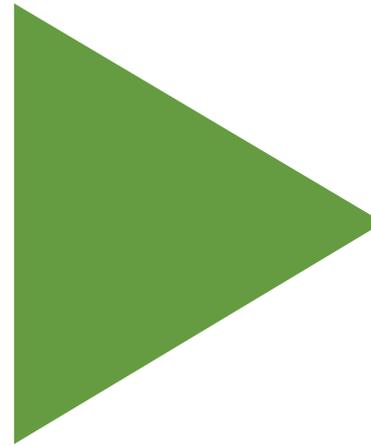




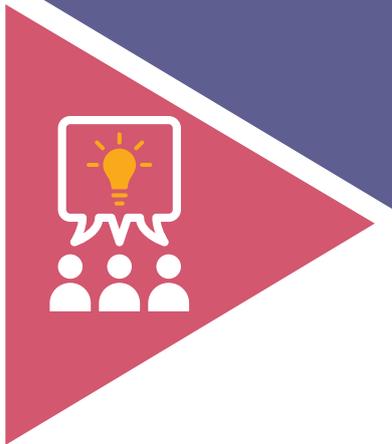
# Devon Communities Together

helping communities help themselves



DEVON COUNTY  
COUNCIL GRANT  
FUNDING AGREEMENT

## Q2 REPORT 2018/19



October 2018

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



## KEY

### DEVON COMMUNITIES OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK:

-  Understanding Community Needs
-  Brokering Relationships
-  Capability Building Within Communities
-  Support for Community Resilience
-  Opportunities for Individuals to Become Active Citizens

## DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES HAVE INCREASED CAPABILITY, SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE IN ADDRESSING LOCAL ISSUES



Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan

## DEVON COMMUNITY LEARNING ACADEMY

We have run 39 learning/ networking events to date this year with a total of 677 participants, 24 in Q2 2018/19 with 488 participants (15 in Q1 with 189 participants) , including 202 attendees at DALC training/ events. We collaborated on delivery with 6 external training providers in Q2.

### Courses and events delivered in Q2

- Managing the Money Maze - Wessex Resolutions CIC
- Benefits Overview, Universal Credit x 2, Disability Benefits - Citizens Advice Devon
- Cyber Security x 3 - Devon & Cornwall Police
- Functional Fitness - Seated Vitality - Age UK Devon
- Neighbourhood Planning - Jo Widdecombe
- International Older People's Day events x 2 - DCT (DSV)
- 3 Transform Ageing Social Entrepreneur/Commissioner Workshops - DCT
- Community Led Housing Training - DCT Rural Housing Enablement Team
- 9 Parish Council Training Events - DALC

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

DCT supported the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which needed a Consultation Statement to support its submission. We worked with the steering group to produce an overview of the various community engagement activities that they had undertaken, helping to articulate how these had informed the final version of the Plan. We then translated the evidence into the formal Neighbourhood Plan consultation statement required.

Exmouth's Neighbourhood Plan covers matters relating to: the natural environment, the built environment, economy and employment, housing, getting about and community facilities, with a range of policies and community actions. The future impact of the plan will be a positive greater influence on planning matters for Exmouth, addressing a range of local issues.

*"We appreciate all the advice and support you have given us as we groped our way through the fog, especially in the early days."* Roy Pryke, Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan Chair.

*"Very useful, as a planner I now feel more confident when considering Community Led housing schemes."*

"VERY INFORMATIVE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE TRAINER."



9  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLANS SUPPORTED

**DCT  
OBJECTIVE**  
COMMUNITIES  
BECOME MORE  
RESOURCEFUL  
AND RESILIENT



The first group of walkers embark on 'Walk for Widecombe'

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: MESHAW CHURCH

Meshaw Parish Hall in North Devon was sold for redevelopment as the Church believed it was too expensive to repair; this left the community without a meeting place. The village does not have a parish council so we were contacted by the chair of the parish meeting asking for help to explore the possibility of using the church for community events.

We helped with community consultations and organised discussions with parish representatives, the Parochial Church Council and the Diocese of Exeter. A steering group has been formed to develop a project and advice is being sought from a specialist architect on modifications that would give more flexible use of the church. DCT is helping the group find funding for a feasibility study and will assist in further local consultation, putting together a development plan as a precursor to seeking grants for the work involved. We will also help the community plan how the extended use of the church will operate.

### LOVE DEVON: WALK FOR WIDECOMBE

For the first of our annual LOVE Devon community fundraising events, DCT supported the community in Widecombe-in-the-Moor to kick-start their fundraising for a much-needed new village hall by organising 'Walk for Widecombe'. The high profile event took place on 16th September in the form of a sponsored 6 or 2-mile walk into the village led by LOVE Devon ambassador and champion jockey Bryony Frost. In conjunction with our external fundraising consultant, DCT:

- Undertook the organisation and managed the logistics of the entire walk
- Provided marketing support for the event, recruiting walkers and encouraging donations
- Created a Crowdfunder campaign to collect donations
- Garnered corporate and public support for the event and "LOVE Devon"

The event was a huge success, with around 100 walkers completing the route from within the village and further afield. We also supported the village community to organise a well attended fun day following the walk. The total amount raised currently stands at over £5,000, with donations still coming in, and both the new village hall and LOVE Devon brand have benefitted from increased awareness, receiving exciting offers of - and requests for - future support.



*"This event has been a fantastic way of kick-starting the fundraising for our project at the same time as bringing the community together and having lots of fun. Our thanks go to the Love Devon team for helping to make this possible."* Yvette Elliott, Widecombe Village Hall Committee

## DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES BECOME  
ECONOMICALLY  
STRONGER



Inspire Award winner: the Torridge Coffin Club development

### ENABLING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

DCT launched a small grants scheme, the Inspire Awards, as part of its Transfrom Ageing project. The awards were designed to encourage people from later life to see themselves as social entrepreneurs and enable them to turn their ideas for social impact and enterprise into reality by awarding grants of up to £500.

A recent example of a successful Inspire Award was The Torridge Coffin Club development, led by the Rev. Nixie James-Scott who is a practising professional celebrant. The award helped Nixie to attend certificated training on Coffin Club development in Brighton, with a view to developing the first Devon pilot Coffin Club in rural Torridge this winter.

The club will help participants to overcome the fear and stigma of death, and prepare for their own death in a sociable and constructive way. The coffin clubs will also create a new income stream for Nixie's enterprise and hence support her financial viability as a social entrepreneur.

### SMART ENERGY GB

DCT has been commissioned by Smart Energy GB to promote the benefits of smart meter installation to people over 65 and those over 60 who do not use the internet, from across rural Devon. We are holding information stalls, giving presentations at community events and providing 121 advice to members of the public. For example, we attended the Holsworthy community coffee morning in September and gave information to approximately 100 older people.

A member of the Holsworthy HELP project already has one:

*"It allows me to see how much it costs to run different appliances - and alerts me if I have left something like the iron switched on. We pay as you go so it allows us to top-up directly with my phone instead of going to the shop pay-point."*



49 DEVON EMPLOYERS SUPPORTED TO OFFER EMPLOYABILITY  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**DCT  
OBJECTIVE  
COMMUNITIES BECOME  
HEALTHIER, MORE  
VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE  
WITH IMPROVED  
WELL BEING**



International Older People's Day event, Barnstaple

## **INTERNATIONAL OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY WITH DEVON SENIOR VOICE**

1st October is designated the International Day of Older Persons by the UN. The intention is to engage with a broad audience to promote the rights of older people, raise the visibility of older people and reflect on progress in ensuring the human rights and freedoms of older people.

Devon Senior Voice (Devon Communities Together) held 2 events to celebrate International Older People's Day 2018, in Exeter and Barnstaple. The events celebrated the contribution of people in later life to the well-being of Devon's communities and provided information on products and services of interest to older people

The Barnstaple event, on 28th September at Castle Green, as well as being a family fun day also included a large variety of information stalls: Healthwatch Devon, Devon Air Ambulance, Living Options, Police and Crime Commissioner, North Devon Sunrise, Home instead Senior Care.

Between the two events about 350 people accessed information and advice and were enabled to raise local issues of concern.

## **RURAL HOUSING AWARDS**

Judging took place for the Devon Rural Housing Awards on 6th September. There were five nominations in the Best Rural Development category. The winner was a Live West development of 20 homes (10 affordable, 10 open market) that DCT has been very involved with at Court Barton in Thorverton. Judges found the affordable homes were well integrated into the scheme and the build quality was extremely high.

The Outstanding Community Contribution category was won by Appledore Community Land Trust, which has been working hard to provide affordable housing in the parish for several years despite a number of challenges. They finally have a development of 9 homes, all for affordable rent on site and due to complete shortly.



*"It is unusual to get the opportunity to build new homes in villages such as Thorverton and our customers are really pleased with their new homes - this award recognises a very successful project for everyone involved."* Nathan Cronk, Head of Development, Live West

**DCT  
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Building Better Opportunities - Empowering Enterprise - is a programme jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund

## **EMPOWERING ENTERPRISE: INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT - HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE GET A START**

A participant on Empowering Enterprise has been seeking opportunities to work with animals. She faces a range of barriers including poor mental health and very low levels of education. After discussing her talents, aspirations and barriers a substantial amount of time was spent seeking an appropriate opportunity.

Many employers were unwilling, in which case conversations were had which worked to encourage these employers to consider the importance of inclusive employment and social responsibility. Some were receptive to these ideas and stated that they may be able to offer opportunities to participants in the future.

Eventually a placement at a dog grooming salon was secured for the young person, which she is really enjoying. The feedback is that it has already had a positive impact on her confidence.

*“They trust me a lot, on busy days they left me in charge of the shop which made me realise I can trust myself and I am capable, I was comfortable helping customers and happy trying more skills and learning new skills.”* Young person

*“I can see a massive improvement in [her], she’s more confident and outgoing. Happier to try new things she wouldn’t usually try. She’s like a flower coming into blossom.”* Mentor

This secured opportunity sits within the context of a range of similar, but bespoke, opportunities sought and provided for NEET young people across Devon. Together they support communities to become economically stronger, more vibrant and inclusive. For the young people, these opportunities often play a role in their improved wellbeing.



**16 young people so far this year have been successfully supported to access local work experience placements.**

## OUR VISION

is of dynamic communities shaping their own futures.

## OUR MISSION

is to inspire and support communities to be thriving, resilient and inclusive.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

COMMUNITIES BECOME HEALTHIER, MORE VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE WITH IMPROVED WELL BEING

COMMUNITIES BECOME ECONOMICALLY STRONGER

COMMUNITIES HAVE INCREASED CAPABILITY, SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE IN ADDRESSING LOCAL ISSUES

COMMUNITIES BECOME MORE RESOURCEFUL AND RESILIENT

## OUR ACTIVITIES

Advice & training for parish & town councils

Helping communities mobilise their assets

Social and community business advice

Enterprise start up and small business support

Supporting communities to create action plans

Helping young people get a start

Reducing fuel poverty

Supporting communities to be prepared for an emergency

Wide range of training opportunities

Providing affordable housing

Village hall and other community buildings support

Helping with sport and play

Improving health and wellbeing for older people

Influencing development through neighbourhood planning

DCT has adopted four social objectives. All of our key activities are measured against one or more of the objectives to enable us to assess impact and to share the evidence with funders, stakeholders, policy makers and commissioners.

