



Ottery St Mary Town Council

8 Broad Street, Ottery St Mary, Devon EX11 1BZ

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING

Community Infrastructure Committee

Issued: Wednesday, 23 September 2026

Dear All,

Notice is hereby given of a public meeting of the **Community Infrastructure Committee** to be held at **5:00 PM on Monday, 28 September 2026** at **Ottery St. Mary Town Council**. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. This notice is given under paragraph 10(2) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972.

Kerry Kennell

Clerk to Ottery St Mary Town Council

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC/PRESS:

The law requires that public access is possible and not restricted, unless in the case of an agreed confidential session.

1. For members of the public/press that wish to speak at the meeting, under public participation, please raise your hand and wait for the Mayor to prompt you.
2. For those who have no visual access to the meeting, Members will state their name before speaking and voting.
3. The order of business may be changed by a decision of the Council and by resolution without notice.

Note: Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, any members of the public are allowed to take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media). If you are recording the meeting, you are asked to act in a reasonable manner and not disrupt the conduct of meetings for example by using intrusive lighting, flash photography or asking people to repeat statements for the benefit of the recording. You may not make an oral commentary during the meeting. The Mayor has the power to control public recording and/or reporting so it does not disrupt the meeting

Mobile Phones, Pagers and Similar Devices – All persons attending this meeting are required to turn off Mobile Phones, Pagers and Similar Devices. The Mayor may approve an exception to this request in special circumstances

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and record apologies for absence. Members are reminded that the Council can only accept apologies where a valid reason is given. Local Government Act 1972, s.85(1)

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests from members in items on the agenda, and any requests for dispensations. Members are reminded of their obligations under the Localism Act 2011 s.29–34.

3. Exclusion of Public and Press

To RESOLVE that, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2), the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

4. Public Participation

To allow members of the public to address the Council in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders. A maximum of 3 minutes per speaker, total session 15 minutes. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s.1 & Openness of Local Government Bodies Regs 2014; speaking via standing orders.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and correct record. Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 para 41.

6. Visit Ottery

7. To receive an update regarding the Transport Study next steps and make recommendations

8. To review available grants and progress applications if suitable for committee projects

9. To receive an update on the Wayfinding project from LHC and make decisions as appropriate

10. To consider next steps to update the Neighbourhood Plan and make recommendations as appropriate

11. To receive an update regarding Coach Friendly Town status

- 12. To receive an update from the Emergency Plan Working Group**
- 13. To receive an update regarding the Otter River Catchment Action (ORCA) campaign**
- 14. To receive an update regarding the EV charges at the Station Hub**
- 15. To consider an overarching strategy for the paths within the parish**
- 16. To receive an update regarding Footpath 46 and other footpaths in parish**
- 17. To note The Ottery Business Network meeting and make any recommendations as required**
- 18. To receive an update regarding the Ottery Gate to Plate event**
- 19. To consider whether to enter the Let's Celebrate Towns initiative**
<https://www.visaeupromotions.com/lets-celebrate-towns-visa-nationwide/>

20. Correspondence Received

To note correspondence received and determine any items requiring a formal response.

21. Matters Raised by Members Not Otherwise on the Agenda

To receive brief updates or questions from members on matters not otherwise on the agenda. No decisions may be taken under this item. Members are reminded this is for information and signposting only; substantive matters should be referred to a future agenda.

22. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 5pm on Monday 19th October at the Council Offices.

APPENDIX I — Public Documents

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Community Infrastructure Committee Meeting-Draft-Minutes.pdf

15. To consider an overarching strategy for the paths within the parish

Ottery to Tipton river path annex (1).pdf

Ottery to Tipton river path strategy (1).pdf

20. Correspondence Received

Town of Culture offer.pdf



Ottery St Mary Town Council — MINUTES

Community Infrastructure Committee — Monday, 17 August 2026

Published: Wednesday, 23 September 2026

Attendance

Present: Councillors Faithfull, Peka, Sneller (until 17:50), Stewart

Also present: Kerry Kennell — Town Clerk, Emma Grainger, Joe Williams

CI/26/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Sarah Martin (Chair) and Vicky Johns (Mayor). No apologies were received from Cllr Copus.

CI/26/08 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest were made in respect of any item on the agenda.

CI/26/08 Exclusion of Public and Press

It was **RESOLVED** that, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2), the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the Council's business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, specifically agenda item CI/26/08/10 — to receive an update on the Wayfinding project from LHC and make decisions as appropriate.

CI/26/08 Public Participation

There was none.

CI/26/08 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2026 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

CI/26/08 Strategic Alignment and Committee Progress

This agenda item will be discussed with Cllr Feasey.

CI/26/08 Visit Ottery

There was no update.

CI/26/08 To receive an update regarding the Transport Study next steps and make recommendations

The Committee considered the next steps arising from the Transport Study. It was **RECOMMENDED** that consideration be given to approving a payment of £10,000 for a feasibility study in respect of a pedestrian crossing in Broad Street.

CI/26/08 To review available grants and progress applications if suitable for committee projects

The available grants were **NOTED**.

CI/26/08 To receive an update on the Wayfinding project from LHC and make decisions as appropriate

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the Council for this item, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

It was **NOTED** that this agenda item was considered at the end of the Community Infrastructure Committee meeting, and that Cllr Feasey had left the Council prior to this item being heard.

The proposal received from LHC regarding the Wayfinding project was reviewed. It was **RECOMMENDED** to the Council that the project proceed as detailed in the proposal.

CI/26/08 To consider next steps to update the Neighbourhood Plan and make recommendations as appropriate

It was **AGREED** the Clerk will check with other consultants whether they would be interested in the work.

CI/26/08 To receive an update regarding Coach Friendly Town status

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would chase Devon County Council (DCC) regarding coach signage.

CI/26/08 To receive an update from the Emergency Plan Working Group

It was **NOTED** that Emergency Hubs had been ordered for Tipton St John and Ottery St Mary. Concern was raised regarding wildfires and the risk of fire associated with rewilding.

CI/26/08 To receive an update regarding the Otter River Catchment Action (ORCA) campaign

It was **NOTED** that there was no update to report at this meeting, although the Otter River Catchment Action (ORCA) campaign does regularly post progress updates on its Facebook page.

CI/26/08 To receive an update regarding the EV charges at the Station Hub

The Council received an update on the electric vehicle (EV) charging provision at the Station Hub. It was **NOTED** that usage of the existing chargers is increasing. Work is ongoing to list the chargers on Google Maps. It was **NOTED** that Sainsbury's has confirmed they have no plans to install EV chargers, and that there is no timescale from East Devon District Council (EDDC).

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the EDDC councillors to request that they press for EV charging points to be installed in the Brook Street and Land of Canaan car parks.

It was further **NOTED** that Connected Kerb should be approached regarding potential provision, and that the Devon County Council (DCC) Neighbourhood Highways Officer should also be consulted.

CI/26/08 To consider an overarching strategy for the paths within the parish

It was **NOTED** that a meeting would be arranged with Devon County Council Public Rights of Way in September.

CI/26/08 To receive an update regarding Footpath 46 and other footpaths in parish

There is no update.

CI/26/08 To note The Ottery Business Network meeting and make any recommendations as required

A third meeting of The Ottery Business Network is taking place at Coldharbour Farmshop in September.

CI/26/08 To receive an update regarding the Ottery Gate to Plate event

There is no update.

CI/26/08 Correspondence Received

There is none.

CI/26/08 Matters Raised by Members Not Otherwise on the Agenda

There were none.

CI/26/08 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 5pm on 21st September 2026.

Cllr Nick Sneller left the meeting at 17:50 (pecuniary interest).

The meeting closed at 18:03.

Signed: _____

Emily Peka

Chair of the Community Infrastructure Committee

Date: _____

APPENDIX – Ottery to Tipton circular riverbank path

Ref: West bank (W) or East bank (E) followed by straight distance in metres from St Saviours Bridge

Location: What3words

Ref	Location	Photo	Issue	Option	Score
W1350	gladiator.composer.anode	W1350A	Rotting wooden footbridge	Repair wood	2
E1525	sunbeam.flick.awaited	E1525A	Footbridge foundation undermined	Infill eroded gap	3



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

CIRCULAR RIVERBANK FOOTPATH – Ottery to Tipton

Proposal for review by the Committee.

To build a resource that can inform a strategic and collaborative approach to restoring and maintaining a circular riverbank walk between Ottery and Tipton.

This document suggests a structure and next steps

JTW 16th March 2026

The river and the bankside walks are a major natural asset for Ottery and the re-establishment of a scenic and circular walk to Tipton can deliver significant tourism and local amenity benefits.

At 6am on 27th January 2026 the River Otter flooded – this was the highest level on record at Fenny Bridges gauging station (exceeding the previous December 2000 high). The latest flood caused bank erosion that resulted in the temporary closure by DCC of the West bank footpath no. 24 for safety – this temporary closure order currently expires on 24th March. The East bank footpath no. 46 was closed for safety as a result of erosion in the winter of 2003/2004. The eroded sections on both banks are mid way between Ottery and Tipton.

This document will:

1. maintain contact details for all riverbank landowners on both sides
2. explore funding support for working with both the County Council and landowners on maintaining safe access
3. provide a record of previous negotiations and agreements including correspondence with the County Council
4. quantify benefits to Ottery of keeping these routes open and how that aligns with wider strategies (eg long distance footpaths and a cycle route for the old railway line)
5. identify current and potential future points of access failure with possible ways to address the risk

Proposed next steps:

1. Land registry search @£55 per title/plan
2. a) land agent advice on the availability of agri-environmental and other grants for the maintenance of public footpaths or creation of permissive paths or keeping stock from river
b) Devon County Council maintenance funds
c) advice on use of community infrastructure levy
d) strategic funding: eg LCWIP (DCC)
e) strategic ambition: eg Kings school proposal for Feniton to Sidmouth cycleway
f) other funding: eg local fundraising, lottery, industry sponsorship, charities
3. Summary of DCC appeal on Footpath 46 re-routing: see Footpath 46 summary to Committee dated June 2023. To investigate more recent discussion on footpath 24.
4. Commission consultants to quantify benefits
5. Prioritised action plan (see appendix)

Dear Kerry, Laura and Jane

I hope you're well and you don't mind my reaching out to you directly.

I'm a cultural leader and strategist based in Exeter. I've set up theatres and festivals, transformed heritage assets and, most recently, led the cultural service for Dorset Council. Here, I set up Dorset's Town of Culture initiative, now in its third year.

I'm now pursuing new opportunities in a freelance capacity. I'm particularly interested in supporting towns to use culture to improve places for their citizens.

It was great to see Ottery St Mary bid for UK Town of Culture. There was so much competition and I don't envy the panel making the decision to whittle down 400 places to just 15.

I imagine there are elements of your plan and programme that could be picked up by other funders. Should you be willing, I'd be very happy to meet with you to look at this and explore options going forward so that the momentum and excitement generated by the process doesn't go to waste.

Might this be something that would be useful for you?

Kind regards,

David Lockwood