

<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Number of Representative(s)</b>	<b>Report Received</b>	<b>(Name of Member)</b>
Barnstaple and District Chamber of Commerce	1	Yes.	Hunt
Barnstaple Town Centre Management	2	No.	Topps and Hunt.
Barnstaple Youth House Association	1	Yes.	Orange
Braunton Marsh Internal Drainage Board	3	Yes.	Chesters, Crabb and Wilkinson
The Bridge Trust	2	No.	Biederman and Prowse
Chulmleigh Town Hall Committee	1	No.	Davies
Citizen's Advice Bureau (Torridge, North Devon, Mid Devon and Bude)	1	Yes.	Walker
Combe Martin Business Association	1	No.	Gubb
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)	1	No.	Luggar
Devon and Cornwall Police Crime Panel	1	No.	Biederman
Devon Districts Forum	2 (1 Member and 1 Officer)	Yes.	Worden (and Head of Paid Service)
Devon Rail Forum (formerly Devon and Exeter Rail Project Working Party)	1	No.	Mack

<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Number of Representative(s)</b>	<b>Report Received</b>	<b>(Name of Member)</b>
Devon Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee	1	To be tabled.	Pearson
District Council's Network Assembly	1	Yes.	Worden (Substitute, Prowse)
Exmoor National Park Authority	2	Yes.	Patrinos and Ley
Go North Devon	1	Yes, attached separately.	York
Ilfracombe and District Tourism Association	1	Does not believe this outside body requires an NDC Representative anymore, as this group has unofficially merged with ITC Marketing Group.	Fowler
Local Government Association (General Assembly)	1	Yes.	Leaver
Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group	2	Yes.	Davies and Wilkinson
North Devon Against Domestic Abuse	1	No.	Orange
Northern Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	1	Yes.	Wilkinson
North Devon Athenaeum	1	Not been invited to any meetings.	York
North Devon Biosphere	1	Yes.	D. Spear
Northern Devon Growth Board	1	No.	Prowse

<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Number of Representative(s)</b>	<b>Report Received</b>	<b>(Name of Member)</b>
North Devon Highways and Transport Orders Committee	3	Yes.	Cann, Knight and D. Spear
North Devon Locality Committee	2	No.	Knight and D. Spear
North Devon +	2	Yes.	Prowse and Worden
North Devon Voluntary Services	1	Yes.	Hunt
One Barnstaple	1	Yes, attached separately.	York
One Ilfracombe	1	No.	Fowler
Safer North Devon Community Safety Partnership Board	1	Yes.	Leaver
South West Provincial Council for Local Authority Services	1	No.	Yabsley
Trustees of Pilton Charities	1	No.	Mr Cameron.
Woolacombe and Morteohoe Tourism Association	1	Yes.	Wilkinson

## Barnstaple & District Chamber of Commerce

Since the onset of Covid all meetings have been held virtual and still are at this present time. November 2021 they held their AGM whereby they held their elections of officers which were taken on bloc and all remained in their previous positions. The Chair mentioned that the year had been a challenging one for all the businesses as the previous one had been, but in different ways, with the effect of the pandemic continuing to be felt by many on both a personal and business level. The Chamber has continued to support the local business community as best it can within the limitations that COVID has brought. One of the ways they have done that this year is through partnering with North Devon+ to ensure the Kickstart Program was made available in Northern Devon. The program fully funds 6 months placements of 16-24 year olds, which provides employers with the opportunity to bring young people into the workplace and as a stepping stone to further training or permanent employment.

The Kickstart program has been supported in the region through the Kickstart Northern Devon Gateway. With over 80 placements across a wide range of industries and to date they have had a low drop-out rate, with the majority of young people staying in their placement. The extension ran until March 2022. The Chamber has also continued to represent Northern Devon business interests both locally and in the wider region, to lobby where they can and ensure the voice of local business is heard.

There was no other business recorded and the meeting was closed with the next AGM tbc with a date to follow.

Cllr Julie Hunt

Chair NDC

**REPORT TO:**

Date: 24/03/22

**OUTSIDE BODY:                   BARNSTAPLE YOUTH HOUSE**

**REPORT BY:                       Councillor Jo Orange**

**1 ACTIVITY**

1.1 The Management Committee met 7 times in 2021, and twice (so far) in 2022. I have attended approx. 7 meetings.

**2 PURPOSE**

2.1 Barnstaple Youth House seeks to

- (a) Provide premises and an environment in which youth work can thrive;
- (b) Support small voluntary youth organisations to enable them to operate safely and effectively;
- (c) Deliver direct youth work;
- (d) Support individual volunteers to gain skills and knowledge to undertake youth work safely and exhibit good practice.

2.2 The focus of Barnstaple Youth House is to help young people including those who are vulnerable, I believe this will meet with many of the councils objectives.

**3 ACHIEVEMENTS**

3.1 During the Covid lockdown period, Management Committee members and volunteers have completely refurbished the inside of the building; insulated the loft space, and initiated a project with Petroc College (and a pro-bono surveyor) to sympathetically refurbish the rear yard and abattoir, to bring them into use for youth activities

**4 THE FUTURE**

4.1 It has a good Management Committee, which discusses needs, seeks grant income for specific projects, and sets achievable goals and timetables

4.2 [Is it useful for the council to make a further appointment to the body?]

**5 OTHER**

5.1 [Anything else you want to add]

## CAB Report

It has been a difficult 12 months for the CAB, the volunteer numbers are down by 50% on pre pandemic levels. To help address this they have employed 2 members of staff to help with the casework and hope to be able to retain them at least in the short term. As per their report the NDC grant enables the core service.

With the current cost of living crisis, I am concerned about the service becoming overwhelmed, particularly in the area of fuel poverty. I am pleased that the council have already made arrangements with 361 energy to help residents with this area, who can be signposted to by the CAB.

The Barnstaple office has not been conducive to restarting services, as the rooms are not easy to ventilate, which has reduced the number of clients able to be seen face to face. Online and telephone appointments are continuing.

Helen Walker

**REPORT TO:** NORTH DEVON COUNCIL  
**Date:** 18/03/22  
**OUTSIDE BODY:** BRAUNTON MARSH INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD  
**REPORT BY:** Councillor Malcolm Wilkinson

## **1 ACTIVITY**

As a result of the Covid lockdowns, three of the four meetings held this year have been virtual. The AGM was held face to face and attended by the committee and four interested parties. I attended all but one of the virtual meetings and also the AGM. At the AGM two of the existing members resigned their positions which leaves the membership thin on the ground.

## **2 PURPOSE**

Braunton Marsh is a collection of separate pastures that has been used in this way since the enclosure of the Marsh in 1811.

It is managed by Braunton Marsh Drainage Board and is one of the few remaining marshes to be operated by an independent Drainage Board.

## **3 ACHIEVEMENT**

On-going management

## **4 THE FUTURE**

Once again, there are threats of erosion. Horsey Island, which is in the ownership of Devon Wildlife Trust, is in particular danger.

## **5 OTHER**

I am a representative of the District Council on this board. It is chaired by Councillor Jasmine Chesters and clerked by Sue Squire who both keep me well informed of developments and concerns. I also see the link between this organisation and the work that I undertake as the Lead Member for Coastal Communities, my representation on the LGA Coastal Issues Group and the NDC Climate Action Group. It is, therefore, beneficial to all organisations to continue membership of this committee.

**REPORT TO: FULL  
COUNCIL**

Date: MARCH 2022

**OUTSIDE BODY:           DEVON DISTRICTS FORUM**

**REPORT BY:               Councillor DAVID WORDEN**

**6 ACTIVITY**

6.1 The Devon District Forum meets quarterly and I believe that I have attended all that have been held since the last AGM.

**7 PURPOSE**

7.1 The Devon District Forum gives the Leaders of the eight District Councils in Devon the opportunity of meeting and discussing issues of mutual concern.

7.2 North Devon's involvement enables us to discuss issues which are part of our priority areas such as the environment, financial security, housing, etc.

**8 ACHIEVEMENTS**

8.1 The Forum has enabled the Devon Districts to lobby both Devon County and the Government on various issues. It also enables us to work together collaboratively to our mutual benefit as part of what has become known as Team Devon. There is always an opportunity for each member to talk about the achievements in their areas and discuss topics which are on mutual interest. For example, it has been interesting to learn about what each district is doing to combat climate change.

**9 THE FUTURE**

9.1 This is a useful forum as it enables the Districts to share good practice and look for solutions to problems. It has been particularly useful during the pandemic to share experiences etc.

9.2 It is a very useful forum for us to continue attending particularly as discussions are taking place with the government concerning the possibility of a devolution deal.

**10 OTHER**

10.1 This year was particularly useful as I chaired the meetings during 2021 and North Devon had the responsibility for setting the agendas.

**REPORT TO:** FULL COUNCIL  
**Date:** MARCH 2022  
**OUTSIDE BODY:** DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLY  
**REPORT BY:** Councillor DAVID WORDEN

## 11 ACTIVITY

11.1 The District Council Assembly normally meets in the Spring and Autumn but this has been difficult because of the Covid pandemic. I also attend the monthly District Council Network meetings which I always try to attend.

## 12 PURPOSE

12.1 The District Council Assembly and the District Council Network enables the Leaders and Chief Executive Officers to lobby government ministers and receive information about what the government is planning.

12.2 The District Councils' Network (DCN) represents 183 non-metropolitan district councils in England, representing over 40% of the population and 68% of the land so is a powerful group which discusses all the issues concerning local government.

## 13 ACHIEVEMENTS

13.1 Lobbying has taken place of Government on issues like Local Government finance and expenditure in the pandemic, devolution and its impact on district councils etc.

## 14 THE FUTURE

14.1 It isn't always successful in its campaigns but provides a voice for District Councils and the opportunity to question Government ministers.

14.2 It would not be a good thing to withdraw from this organisation as it provides an opportunity to receive important information and make our views known to Government.

**REPORT TO:** **ANNUAL COUNCIL**  
**Date:** **6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**  
**OUTSIDE BODY:** **EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**REPORT BY:** **Cllr John Patrinos**

## 15 ACTIVITY

15.1 ENPA is one of the UK's 15 national parks, 10 of which are in England.

## 16 PURPOSE

16.1 The authority has two statutory purposes:

1. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park, and
2. To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

16.2 In carrying out these purposes it has a duty to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within its area.

16.3 ENPA is also the planning authority for its area, which covers about one sixth of the area of NDC.

## 17 ACHIEVEMENTS

17.1 Regular report of the authority's achievement against its corporate plan targets are presented to members. These reports are available on the website [exmoor-national-park.gov.uk](http://exmoor-national-park.gov.uk)

## 18 THE FUTURE

18.1 ENPA is very effective in achieving its objectives. However, in common with other public sector bodies, including NDC, it has seen the resources allowed it by government significantly cut which has curtailed its achievements?

## 19 OTHER

19.1 For the last two years I've have been fortunate enough to chair the ENPA Standards Committee.

**REPORT TO:** **ANNUAL COUNCIL**  
**Date:** **6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**  
**OUTSIDE BODY:** **EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**REPORT BY:** **Cllr Eric Ley**

**Activity.**

The National Park meets on the first Tuesday of every month, with my attendance being usually eleven out of every twelve, plus approximately every other month there are virtual meetings on topics where no decisions are required,(for example) Local Plan 5 year review and Defra's imposition of a landscape review.

**Purpose.**

The first purpose of the Park is to Conserve and Enhance its heritage and landscape values, whilst doing so to the satisfaction of Defra and Exmoor residents. In particular for NDC appointee's, representing the interests of residents on the Devon side of the Park boundary,(when required).  
Achievement's.

Running the Authority in a financial responsible manner, whilst meeting the aspiration's of their Corporate Plan. Plus supporting economic opportunities, that arise from small scale development, for example, self build and local needs affordable housing.

**The Future.**

With Government environmental policies strongly backing Protected Landscapes and Nature Recovery, in National Parks and AONBs, ENPA future appears secure in the medium and long term.

Reference to future appointments by NDC. There would appear to be no logical reason to withdraw representation for the above mentioned residents, plus Exmoor as a jewel in the crown for N. Devon, ensuring this is not compromised is as important as conserving and enhancing the AONB coastal strip.

**REPORT TO:** COUNCIL

**Date:** 6 April 2022

**OUTSIDE BODY:** LGA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**REPORT BY:** CLLR CAROLINE LEAVER

1. Activity
  - 1.1 The LGA General Assembly is held every year, and due to covid restrictions was held virtually in July 2021. Sadly, I was not able to attend, though over 150 local councils were represented.
- 2 Purpose
  - 2.1 The LGA is the national membership body for local authorities that works on behalf of member councils to support, promote and improve local government. It is a politically led, cross party organisation that works on behalf of councils to ensure that local government has a strong, credible voice with national government, aiming to set the political agenda on issues that matter to councils so they can deliver local solutions to nation problems. North Devon Council is a member of the LGA and as a district council has the right to appoint one representative and has one vote at the General Assembly.
  - 2.2 The General Assembly is a formal meeting which is part of the LGA's political governance structure. It meets annually and takes place alongside the LGA's Annual Conference. Membership of the General Assembly is restricted to elected members. Individual authorities in LGA membership directly appoint members to the General Assembly.
  - 2.3 The General Assembly runs in tandem with the LGA Conference, which is the biggest event in the local government calendar and one of the most well-attended political conferences of the year. The event is the largest and most important conference for Council Leaders and Chief Executives, senior officers, lead members and policy makers across all services provided by local authorities. It regularly attracts high numbers from partners across the wider public sector, the private and voluntary sectors. NDC does not fund attendance at the conference.
  - 2.4 The General Assembly acts as both the 'parliament of Local Government' and as a formal annual meeting (similar to a council AGM). It considers strategic policy issues of national significance to local government in the England and Wales, as well as formal business such as appointment of Offices Holders of the Association and the annual accounts.

2.5 The General Assembly is the only LGA decision making forum which all authorities in full membership are eligible to attend and to vote. Its responsibilities include:

- Debating motions submitted by local authorities in membership of the Association.
- Determining the terms of reference, delegated powers, size and political composition of the Association's governance structures.
- Electing the President and Office Holders of the Local Government Association.
- Noting Vice-President appointments.
- Receiving the audited accounts of the Association.
- Receiving an Annual Report from the Audit Committee.

### 3 Decisions at 2021 LGA General Assembly

3.1 The LGA General Assembly elected Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson as its new President, Cllr James Jamieson (Central Bedfordshire Council) as Chair of the LGA for the forthcoming year together with four vice chairs – one each from the Liberal Democrat, Labour, conservative and Independent Groups – nine deputy chairs and numerous vice presidents.

3.2 The LGA Financial Statement for the 2020/21 year was received and the 2021 Annual Report of the Audit Committee was noted.

3.3 There was one motion at the General Assembly about local government contributions towards national climate action in the year of COP26, proposed by Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty, Leader of Brighton and Hove City Council.

3.4 The motion noted the contributions made by individual councils, the significance of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) being held in the UK and called upon central government to ensure the adequate representation of local government at COP26 in order to promote the significant contribution, leadership and efforts of local councils in reducing carbon emissions across the country, and to champion the innovative and rapid progress being made at a local level to tackle climate change.

3.5 The motion also encouraged councils to continue their work to address climate change by promoting:

- further signatories to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration – which confirms the commitment of local and regional authorities to develop sustainable food policy and calls on central government to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency at COP26, and;
- greater participation from local councils to the UK100 network for UK locally elected leaders who have pledged to avoid the worst

impacts of climate change and switch to clean energy as soon as possible.

3.6 The motion was carried.

3.7 COP26 included a dedicated day for councils to showcase the work of local councils on climate change, and in preparation the LGA launched a campaign known as 'Pass the Planet' showcasing local government good practice in the lead up to COP26. [www.local.gov.uk/pass-the-planet](http://www.local.gov.uk/pass-the-planet)

4 The Future

4.1 The General Assembly is Member Authorities' opportunity to consider strategic policy of national significance to local government by submitting a Motion for debate by the Assembly. All authorities in membership are invited to submit Motions for consideration before the deadline of 27 April 2022.

4.2 The LGA is the national voice of local government, working with councils to support, promote and improve local government. Membership of the LGA gives NDC access to a wealth of networks, resources and membership of Boards that combine to work for the benefit of local government and communities across the country. Attendance at the General Assembly on its own is quite a light touch engagement by member council of the LGA.

4.3 The LGA is a political organisation because it is the elected representatives from all political parties that direct the organisation through the LGA's Boards and panels. These are:

- Children and young people Board
- City Regions Board
- Community Well Being Board
- Culture, Tourism and Sport Board
- Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board
- Fire Services Management Committee
- Improvement and Innovation Board
- LGA Board
- People and Places Board
- Resources Board
- Safer and Stronger Communities Board
- Executive Advisory Board
- General Assembly
- Councillors' Forum
- Fire Commission

4.4 Significant efforts are made to agree a common cross-party position on issues and to speak with one voice on behalf of local government. The

LGA aims to set the political agenda and speak in the national media on issues that matter to council members. It covers every part of England and Wales and includes county and district councils, metropolitan and unitary councils, London boroughs, Welsh unitary councils, fire, police, national park and passenger transport authorities.

4.5 The governance structure of the LGA is one the key mechanisms through which members of the organisation shape and direct decision making. Priorities for the coming year are:

- Funding for local government
- Adult social care and health
- Children, education and schools
- Housing
- Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution
- Britain's exit from the EU
- Supporting councils

4.6 Membership of the LGA also gives access to a range of practical support on either a free or subsidised basis to enable local authorities to exploit the opportunities that this approach to improvement provides. NDC took advantage of this support early in 2020 through the peer review process. Other improvement support available includes leadership programmes, benchmarking and programmes tailored to specific service areas such as culture, tourism, sport and planning services.

4.7 Local government is working in a highly challenging environment, facing major challenges coming out of the pandemic, the on-going budgetary pressures, and uncertainties coming out of the Levelling Up agenda and changes in local governance arrangements.

4.8 Whilst attendance at the LGA General Assembly does not bring with it immediate and obvious benefits to NDC, the authority's engagement with the LGA it symbolises has potential to be a powerful force for good in the longer term, for the council and the people we serve.

**REPORT TO:** NORTH DEVON COUNCIL  
Date: 18/03/22  
**OUTSIDE BODY:** LGA COASTAL ISSUES GROUP  
**REPORT BY:** Councillor Malcolm Wilkinson

### **ACTIVITY**

The group meets 4 times a year. This year, because of Covid Restrictions, 3 of the meetings have been virtual. It was possible to hold the AGM “face to face” and this coincided with a study visit to Dorset to look at recent coastal protection initiatives. I was able to attend all 4 meetings and 3 sub-committee meetings concerned with Bathing Water Quality.

There are over currently 70 member authorities in the group representing the coastline around England.

### **PURPOSE**

This group’s principal aim is to establish improved governance, management and community wellbeing to ensure that the UK has the best managed coast in Europe, and to identify appropriate and sustainable funding strategies to support this aim. It also works towards achieving the recognition that England’s coast deserves in policy and decision making and promoting the important role of local government. As per Government and North Devon Council priorities there is now a real importance levied on the effects of climate change and the management of our coastline in this changing environment.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Although all meetings have been virtual, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken this year. As previously mentioned, I have been an active part of the Bathing Water Quality sub-group and am delighted with the recent bathing water results for North Devon, in particular the improvements at Combe Martin. I compliment the work of the village Water Action Group and Combe Martin Parish Council.

I continue to represent the authority on The Northern Devon Coastal & Taw/Torridge Estuary Working Group. This is a joint sub committee working with Torridge DC to try and address the very real problem of coastal erosion and it's effect upon our shorelines and estuaries. This links with the conservation work being undertaken at Horsey Island.

I also sit on the North Devon Council/North Devon Homes sub-committee which concentrates on the regeneration/protection of rural coastal communities.

### **THE FUTURE**

There are several initiatives that will I will be working on over the coming year  
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## **WORLD/NATIONAL SURFING RESERVE**

I am a trustee of the application for World Surfing Reserve status for North Devon. I took this item to the December meeting of the Coastal Issues Group and it received unanimous support. The possible benefits to North Devon both environmentally and economically are enormous. This has been recognised by our officers and we have held meetings with both Mark Kentell and Dominie Dunbrook to look at ways forward.

## **SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Our SMP has been lodged and I raised at the revised Local Plan working group that this should be an integral party of any future document.

## **MOTIONS TO COUNCIL**

I have brought forward two motions to North Devon Council this year. The first was to support the inclusion in the recently passed Environment Bill of a ban on the discharge of raw sewage in open water ways by Water Authorities. The other motion was “The Motion for the Ocean” which is, again, an environmental issue aiming to complement the excellent work of the Climate Emergency declaration. It must be recognised that a clean ocean is vital if we are to succeed in rescuing our planet. This is a campaign initiated by the Coastal Issues Group and we are the 5<sup>th</sup> Local Authority to adopt it.

## **OTHERS**

I have found that working with members and officers from other authorities has enabled me to gain a far greater insight into the problems experienced by our coastline and has also enabled me to have a better understanding of how to develop strategies to overcome them.

Several of the other committees that I sit on dovetail together coastal issues: The Woolacombe Tourism Association, The Braunton Marsh Drainage Board, Morteheo & Woolacombe CLT and the Ilfracombe Harbour Board, where we are looking forward to the exciting delivery of the Water Sports Centre.

Our coastline is one of our greatest assets and we must do everything possible to retain and enhance its character as well as put in place effective and positive policies to combat the effects of climate change. I therefore urge continuation of the membership of this outside body

**REPORT TO:** NORTH DEVON COUNCIL  
**Date:** 18/03/22  
**OUTSIDE BODY:** AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
**REPORT BY:** Councillor Malcolm Wilkinson

## **6 ACTIVITY**

This year I have attended all 4 meetings. Many different organisations from Northern Devon are represented on this committee.

## **7 PURPOSE**

The intention of the organisation is to protect and enhance our beautiful area of Northern Devon, paying particular attention to conservation, enhancement and the threat of climate change,

## **8 ACHIEVEMENT**

2022 saw a big increase in opportunist planning applications within the AONB area facilities for a tramper (a multi terrain vehicle giving access for less abled members and Dave Edgcombe and his planning committee have been really busy formulating their responses as a consultee. We, as a Parish, are very keen to provide an affordable housing scheme in Woolacombe. We have secured the necessary land from the National Trust and the AONB are fully supportive of this initiative

Through grants obtained from the AONB, we have been able to provide storage facilities for a tramper (a multi terrain vehicle giving access for less abled members and Dave Edgcombe and his planning committee have been really busy formulating their responses as a consultee. We, as a Parish, are very keen to provide an affordable housing scheme in Woolacombe. We have secured the necessary land from the National Trust and the AONB are fully supportive of this initiative

of the public to view points in the parish), a set of bike racks placed in of the public to view points in the parish), a set of bike racks placed in Woolacombe and a projector for the Village Hall.

## **9 THE FUTURE**

I am still frustrated at the failure to remedy the beach access problem at Rockham Bay. I was delighted that DCC had undertaken a survey of the problem but, at the last AONB meeting, it was pointed out that of the 4 possible solutions, the cheapest option would cost in excess of £500K and that there aren't the finances in place to replace them.

## **10 OTHER**

I am a representative of the District Council on this committee and am delighted with both the continuing membership and financial support.

**REPORT TO: NORTH DEVON COUNCIL**

Date: 18/03/22

**OUTSIDE BODY: NORTH DEVON BIOSPHERE**

**REPORT BY: Councillor Derrick Spear**

We started the year with a large tree planting programme in Combe Martin and in various areas around Barnstaple and Bideford planting over 20000 trees.

- The project in Combe Martin seems to be making a difference already with water quality records much improved.
- Our Woods For water project concluded this year after a 3 year run with WEG funding and delivered benefits across North Devon, North Cornwall and East Devon.
- Thanks to the Nature Improvement Group of the Biosphere Reserve we now have a Nature Recovery Plan and a declaration that has been nationally deemed as a great example. Each sub group of the Nature recovery plan is looking at how it will deliver the ambitious objectives of improving biodiversity in the area.
- Our Pledge For Nature Programme remains hugely successful in winning hearts and minds of people towards biodiversity and is delivering benefits to biodiversity from the campaigns
- We have been involved in some ground-breaking work with developing the SMART Biosphere to deploy sensors that will detect change and predict flooding and pollution events. This is being trialled in the UMBER catchment as a pilot for other areas.
- The Interreg project BCHAT project is coming to a close at the end of March and we are hoping to maintain the momentum of the project into next year; we now have 60 businesses in our Biosphere Business Partners scheme that are largely tourism enterprises, and in the last year of the project we have ensured that this has complemented Torridge's nature tourism project by having joint business engagement events and sharing contacts etc. We have an app ready to launch, (north devon explorer). Our work will underpin whatever DMO structure is set up for the area and ensure that the natural environment is maintained as the main tourism asset but is also cared for by the industry. We seek to enlarge and continue the work via a shared prosperity fund application as and when the fund is operative.
- The Taw Valley facilitation group has managed to keep the farmers involved and engaged over the pandemic period and deliver training events in the field and online and will be one of the focusses of our next stage of the Defra ELMS test and trials.
- We have delivered successful Natural Flood Management Projects and designs in both the coastal areas for dune management at Instow and saltmarshes at Braunton Marsh to give more resilience to the Great Bank but also on small inland streams in catchments over North Devon and Torridge.

- Internationally, our efforts have continued to support the Blue Communities Marine research and management programme in 4 countries in SE Asia and despite covid and typhoons, our partners in Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia have delivered excellent research and supported young researchers deliver meaningful work that links healthy seas to healthy communities.
- We have also been convening the European group of biosphere reserves from Finland to Italy on looking at forestry and climate change. It has been quiet with Malindi Watamu and the Arabuko Sokoke forest this year but we are going to be sharing some carbon sequestration projects with them this coming year.
- December also saw the early start of 2 major projects to restore ecosystems and improve well being; Devon woods replaces our Woods For Water programme with targeted planting in the phosphate failing catchments across the area. It is a £5M intended project. CRITTER (combined restoration of intertidal and estuarine) will be helping the estuary adapt to sea level rise for the next 80 years by creating new intertidal and new freshwater grazing marsh. This project is in the order of £6M.
- With support from NDC and TDC we have successfully pulled together a Community renewal fund project to accelerate Blue and Green natural capital projects. The work will pave a route to green investment in the area. The £1.3M fund will make investment cases based on real evidence and intelligence for Woodland Enterprise Zone, carbon smart farming, Green prescribing service with the NHS and wellbeing at work, feasibility for aquaculture and fisheries improvement around the Marine Conservation Zones. There is also a bespoke piece of work for TDC on the use of the Middle Dock in Appledore. The programme is being delivered on a very tight schedule for completion in June. The programme will be a precursor to the types of project that we wish to run with the shared prosperity fund.
- Finally, as set out in our meeting with the SMT, we look forward to more integrated working with the Council to support its role not only as an authority but as a delivery partner in the projects.

**REPORT TO: NORTH DEVON COUNCIL**

Date: 18/03/22

**OUTSIDE BODY: NORTH DEVON HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC  
ORDERS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT BY: Councillor Derrick Spear**

There have been two meetings of HATOC as opposed to the usual three. The issues have been dominated by ongoing traffic issues in and around Barnstaple. In particular, the implementation of the Bus Gate in Old Torrington Road.

**REPORT TO:** FULL COUNCIL  
**Date:** MARCH 2022  
**OUTSIDE BODY:** NORTH DEVON +  
**REPORT BY:** Councillor DAVID WORDEN

## 20 ACTIVITY

20.1 North Devon + has met every couple of months throughout the year and I have attended most meetings.

## 21 PURPOSE

The company objective is:

‘To be the enabler of economic growth for people, businesses and communities in Northern Devon to help them flourish and prosper.’

As the economic delivery agency for the area, North Devon + works closely with Torridge District Council, North Devon Council, Devon County Council and the private sector to deliver projects and initiatives that encourage and support business growth, improve quality of life and address social and economic inequalities. They support business growth opportunities across all sectors and undertake a wide range of projects to increase opportunity and prosperity within the area.

3. North Devon + delivers a credible and competent set of economic development services. They have a good track record of delivery and have built solid relationships with a range of stakeholders, including collaborators and client groups. It has helped with the distribution of government grants during the pandemic.

A lot of work has been done this year into looking into whether or not we need a DMO to assist our tourist industry

## 4 THE FUTURE

This is an important agency which helps the economic development of Northern Devon and we need to continue to support its work.

**REPORT TO:**

Date: 23 MARCH 2022

**OUTSIDE BODY: NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP****REPORT BY: Councillor LEAVER****5 ACTIVITY**

5.1 The North Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is made up of statutory partners including North Devon Council, Devon & Cornwall Police, The NHS, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. There are also non-statutory members such as North Devon Against Domestic Abuse and North Devon Voluntary Services.

The Partnership meets on a quarterly basis.

**6 PURPOSE**

6.1 The purpose of The Partnership is to bring local key agencies together to deliver multi-agency solutions by pooling resources, expertise and experience

6.2 Involvement in the Community Safety Partnership helps in North Devon Council's priority of "Becoming Focused on Delivering The Best For Our Citizens".

**7 ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Trauma Informed training – The CSP initiated training for all local agencies in Trauma informed practice. This has allowed local agencies to improve practice with the aim of both improving outcomes for vulnerable clients and reducing demand for services.
- Street Marshals – in partnership with our local nightclub, the CSP funds and oversees a scheme which provides for additional public safety following the closure of the premise. The scheme helps to reduce public disorder and allows the safe dispersal away from Barnstaple Town Centre. Funds from HM Government has allowed us to use this model by using SIA accredited staff to patrol both Barnstaple and Ilfracombe to address daytime anti-social behaviour – see below
- Anti-Social Behaviour work in Barnstaple – following concerns about a post-lockdown rise in anti-social behaviour in Barnstaple ,the CSP have played a part in addressing this issue through close working and coordination with Town Centre Management, Town Council and Police. This work includes visits to business owners and daily patrols undertaken by both Council employees and SIA accredited contractors.
- Devon meetings – The CSP meets with colleagues and counterparts from all Devon local authorities to help co-ordinate and address a

number of challenges that exist in our county such as Modern Slavery and Youth Violence.

## 8 THE FUTURE

8.1 By working together, The CSP allows for a coordinated response to local crime and disorder issues. North Devon remains one of the safest places to live in England and joint working helps to maintain this. A new Serious Violence Duty will be introduced in 2022/23 and this will play a major part in our work going forward.

8.2 The Council has a Statutory Duty to work together with partners to reduce crime, or the fear of crime in our local area.

**REPORT TO: FULL COUNCIL**  
**Date: MARCH 2022**  
**OUTSIDE BODY: NORTH DEVON VOLUNTARY SERVICES**  
**REPORT BY: Councillor JULIE HUNT**

NDVS mission is “to strengthen and champion the work of local organisations by representing, developing and supporting voluntary and community action. Ultimately, we help those who do good, do better!”

Between July -October the NDVS gave out 2021 Volunteer Awards to groups and individuals to celebrate volunteering amongst the different sectors and held 6 local events across North Devon, in addition 2 further smaller events at Barnstaple Food Bank and Ilfracombe Junior School where held in November. Awards were presented to the following groups:-

Covid-19 Vaccination Centre

Fremington Covid Response Volunteers – 41 people attended including the Parish Chair

Lynton Covid Response Volunteers

Exmoor National Park’s non-native invasion species volunteers

Barnstaple Foodbank Volunteers

Ilfracombe Junior School

Barnstaple Volunteers in the community – 49 people attended including the Deputy Mayor

Braunton volunteers in the community – 38 people attended including the Parish Chair

South Molton volunteers in the community – 27 people attended including the Mayor

There are many more unsung hero’s who’s names we could mention, so I would personally like to say a very heartfelt thank you to all those that work and continue tirelessly to volunteer with no reward before and since this pandemic. Thank you.

Cllr Julie Hunt

Chair NDC

**REPORT TO:** North Devon Council  
**Date:** 18/03/22  
**Outside Body:** Woolacombe & Morteohoe Tourism Association  
**Report By:** Councillor Malcolm Wilkinson

### **11 Activity**

This group meets approximately 5 times a year. I attended 4 meetings in 2021/2022

### **12 Purpose**

The intention of the organisation is to promote Tourism in Morteohoe, Woolacombe & Croyde. This falls in line with N.Devon Council and North Devon + priorities for tourism.

### **13 Achievement**

This TIC, unlike many others in North Devon, is flourishing with a strong membership and the production of an excellent website. Recognition has been made of the changing face of advertising and the rapidly increasing use of the website compared to the guide. The website is regularly updated and has links to many local organisations and businesses. The TIC manager also produces an online, monthly guide to activities in and around North Devon. The management committee held two very successful Farmers Markets during 2021 highlighting the produce of local farmers.

Sponsorship was obtained from the AONB to provide a wooden storage shed for the very popular multi terrain tramper. This allows access to many of the superb vistas in the area to less able members of the public. The National Trust has also widened several other paths to open up other routes in the Parish.

### **14 The future**

In line with sustainability, personal fitness and well being, we have provided a set of bike racks this winter. These are proving very popular. I am keen to see the facility extended to allow a recharging unit for electric bikes.

I am encouraged by the work being undertaken by the Woolacombe Plastics Free and the N.Devon Plastics Free organisations and am very keen to see their mantra carried out regarding the sales of cheap plastic surfboards and the use of non bio-degradable equipment in the local hostellers and accommodation providers.

It is essential that a further appointment is made in order to continue the working partnership between the council and TIC's.

### **15 Other**

I am a representative of the District Council on this committee and although I take

**REPORT TO: ANNUAL COUNCIL**  
**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022**  
**OUTSIDE BODY: ONE BARNSTAPLE**  
**REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR LOUISA YORK**

## 1 ACTIVITY

1.1 One Barnstaple meetings are held monthly, and I have been attending since its inception, firstly as a Barnstaple Town Councillor and now for NDC. I have been able to attend most meetings which have taken place virtually. Dr Simon Jones has stepped down as Chair. The Interim Chair is Louise Flagg. The work is co-ordinated by Community Developer Ella McCann. The group also benefits from having secretarial support.

## 2 PURPOSE

2.1 One Barnstaple is a partnership of voluntary, community and public service organisations. The forum allows stakeholders to have a say in the future development of their local community.

The mission is to help understand the specific needs of the Barnstaple community from all perspectives, to jointly make best use of resources from all partner organisations, to tackle issues most important to Barnstaple residents, to raise awareness of services that are currently offered within the community, to identify gaps in services, and to find creative ways to fill them.

**2.2 Priority Area: Corporate Plan: We plan for North Devon's future – Community cohesion.**

## 3 ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 Please see report below.

## 4 THE FUTURE

4.1 Please see report below.

4.2 I believe ALL Barnstaple-based Councillors should be actively involving themselves in the activities and initiatives of One Barnstaple.

**REPORT TO:** ANNUAL COUNCIL  
**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022  
**OUTSIDE BODY:** GO NORTH DEVON  
**REPORT BY:** COUNCILLOR LOUISA YORK

## 1 ACTIVITY

1.1 Go North Devon (GND) meets on a bi-monthly basis. I have been unable to attend all the meetings due to a couple of clashes with NDC Committee Meetings.

## 2 PURPOSE

2.1 GND is a community transport group which was established nearly 30 years ago. It has been a lifeline to many people around North Devon who are unable to get around using public transport and who may not benefit from the regular support of family and friends to transport them.

GND offers three distinct services:

- **Ring & Ride** – A door-to-door, wheelchair accessible minibus service which enables clients who are frail, have a mobility problem or a disability (physical or sensory) with an opportunity to go shopping at a supermarket or in Barnstaple town centre.
- **Shopmobility** – Provides the hire of mobility scooters, manual and powered wheelchairs for use in Barnstaple town centre.
- **Cancer Care Car** – Transportation to hospital appointments across Devon for cancer patients who would be unable to attend due to lack of public or private transport.

They also provide some school bus services and the Shopmobility office at Barnstaple Bus Station also has a small charity shop.

2.2 **Priority Area: Corporate Plan:** We plan for North Devon's future – Community cohesion. North Devon Council provides an annual strategic grant as part of a service level agreement for the Shopmobility service.

### 3 ACHIEVEMENTS

#### 3.1 GND's Annual Report is attached at the end of this report.

This year I have had the opportunity to attend most of the Trustee meetings virtually via Zoom. The first in-person meeting since lockdown took place last month at The Voice Media Centre. I have been made to feel very welcome. I have been able to suggest possible opportunities to raise funds and ways to further promote their activities on social media.

Sharon Lynch, who manages GND, is incredibly dedicated and knowledgeable. She is supported by a great team of staff and Trustees. The passion to keep GND as a going concern is evident in everything they do.

"2021 was another challenging year but I'm pleased to report our commitment to providing services that support local people and visitors to remain active, independent, and mobile has remained as strong as ever. Each journey to the supermarket or trip out on a scooter makes a positive change – an opportunity to see friends or family, feel part of the community, to access services, retain a sense of freedom or to just get out of the house. This is all made possible by our committed team of volunteers and staff who work so very hard. Thank you all very much!

Go North Devon like many other organisations has continued to be impacted upon by Covid-19. Understandably, uptake of our services is still lower than in pre-Covid years and this has impacted on our ability to earn income through fares, fees, traditional fundraising activities and donations and whilst our overheads have remained the same. We have continued to fundraise behind the scenes as it has been our aim to maintain our capacity in order to be available for those who will need a little extra help in 2022 to remain active, independent and mobile - once normality resumes!

To help alleviate some of the anxiety still being felt in our communities due to Covid-19 we have reviewed and enhanced how we promote our Ring & Ride service to help rebuild community confidence. When time permits, we visit supported living complexes so residents can meet our driver and see first-hand how comfortable and easy the minibus is to use and especially for those who struggle to use steps or need to use a tail-lift. This approach has resulted in new people using the service. Not everyone uses social media.

Whilst there have been encouraging signs of increased uptake of our Ring & Ride and Cancer Care Car services compared to the previous year the management board agreed in October to truncate the Shopmobility Centre opening hours (Monday to Friday 09.00 to 14.30 and to temporarily reduce staffing hours in line with the current demand for services. Fortunately, the new opening hours have not unduly impacted on our services or the communities we serve."

**Sharon Lynch**

### 4 THE FUTURE

#### 4.1 The services offer a lifeline to their users. Although the pandemic has undoubtedly affected the demand, the services are there to help those who need it.

This next year will be an opportunity to bring existing and new users back to full confidence in getting out and about to help bring capacity up to pre-Covid levels.

I would say "yes". It would always be useful to have more ideas to help Go North Devon be able to achieve more.