



Market and Coastal
Towns Association

The Devon Towns Forum

Working with the Communities of Devon

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Forum News Spring 2007.

A Very Warm Welcome to new MCTi Partnerships for Devon

The MCTA have just announced that Newton Abbot and Axminster are among thirteen Town Partnerships in the South West to join the MCTi programme. The Devon Towns Forum offers their congratulations to all, but especially to Axminster Community Enterprise and the Newton Abbot Community Partnership.

The new Towns will be formally welcomed to the MCTi family by James Hassett CEO of the Market and Coastal Towns Association at their Annual Conference on the 2nd & 3rd Feb 2007 in Torquay. Remember the Devon Towns Forum offers its services and support free of charge to all Community Partnerships working in the County, so whether you are part of the MCTi programme or not, you are part of the Devon towns Forum.

Don't Miss the MCTA's Annual Conference

Don't miss out! If you are involved in a Community Planning Partnership or are working on Regeneration Projects you should get along to the MCTA's annual conference and take advantage of the many presentations and opportunities to meet the people who can help. Have you booked your place yet? If not contact Helen Lloyd at the MCTA on 01823 250816 or e-mail Helen.Lloyd@mcti.org.uk now!

DTF to Facilitate Database Workshops

The DTF has been asked to help facilitate a Series of Workshops across the Districts to help inform people about the Community Planning Project Database. The Devon Strategic Partnership is spearheading the work on the database which is being developed by a partnership of Agencies and Organisations including representatives of LSP's, the Devon Rural Network, MCTA, CCD, DTF and representatives of the Parishes and Market Town partnerships. The DTF's support will help inform people about the Database and its potential as an important Community planning tool. Dates and venues for the Project Database Workshops will be announced shortly and posted on the DTF website.

www.devontownsforum.org.uk If you want to know more about the Database Project please e-mail Matt Bell at the Devon Strategic Partnership at matthew.bell@devon.gov.uk

Sam Smith and Guests Definitely Made a Difference

The Forums making a Difference Gala Event was greatly enjoyed by the 85 people attending the Exeter Thistle Hotel on the 12 Dec. The event also supported by the Devon Rural Network had excellent and highly informative presentations from James Hassett CEO of the Market and Coastal Towns Association, Philip Collins from Natural England and Professor Michael Winter from Exeter University, the evening was topped off with a fantastic presentation from BBC TV's Sam Smith.

Sam who presents the top BBC TV Inside-Out programme delighted the audience with some inspiring recollections and tips on making a human interest story. Members of many supporting agencies and local Councillors were also in attendance. Tom Langdon Davies the Forum Chairman said 'People have been overwhelmed by Sam and the other speakers, we are so lucky to have had their support for the Forums Gala evening' Tom continued ' Thanks must also go to all those who brought along project displays and have come along tonight, we are fortunate indeed to have such an active community spirit in Devon, and we definitely intend to offer this kind of event again'.

Special Offer! Training for Trainer Courses

The Charities Information Bureau are offering a one-day non-accredited training course for the voluntary and community sector aimed at those delivering or hoping to deliver training to adults in the voluntary and community sector. These courses are heavily subsidised by the Finance Hub, for those new to delivering training or responsible for providing small pieces of training as part of a wider role. No prior experience of training is required but may be of interest to those who wish to develop skills in this area. The Dates and Venues are:

Exeter Wed 14 March 2007 Venue: Gipsy Hill Hotel, Times: 9.30am-4.00pm or

Birmingham Wed 14 February 2007 Venue: Apollo Hotel, Times: 9.30am-4.00pm

Costs cover refreshments and a sandwich at £25 for participants from Voluntary & Community organisations. (Places are also available for participants from the statutory sector - please enquire for fees) For further info/booking form please contact Sylvia at Charities Information Bureau, Wiltshire. Tel: 01380 729279/729223 or email: sylvia@cibwilts.org.uk

A DTF Bursary to cover costs may be available for Devon Towns Forum members, so if you are interested in attending but require help with costs contact the Forum on 01805 624874 or e-mail to info@devontownsforum.org.uk to see if the Forum can sponsor you.

'More Free Websites and Training Offers'

Congratulations to Teignmouth Community Development Trust, formerly Teignmouth MCTi on winning the Forums October Free website and Training Offer. But don't worry, due to the fantastic success of the Forums Website and Training packages we have decided to offer another *free website and training package worth £500* .

The DTF offer includes your own SWCO Website, initial one-to-one training, the first year's maintenance fee, usually £75.00, and free access to all future training for SWC webmasters. The Forum's offer is aimed at increasing individual and partnership skills, help to market your partnership, boost capacity and connectivity. So, don't delay, contact the Devon Towns Forum for an *application form* today!

The Winning Partnership will be selected by the Management Board whose decision will be final. Closing date for entries is Friday 30 March 2007. So, get cracking, contact the Forum on info@devontownsforum.org.uk for an application form today.

Devon Renaissance Funding Master Classes

The Devon Towns Forum in partnership with the Devon Rural Network have facilitated two Devon Renaissance Funding Master Classes; the last of which was held on the 4th Dec was attended by 35 people. The DTF and DRN hope to be making arrangements for further events with Devon Renaissance and will announce future dates and event details on the Forums website.

Devon Renaissance News

Good News, the Community Boost Fund gets the thumbs up from the RDA and will be rolled out by Devon Renaissance over the coming months. The Community Boost Fund is aimed at providing small scale grants that help unlock the sustainability potential of certain projects. For more details contact Amanda Harvey at Devon Renaissance on 01837 658643 e-mail contact@ruraldevon.org or visit the Renaissance Website at www.ruraldevon.org

DTF Supports Action Research

The Forum is supporting Action Research being undertaken by the Devon Heartlands Community Development Trust (formerly Okehampton MCTi) for the Carnegie UK Trust. The theme of the research is 'Engaging Rural Communities in Community Planning'. The work is also being supported by the West Devon LSP, and other Key Partners, Agencies and Organisations including DCC and the MCTA. A lot of work is being done in this area, and the recent report commissioned by the MCTA and SWAN entitled '*An exciting Future for Community Plans*' is an excellent report that suggests the way forward for developing responsive and engaged LSP's. The report is available to download from www.swan-network.org.uk

Support for Partnership Working

The Devon Towns Forum's and MCTA support for local networking between partnerships and engagement with the Local Strategic Partnerships is a 'Great Help' so says Cllr. Christine Marsh Chairman of the West Devon Joint Partnership. 'This support has helped with local joint working, such as meetings and events and helped us to engage with the Local Strategic Partnership.' In addition to all the partnership working already taking place across the County a little extra support from the DTF can make all the difference. For more information about support for Joint Working contact the DTF on 01805 624874 or e-mail info@devontownsforum.org.uk

Lynton & Exmoor Vision Launch Action Plan

Jane Mills DTF Northern Area Board Member was delighted to represent the Forum for the launch of The Community Strategic Plan for the towns of Lynton and Lynmouth and their surrounding parishes. The Plan was officially launched on 23 November in the beautiful setting of the historic Town Hall in Lynton with around seventy members of the local community attended the launch along with officers from the Exmoor National Park, officers and elected members from North Devon District Council, the County Council and representatives from MCTA and SWRDA. For more information about the Lynton and Exmoor Vision please visit their website at <http://www.lynexvision.org>

Honiton MCTi Launch Strategic Plan

The launch of the Honiton MCTi Strategic Plan on the 21st Feb promises to be quite an event. The event is being supported by a several special guests including Phil Collins from Natural England and Guest of Honour Cllr. Des Shadrick Chairman of Devon County Council. If you want to know more about the event and Honiton MCTi please e-mail the Chairman Vernon Whitlock at vernonwhitlock@aol.com or Bob Buxton at courtmoor.farm@btinternet.com or visit the Honiton website at www.honiton-mcti.co.uk

Dartmouth MCTi Host an Exhibition of Projects

Dartmouth and District MCTi are holding an exhibition of their projects in the Beautiful Dartmouth Guildhall on Friday 9th Feb 2007 between 7.00 and 9.00pm. If you would like to see the range of innovative projects and talk to the people behind them, please telephone 01803 835238 and make your reservation now!

Local Partnership in Practice

Teignmouth CDT has shown how a local Community Partnership can help deliver the Devon Local Area Agreement. Working with the Devon Strategic Partnership, Teignmouth CDT and those involved with the Local Area Agreement organized a consultation in March 2006 to focus on supporting people of the area. Several meetings have taken place since, but in November agreement was reached on a partnership action plan that will:

- Support the objectives of The Devon Strategic Partnership (DSP) by working to common ends with the County's Social Inclusion Task Group, the Common Ground Partnership
- Ensure that the needs of the Teignmouth area are aligned with the Local Area Agreement (LAA) process, Local Development Frameworks and other key policy drivers.
- Lead to the building of an evidence base which will underpin co-ordinated action in the achieving of agreed targets without any duplication of effort or services.
- Adopt a mutual methodology for the evaluation of progress.
- Guarantee that TCDT can deliver in accordance with the emerging joint action plan.

Teignmouth CDT Make Progress with Business Skills Audit

There has been a very positive welcome by local business-people to the team of TCDT Community Agents that has contacted them during the consultation stage of the Business Skills Audit of Teignmouth and Dawlish. The project is being financed by the Regional Development Agency and the District Council. Its report - due out in March 2007 - is expected to give several pointers for the enhancing of the 'pool' of local skills and the improvement of employability.

Progress on Teignmouth Lido and Riviera Projects

Teignbridge District Council is being asked to award a long-term lease to TCDT for the management of the Lido facility. Kings Meadow Community Association would be awarded a contract by TCDT to undertake day-to-day management duties and would develop a vocational training centre providing accredited training courses to a variety of levels of competence. A community-based committee of users and Councillors will provide management oversight. It is intended that The Lido will provide opportunities for leisure and training throughout the year. Additional water-based activities will be sponsored by local organizations such as Teign Diving Centre and the Teign Corinthian Yacht Club.

The old Riviera Cinema an eyesore on the seafront for ten years or more is now a joy to behold and is a credit to Goldhart Estates, the developers. Over the last few months Doff Pollard (TDC) has led a District Council/TCDT team in consulting local organizations regarding possible future social and cultural activities that can be housed in the renovated auditorium. Currently, a draft business plan is being prepared with a view to ensuring the financial and management sustainability of a community enterprise based at the venue.

Teignmouth Survey the over 50's

A survey of the needs of the 50+ age group is to be launched soon. The project will be conducted by Community Agents with Alex Howarth (KMCA) as Project Leader.

DTF and South West Chambers On-Line at MCTA Conference

Why not drop in and meet members of the Devon Towns Forum and South West Chambers On-Line when you visit the MCTA Conference and check out the fantastic Websites now used by an ever growing number of Partnerships. South West Chambers On-line can provide a great flexible and cost effective answer to owning and managing your own website. And remember once you have a SWCO Website your web managers will have free ongoing training provided by the DTF. South West Chambers On-line star trainer Kate Doodson will be on hand for friendly advice too. See you at the MCTA Conference Exhibition Hall on Sat 3rd Feb 07 at the Riviera International Centre Torquay. Contact Helen Lloyd for places now on 01823 250816 or e-mail Helen.Lloyd@mcti.org.uk

DTF Join Voluntary & Community Sector Action Group

The DTF have joined the Devon Rural Network, the Community Council of Devon and the Council for Voluntary Service and other partners in a DRN led Action Group with the purpose of adding value to the work that is already being done in rural Devon by the VCS, for example by sharing good practice or encouraging collaboration. Also to represent the interests of rural VCS organisations within the Devon Rural Network and to act as communicators to the organisations on the ground and lobby more strategic bodies on the interests and need of the rural VCS.

DTF Support West Devon LSP

The DTF are delighted to support the work being undertaken by the West Devon LSP as they reorganise and develop suitable structures for future operations. The DTF are to commission lead Community Planning Consultants BDOR to work with LSP members and to relate this to the Carnegie Action Research being undertaken by the Devon Heartlands Community Partnership on the theme of 'Engaging Rural Communities in Community Planning'. It is hoped that the outcome of the work will be shared at a County wide event later in the year. The DTF also welcome Cllr Dennis Bater as the new Chair of the West Devon LSP and thank Sally Foxhall for her past Chairmanship and continued support.

Have you checked out the MCTA WEBSITE?

Don't forget to visit the MCTA's new website at www.mcti.org.uk log on and make your contribution to keeping everyone better informed about your partnership news and find out the latest direct from the Association. If you have any other queries relating to the work of the Market and Coastal Towns Association please contact Caroline Walker the Devon Area Facilitator on 01237 478398 or 01823 250815

Watch this Space!

Keep an eye on the DTF Website at www.devontownsforum.org.uk In addition to Forum News we put all the News, Board Vacancies, Special Offers, Training Events, Workshops, Seminars and Conferences on the DTF website. We also try to e-mail everyone on our contact database to keep members with up-to-date offers.

Who's Who!

Please remember to keep the Forum up-to-date with any changes to your partnership personnel and send full contact details including e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and postal addresses of your chairman, representative, or members to the Forum at the above e-mail address so they can be added to the contact database.

Members of the Devon Towns Forum are invited to submit news and information about their Partnerships to info@devontownsforum.org.uk

The Devon Towns Forum cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy or content of information supplied. Articles may be edited where necessary. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the MCTA, DCC, The Devon Towns Forum or its partners.