



**Devon Communities
Together**

helping communities help themselves

*Helping
communities
help themselves*



Devon Communities Together is the operating name of the Community Council of Devon.
Registered office: 1st Floor, 3 & 4 Cranmere Court, Lustleigh Close, Matford Business Park, Exeter, EX2 8PW
Registered Charity No. 1074047, Company limited by guarantee No. 3694095, VAT registration no. 942 0496 27.

01392 248919

info@devoncommunities.org.uk
www.devoncommunities.org.uk

About us

Devon Communities Together, the Community Council for Devon, is a champion for Devon's people and environment - helping communities help themselves. We are engaged in a wide range of projects, services and funding opportunities that support our vision of dynamic communities shaping their own futures.

We have a strong focus on the development of rural communities, coastal and market towns, their needs and aspirations. At DCT we are focused on helping communities plan for and secure their futures.

We are experts in securing funding and delivering programmes which respond to the changing needs and challenges of Devon's communities.

This brochure describes the services we offer and the projects we are currently engaged in. More information can be found at our website www.devoncommunities.org.uk

ROOM HIRE FROM DEVON COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

We cater for everthing; small meetings, large boardrooms, training events and seminars.

For more information **visit**

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/venue-hire-exeter-area
or **call** 01392 248919

“Our vision
is of dynamic
communities
shaping
their own
futures.”



LOVE Devon

General Appeal

VILLAGE HALLS CAMPAIGN

Devon Communities Together cares about our village halls. For over 50 years we have been helping Devon's village halls by providing advice and practical support to the volunteers who manage them.

NOW DEVON'S VILLAGE HALLS NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE.

Village halls play a vital role at the heart of local communities.

There are over 500 village halls & community buildings in Devon where essential services are provided and community activities take place.

As funds become tighter keeping these much loved buildings comfortable to use gets even harder. Funds are needed for; emergency repairs, to upgrade facilities, meet new legislation, for major refurbishments or complete re-builds.

Our aim is to raise £1 million to create a LOVE Devon Village Halls fund that will provide loans and small grants open to all of Devon's village halls and community buildings.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOME OF THE ESSENTIAL WORK WE ARE DOING AROUND DEVON?

#1 Become a member of Devon Communities Together (see pg.11)

#2 donate to our LOVE Devon General Appeal which will help us to continue supporting Devon's Communities in the future.

To DONATE to either our LOVE Devon Village Hall Campaign or General Appeal you can:

Call: 01392 248919

Email: info@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk



Support for enterprise

DEVON SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK

Devon Communities Together hosts the Devon Social Enterprise Network (DSEN), a network for social and community enterprises, who want to be part of a stronger united voice for social entrepreneurs. A community enterprise is a community based organisation that has both enterprising and social aims and objectives and is owned and controlled by the people who live in a community or who share other forms of common interest.

The network offers regular e-bulletins promoting local training, funding support, networking opportunities, and events, along with help and support to help drive socially enterprising ideas forward. Devon Communities Together is a partner in Enhance Social Enterprise which is a new business support programme for Social Enterprise and Social Entrepreneurs in Devon, Somerset, Plymouth and Torbay. It is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and local partners, to help strengthen and grow the Social Enterprise sector in Devon.

If you are a Social Enterprise or thinking of starting one please contact our Project Advisors.



HOW WE CAN HELP:

- Information and guidance
- Training
- Business planning and advice
- Project planning
- Mentoring
- Consultancy
- Funding advice
- Public consultation

Call: Dawn Eckhart on 01392 248919 ext.7170

Email: dawn@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/Pages/Category/member-resources



Heart of the South West

Social Enterprise Support Program



Transform Ageing

Transform Ageing is a pioneering programme to improve people's experience of ageing. It brings together people in later life, social entrepreneurs and health and social care leaders to define, develop and deliver new solutions that better support the needs and aspirations of our ageing communities.

Devon Communities Together is the Devon lead for this exciting new programme, working with the Design Council and other partners. During summer 2017, a series of workshops was held, using a design process to explore 5 challenges: Preventing Social Isolation • Preventing Physical & Mental Ill Health • Effective Hospital Discharge and Care at Home • Staying Active • Informal Care & Casual Interactions

The outcomes of the workshops are a set of Innovation Briefs, which form the basis for an invitation to Social Entrepreneurs who may wish to develop products/ services to answer them.

Devon Communities can support Social Entrepreneurs to prototype and develop their idea, connect with local people who can help test and evaluate them and by supporting Social Entrepreneurs apply to access the £822,500 pot of grant funding which can help bring their innovative ideas to life.

If you are a social entrepreneur and would like to find out more about grant funding opportunities and how to take part please

Call: Dawn 01392 248919 ext.7170

Email: dawn@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk

UnLtd 

CENTRE FOR AGEING BETTER



Empowering Enterprise

Devon Communities Together is a delivery partner in the Building Better opportunities Empowering Enterprise Programme led by Petroc College to improve the employability, entrepreneurial and life skills of young people aged 18 – 24.

A key part of our role is to work with local business, social enterprise and community organisations to help them to increase their capacity and capability to support young people in their communities.

Our Community Enterprise Adviser can connect young people with quality employability opportunities in their own communities, particularly rural communities, such as: work experience • volunteering • apprenticeships - offered by local social enterprises • community businesses • VCS • micro businesses.

The programme aims to boost the local economy by helping local employers/businesses to invest into the local young workforce potential. We will support both the young person and placement providers to optimise a successful placement outcome.

If you are a business and want to find out how you can support young people in your community?

Call: Martin Parkes on 01392 248919 Ext.7106

Email: Mparkes@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk

Community engagement

Our Vision is of dynamic communities shaping their own future. We try to make this happen by encouraging people to become engaged in their local community.

SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES

Out and about - whether at the Devon County Show, other local shows or one of the drop in surgeries we hold around the County - come and talk to us about your issues

Community planning - bringing everyone together to create an action plan which will bring benefits to the whole community.

Community Unity - working initially in South Molton, Holsworthy, Lynton & Lynmouth. Joining up local activities, increasing volunteering, enabling local people to feel less isolated, to feel safer and stay healthy. (supported by Devon & Cornwall Police)

Growing the Rural Church - consulting with local people to try and secure the future of rural church buildings by identifying alternative uses. (Working with the Diocese of Exeter)

Sport & play - helping to keep Devon active and healthy by supporting the development of sport and play facilities.

Toolkits: providing a number of easy-to-use guides supporting community enhancement projects.

Contact our advisors - **Call:** 01392 248919

Email: info@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/Pages/Category/our-projects



“We’d love
to help you
develop your
community”



Resilience



Is your community PREPARED for an emergency? Are you ready to RESPOND? How well will you RECOVER? Do you have a plan?

There are a number of risks that we all hope will never happen, but sometimes they do: Freak weather • Floods • Major fires • Flu epidemics • Power cuts • Road / Rail accidents or closures • Terrorist incidents

As severe flooding and other disasters appear to become more frequent, it has never been so important for communities to pull together at times of crisis.

The Devon Community Resilience Board and Devon Communities Together want to encourage all of Devon's communities to create their own Community Emergency Plan to help them prepare for, respond to and recover from any emergency that might come their way.

Join the Devon Community Resilience Forum

It's FREE • Attend our Forum events offering information, training and workshops (FREE) • Visit our website for case studies, templates and other resources • Have a look at the grants available to get you started.

For more help and advice call Lesley Smith on **01392 248919** or **email** lesley@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/Pages/Category/devon-community-resilience-forum

Neighbourhood planning

GIVE YOUR COMMUNITY A VOICE WITH A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans help you and your local community shape the future of your area. Local people can create a plan that allows them to develop planning policies that reflect the needs of their local area and will play a role in whether planning applications are approved.

We will help you with:

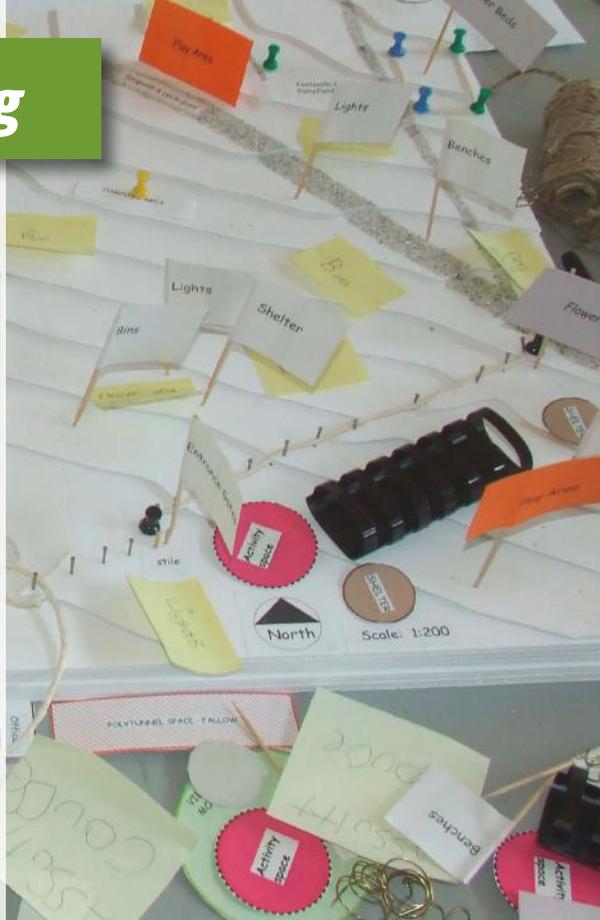
Project Managing the Neighbourhood Planning process • Undertaking detailed research • Support for community consultation through a parish wide survey • Providing specialist consultation

Want to see how we can help your community?

Call: Martin Parkes on 01392 248919 ext.7106

Email: mparkes@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning-catalyst



Community buildings



We promote best practice in operating, managing and developing community buildings with a range of advisory services, training and partnership arrangements.

We also work with local management committees to help develop community spaces and plan for the future of your hall or space.

We enjoy strong relationships with a network of partners who are able to assist with advice and services. We can help guide your projects through the complexities of funding applications.

Our services:

- Listing on Devon's largest online directory of community spaces
- Advice on governance and management of community facilities
- Advice on suppliers and service providers
- Exclusive email bulletins
- Hallmark quality assurance scheme
- Information publications and model documents
- Peer advisors
- Support for hall 'clusters'
- Support for projects, including funding advice
- Training and events

Call: Martin Rich on 01392 248919 ext.7141

Email: martin@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/community-facilities

Rural housing

Our Rural Housing Team has developed a tried and tested process of working closely with partners and rural communities to deliver affordable housing in ways that are sympathetic to the particular needs of the locality. We work with communities to research their housing need, identify suitable sites and liaise with partners and other housing organisations who together strive for and achieve high quality, affordable housing solutions in rural locations.

How we can help

Housing needs surveys • Site identification • Community development/engagement • Housing enabling support • Advice on local housing options • Tailored reports on affordable housing

Commission the Rural Housing Team

The Rural Housing Enablers undertake consultancy work in addition to the programmes of work undertaken for our Local Authority and Registered Provider partners.

Devon Communities Together is a member of The Devon Rural Housing Partnership.



Call: Sue Southwell on **01392 248919** ext.7121

Email: sue@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/affordable-housing



Membership offers

DEVON OIL COLLECTIVE Helping tackle fuel poverty

Devon Oil Collective (DOC) launched in 2012 as part of our commitment to tackle 'fuel poverty' in Devon. Local oil buying groups are one way to obtain the best possible price for heating oil, as well as encouraging efficiencies in delivery.

Households

Since we started DOC over 500 households have benefited from cheaper oil. By being members you can take the strain out of chasing the best deal and switching suppliers. We also offer a monthly payment scheme.

Annual household membership is £20 + VAT

Community Buildings

Why not take out DOC membership for your Community Building for just £30 + VAT

Remember – by joining DOC you will not only be keeping your own heating costs down but you will also be adding to the combined purchasing power of the group and helping to keep the price down for everyone.

Call: Martin Rich on 01392 248919 ext.7141

Email: info@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/Event/join-devon-oil-collective



BECOME A MEMBER

Devon Communities Together invites you to become a member.

We currently have over 250 individuals and organisations in membership.

Whether you want to:

- Support our charitable work in Devon
- Join the debate on local issues
- Get the latest updates in our publications and newsletters
- Take advantage of some of the membership benefits

Our wide range of skills and experience make us a helpful partner for many organisations.

Only £24

Individuals & Small organisations
(Less than £5,000 turnover)

Only £50

Larger Organisations
(Turnover over £5,000)

Members can enjoy

Specialist advice on a range of issues

- Social & Community Enterprise
- Technical & Governance
- Funding

Discounts on

- Training courses (pg.12)
- Venue Hire (pg.2)
- The Annual Rural Futures Conference and more...

PLUS A dedicated service for Community Buildings members.



TO JOIN TODAY Call: 01392 248919 or

Email: info@devoncommunities.org.uk

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk

Catalyst

Catalyst is our in-house consultancy service providing a range of support for local communities, including:

- Business plans
- Fundraising strategies
- Feasibility studies
- Stakeholder consultation
- Governance & legal structures
- Community owned assets
- Neighbourhood planning & Localism
- Rural housing services
- Training or mentoring

Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/catalyst-consultancy

Want to find out more call

Dawn Eckhart 01392 248919 ext.7170

Email: catalyst@devoncommunities.org.uk

"Thank you for your invaluable contribution to the development of our business plan. It has been well received by major funders."



Catalyst

Training Hub

LEARN, ENGAGE AND THRIVE

The Training Hub is our dedicated training service; part of our commitment to develop knowledge within our communities and make them stronger.

We offer a range of topics, including:

- Business and marketing
- Benefits and money advice
- Social and enterprise
- Health and wellbeing (inc. First Aid)
- Community
- Devon Association of Local Councils training

SAVE UP TO 25% AS A MEMBER OF DEVON COMMUNITIES TOGETHER*

For a full list of scheduled training visit www.devoncommunities.org.uk/training-hub

Call: 01392 248919

Email: info@devoncommunities.org.uk

* Discounts apply to selected course

TRAINING PROVIDERS
Showcase your courses at the Training Hub
Call us today on 01392 248919

