahead to brighter spring weather, we are excited about opportunities to spend more time out in the village. Planned activities include village litter picks, practising safe cycling through our Bikeability programme, visiting the Community Café, and visiting the village green for a Teddy Bear's picnic

Rockbeare Village School also welcomed Megawatt, the company behind the local solar farm, into the school. Through engaging workshops, the children learned about renewable energy, climate change and how solar power contributes to a more sustainable future.

Get In Touch

Contact the Parish Council via the website!
www.rockbeareparishcouncil.co.uk

To contact the clerk by phone
+44 (0)1726 210139

We can't wait to hear from you!



Don't forget to check out our website

