DAVID REED MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tracy Hendren
East Devon District Council
Blackdown House
Honiton
EX14 1EJ

Tuesday, 28th July 2026

Dear Tracy,

I am writing following conversations I have had with local businesses and members of the public in The Strand, Exmouth, last week.

During those conversations, one issue came up time and again: the state of the pavements. Several businesses told me they regularly have to clean the pavements outside their own premises.

I have to say I share their frustration. The Strand is the heart of Exmouth. It is where people come to shop, meet friends, enjoy our cafés, bars and restaurants, and it is one of the first places many visitors see when they arrive. Living in Exmouth, I walk through The Strand regularly and see its condition first-hand. We should be showing our town at its best, not relying on businesses to make up for shortcomings in the maintenance of public spaces.

Businesses are paying business rates and local people are paying their council tax. They rightly expect the town centre to be clean, well maintained and somewhere we can all take pride in. My experience has always been that when an area is looked after, people are much more likely to respect it and take pride in it too.

Businesses in The Strand already do a huge amount to make the area welcoming and attractive. They should not feel they have to clean public pavements themselves because the current arrangements are not doing the job.

I would therefore be grateful if you could outline the current cleaning and maintenance arrangements for The Strand, whether the Council believes they are meeting the standard that businesses and the public should reasonably expect, and whether there are any plans to increase the frequency of cleaning or improve the service.

The Strand is the focal point of Exmouth and plays an important role in supporting our local economy. It deserves to be kept to a standard that reflects the pride people have in our town. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

David Reed.

Member of Parliament for Exmouth and Exeter East

david.reed.mp@parliament.uk www.davidreed.uk 01395493213

DavidReedMP David_Reed