



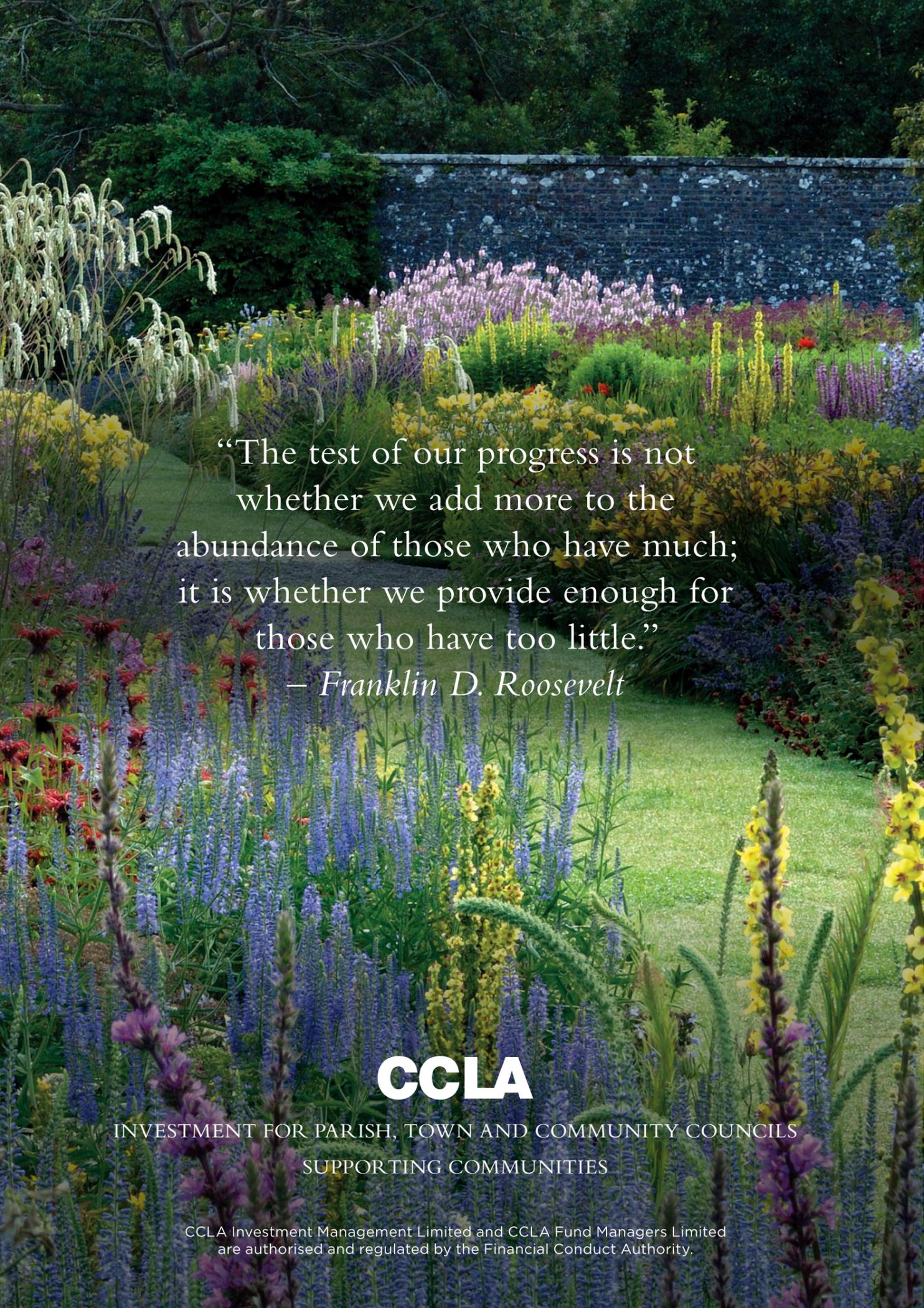
DALC

**Devon Association
of Local Councils**

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

Representing and
supporting parish and
town councils in Devon



“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”
 — *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks go to all who have helped the Association during the year, particularly:

- the National Association of Local Councils,
- Devon County Council,
- the District and Borough Councils in Devon,
- councillors and clerks of member councils,
- those MPs and MEPs who have assisted the cause of parish and town councils,
- the officers of the association, the County Committee and Shadow Board.

We also acknowledge the valuable part played by television, radio and the press in communications with parish and town councils.

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GO GREEN FOR CHRISTMAS 100% Recyclable



The first **RECYCLABLE & BIODEGRADABLE** motifs made from **SUGAR CANE**

Blachere's eco-friendly approach has resulted in the continued development of recyclable and biodegradable Christmas decorations made from Bioprint material organically sourced, certified as GMO free and made from sugar cane. For towns and cities who want to have a fantastic display to generate increased footfall and get a return on investment whilst helping to reduce their carbon footprint at the same time, Blachere are the only manufacturer who can tick all these boxes.



BIOPRINT granule decomposition stages.

BIODEGRADABILITY

Show your eco-friendly green credentials and help our planet. Biodegradation is the breakdown of organic matter by microorganisms. Substances are said to be biodegradable if external living organisms can cause them to decompose into separate elements without harming the natural environment.



BIOPRINT DECORATIONS

Our decorations biodegrade slowly, meaning they can be installed outdoors for long periods without this causing aesthetic or mechanical damage.

One advantage of this slowness is that it minimises the greenhouse gases generated when the complex molecules that make up our revolutionary material biodegrade.

While industrial composting is one way to sensibly manage this biomass the eco-friendliest approach is to recycle the material. By doing this, daily waste production can be minimised.

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I wish to thank all parish and town councils for rising to the challenges of this year, and for their continued dedication to serve our communities. As your County Association we will continue to adapt and grow our services to support you.



This year has seen a historic turning point as DALC, the umbrella organisation for town and parish councils in Devon, has become independent and now employs its own staff. On 1 May 2019 Cara Stobart and Rebecca Walker moved into an office at the Devon Young Farmers' Club Rural Hub in Cheriton Bishop, Mid Devon.

I would like to thank our staff for rising to the challenges of the year, including the sudden upheaval caused by the COVID-19 lockdown in March.

Staff and trainers have provided an extensive programme for town and parish councillors and clerks during 2019/2020. It was good to be able to report a slight surplus on budget over previous years, with additional hours worked to deliver training.

Our annual AGM and conference were held Exeter Racecourse in October 2019, where it was good to meet new and existing members from all over Devon. This was our last AGM under the old constitution. We are in the process of creating a shadow board of directors to see us through until the AGM.

We will be holding our virtual AGM on Zoom on Wednesday 7 October 2020, when we will be electing our Board of Directors. Sadly we have taken the decision not to hold our conference this year due to the ongoing risks of COVID-19.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Lesley Smith MBE in January. Many parish councillors and clerks were present at her funeral in Crediton and we will be forever indebted to her for the excellent work she did during her years as County Officer. She was held in great respect and contributed much to the life of our communities in Devon.

In conclusion I would like to thank all town and parish councillors for their dedicated service to our communities. Special thanks are due to the County Committee for all of their hard work throughout the past year.

Ken D Browze

Cllr Ken Browze, Chairman

OFFICER'S SUMMARY

As we look back at 2019/2020 it is hard to believe how much could be crammed into one year. Parish and Town Councils have shown yet again their commitment to their communities, and their ability to be responsive to ever changing policies and scenarios.



From local elections to general elections and Brexit, from the climate emergency to a global health pandemic; parish and town councils have been at the forefront of their communities throughout all these events and I couldn't be prouder of how our membership has stepped up and managed to get through such an unprecedented year.

DALC itself has undergone a significant transformation too. At the start of this year, our last steps towards independence materialised as we moved into our new offices and employed our own staff for the first time in our long history. This evolutionary journey continued throughout the year as we made the final arrangements to register as a new company, which we expect to complete in 2020.

NEW STAFF

This year we welcomed Rebecca Walker to the team as the new Assistant to the County Officer. In the new year we hope to increase our staff team enabling us to expand our services to you. This is one of the many advantages we have been able to bring about in part due to our new independent status.

ELECTIONS

This year included the elections, which can be an unsettling time as we say goodbye to some of our experienced members and welcome new faces. It was lovely to hear about Belstone's first election in 30 years, and Great Torrington appointing their youngest mayor at the age of 22! I was also particularly delighted to see so many new councillors take up our training, and a significant increase in our in-house courses being delivered. To me this demonstrates great teamworking where members can work and learn together.

A NEW COUNTY COMMITTEE

After each ordinary election we elect a new County Committee to represent our membership. Each district area appoints 1 rep for every 10 councils, creating a body of up to 37 representatives covering the whole of Devon. The County Committee considers policy matters affecting town and parish councils and the sector generally; it responds to consultations and provides representatives for our strategic work.

This year we had an uncontested election and still have a few vacancies which we are able to fill by co-option. If you are a councillor and interested in standing for the committee, please get in touch for details. Details of your current representatives can be found on page 22.

I would like to extend my thanks to the County Committee for their work in getting the Association ready to register as a company, including the several versions of our articles they had to read.

AGM AND CONFERENCE

October saw our annual conference and AGM take place which welcomed member councils from across the County. It was our largest gathering to date providing a valuable opportunity for members and officers to network, as well as hear speakers and attend workshops.

It was a jam packed day covering a range of topics including: the economy, good governance, digital engagement, climate emergency, employment, Operation London Bridge, and parish mapping.

REPRESENTING OUR MEMBERS

The Association represents its membership at a variety of strategic meetings and events, working with partners and stakeholders to ensure the voice of parishes is heard by key decision makers. Here are some examples from 2019/2020:

Devon Local Government Steering Group

Devon Solicitors Group

Devon Community Resilience Forum

Heart of the South West Joint Committee

East Devon AONB

Travel Watch South West

Cornwall and West Devon Mining Heritage Partnership

NALC National Assembly

South West Conference of Local Council Associations

Devon County Council Locality Meetings

Devon Climate Emergency Response Group

Clean Devon Partnership

Area Committee Meetings

Representations to MPs

You can read the reports from some of our representatives on page 20.

We have received some wonderful feedback and we look forward to seeing you all again at our next event.

It is with sadness that we must cancel our conference for 2020 due to the ongoing risks associated with COVID-19, but our AGM will take place remotely on 7 October 2020.

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

This year we have started capturing data on our advice service for the first time. It has been interesting to see how many councils use this service and for what topics.

This year we have handled in excess of 1100 enquiries from 232 councils. This represents 66% of our membership. I hope the other 34% know we are here when they need advice and support.

Our most popular topics are: meetings and procedures, finance and employment - though that wasn't so much of a surprise!

YOUR STORIES AND PROJECTS

Within this report we have shared a

number of our members' projects and activities undertaken in 2019/20. These have included activities such as the climate emergency, tree planting and play areas. Read more from page 10.

LOOKING FORWARD

As we head into the new financial year with the pandemic very much at the forefront of our minds for the foreseeable future, our priorities are to support parish and town councils in every way possible.

This includes, but is not limited to: lobbying for financial support for the sector, providing up-to-date guidance and information to support your work, ensuring your views are heard by key decision makers including principle authorities and local MPs, and ensuring key messages are communicated to you in a timely way.

THANK YOU

As I complete my first year as your County Officer, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all our members for all your wonderful support for the association, and to me personally.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

OUR MEMBERSHIP

352

92% of town and parish councils, and 18% of parish meetings were in membership during 2019/2020.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

156

The total number of participants at our AGM, Conference and Exhibition in October 2019.

COUNTY COMMITTEE

26

26 out of 37 seats are currently filled. There are vacancies in all Districts except Mid Devon.

ADVISORY SERVICE

1116

The total number of enquiries. 66% of members accessed our advisory services during 2019/2020.

Cara Stobart, County Officer

IN COMMITTEE



Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking, Chair of the Larger Councils Committee shares the key topics discussed by the group in 2019/20.

The climate emergency was the most prominent topic of our first meeting of the year in June 2019. The county council had declared an emergency and towns and parishes were either considering doing the same or had already done so. Member councils reported strong community support for action on climate change and highlighted the importance of working with existing groups with similar goals to achieve results. The meeting suggested asking the County Committee to agree to DALC becoming a signatory to the County Council's declaration and to create a task and finish group to give advice/guidance to all Devon councils to avoid a succession of wheel reinventions.

This first meeting followed on from the May elections and some councils had seen noticeable changes in their composition. Several, used to strong representation by independents, now found that an increase of councillors with political affiliations was affecting the balance and expressed concern about the disadvantages this can have at the town and parish level. Experiences varied between councils

but there was strong agreement between all on the need to promote diversity in local council representation.

Our November meeting, which now seems a very long time ago indeed, had some interesting but unforeseen links to the present. Dave Slocombe, Policy Officer at Devon County Council talked to members about the impact Brexit may have on our communities. He emphasised the need for all tiers of government to be working together to provide leadership for our communities during this unsettling time, deal or no deal.

He identified challenges for the county: provision of social care, including the recruitment of workers, and issues for home carers such as fuel shortages and inflationary pressures on food; social risks included an increase in hate crime and aggressive protesting. The opportunities for the county were the Shared Prosperity Fund and the chance to shape revised agricultural policies.

In the discussion that followed, member councils mentioned the need to identify locally those who might be

in need of support, and the necessity of councils knowing their voluntary sector groups and being able to work together in order to alleviate the increased poverty that the County Council anticipated due to the expected technical recession, changes to work patterns and effects on large employers and businesses in the area. Little did we know that this combined effort approach would be needed to address similar problems much sooner but for an entirely different reason.

In February, the meeting was to have discussed progress on climate change; DALC's first representation at the Heart Of The South West Joint Committee; improvement and development of larger councils; budget and precept setting. We were raring to go again. Unfortunately, approaching Storm Dennis forced cancellation of discussion on climate change and everything else. Then lockdown suddenly demanded a change of focus for councils of all sizes in the DALC membership.

**Cllr Liz-Brookes-Hocking
Chairman of the Larger Councils
Committee**



SOLICITORS

Wellers Hedleys is proud to support members of the Devon Association of Local Councils. We have been serving Town, Parish and Community Councils with expert legal advice for over 40 years.

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- Acquisition, Disposal, Leases and Transfer of Community Assets
- Contracts of Employment and Employment Matters
- Contracts and Procurement
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IMPROVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Award Scheme celebrates the successes of our town and parish councils. It provides a framework to support local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme has been designed to provide tools and encouragement to those councils beginning their improvement journey, as well as recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector.

The **Foundation Award** is for councils who want to show they meet a set of minimum standards to deliver effectively for their communities. These councils have the required documentation and information in place, and training policies for councillors and officers.

The **Quality Award** demonstrates that a council achieved good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Quality councils go beyond their legal obligations leading their communities and seek opportunities to improve and develop even further.

The **Quality Gold Award** demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development. They highlight the very best we, as a sector, can achieve for our communities.

It's great to see so many councils, councillors and clerks accessing our **training**. We continuously review our courses to ensure they are meeting your needs and expectations. This year we delivered:

- Being a Good Councillor
- Charing Local Council Meetings
- Contracts and Procurement - **NEW**
- Finance for Councillors - **NEW**
- An Introduction to Planning
- Clerks' Essentials
- Budgets and Precepts
- Introduction to VAT
- CiLCA Programme - **NEW**
- Being a Good Employer - **NEW**

Full details of all our courses can be found on our website www.devonalc.org.uk.

DID YOU KNOW ...

We can deliver in-house training directly for your council. A great opportunity to provide learning, tailored to your council's needs. We can deliver all our core courses or design something bespoke. You can even invite neighbouring councils and share the cost!

Contact us at enquiries@devonalc.org.uk to make your booking for 2020/21.

COUNCILS TRAINED

215

61% of member councils attended a training course delivered by DALC during 2019/2020.

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED

589

Over 30% of individuals attended more than one event. We received 858 bookings in total during the year.

EVENTS HOSTED

65

Including 38 training events, 23 bespoke in house courses, 3 summer socials and our annual conference

IN HOUSE COURSES

23

We delivered training to a further 200 councillors by delivering bespoke courses in house for 18 councils.

SATISFACTION RATING

95%

The number of responses rating our courses as 'Good' or higher. Our in-house courses received 100%!

CILCA PASSES

5

5 officers completed their Certificate in Local Council Administration during 2019/2020.

HOW TO GET STARTED

For more information about the Award Scheme, take a look at our website and download the guide. We believe every council can achieve the Foundation Award - why not make that your goal for the coming year.



CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

The Certificate in Local Council Administration, more commonly known as CiLCA, is the foundation qualification for local council officers. The nationally recognised Level 3 qualification (equivalent to an A-Level) is administered through the Society of Local Council Clerks.

DALC is passionate about providing the highest quality training for local students. This year our staff undertook the CiLCA Train the Trainer course, and redesigned our training into a new CiLCA Support Programme.

Our programme offers face-to-face training in small study groups, as well as ongoing mentor support. We also encourage students to form a support group on social media so they can stay in touch between sessions.

If you are thinking about undertaking CiLCA we recommend attending our introductory module. This will assist you in determining whether you are ready to undertake the qualification

and provide useful guidance to understanding how CiLCA works and building portfolios.

The full programme is essential for any council officer looking to gain their CiLCA.

In 2019/2020, 9 individuals began their CiLCA journey by registering; and during the year 5 individuals passed.

Congratulations to this year's students:

- Catherine Freston
- Kate Wilson
- Rebecca Walker
- Robert Ward
- Tracey Simmons

If you are interested in starting your CiLCA journey, please contact enquiries@devonalc.org.uk.



We asked Rob Ward, Clerk to Barnstaple Town Council to share his views on undertaking CiLCA:

"Undertaking the CiLCA was a contractual requirement from when I was appointed as Town Clerk to Barnstaple Town Council.

The concept of getting it done filled me with terror but I knew it was something that I had to do.

Having completed it in 17 months I can really see the value of the qualification and most of all the benefit of working through the 30 learning outcomes and how they have helped me to better understand my role and review the Town Council.

There's never an easy time to get started, choose a moment and make a start, it is worth it."

OUR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION



The National Association of Local Councils represents the interests of parish and town councils across England. Dr Jonathan Owen, NALC's Chief Executive, shares their highlights and key events from 2019/2020.

It would have been a challenging enough year with Brexit, a change of prime minister and an early general election. Then came the terrible pandemic which has caused such distress across the country.

Without doubt the highlight of the NALC year was the Princess Royal visiting our annual conference in October to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the setting up of local (parish and town) councils. She praised councils, councillors and clerks celebrating "your level of commitment which is incredible" noting that councils are the closest port of call for residents on hand to solve local issues, empower young people, help people to connect and access public information and support networks.

This commitment, local responsiveness and ability to support communities was perfectly illustrated as our local councils were at the forefront of the response to the coronavirus pandemic stepping up to support the community in many urban as well as rural areas and playing a vital role in the national effort.

Coordinating emergency plans and volunteers to collect and deliver medicines and shopping. Acting

as information hubs to provide guidance, advice and support from the government and other agencies. Helping local businesses including publicising their online services. Establishing emergency grant funds including support for food banks. And continuing to maintain our never more important green spaces, and also cemeteries.

NALC has reprioritised its work to

support County associations and Councils through this period with its dedicated coronavirus webpage receiving around 130,000 hits and updated regularly with the latest guidance and advice; be that on remote/hybrid meetings or opening play areas. I would like to record my thanks to county officers who have done so well in these extremely difficult times and whom we meet weekly via zoom.



Our NALC representatives, David Chalmers and Lisette Granados, meeting Princess Anne at the NALC Conference

NALC has also focused on lobbying government, parliamentarians and other national organisations about the potential of the sector and to ensure legislation helps make your work easier. Our Chairman Sue Baxter wrote an open letter to all the major political parties in the run-up to the December election stressing our important role in bringing the country together.

With a new government with a large majority and many new MPs it is vital we engage nationally and locally with MPs to ensure the sectors' views are heard. Our 5th lobby day was held in March, just before lockdown and we met around 100 MPs to discuss such issues as the toilet tax, web accessibility and fair funding. Our rejuvenated All Party Parliamentary Group is working well, securing support from the Sun to support our toilet tax campaign. It was pleasing to see former NALC cover star Rishi Sunak become Chancellor of the Exchequer in the reshuffle and I was particularly pleased to be invited to meet senior civil servants early in January to influence their thinking around the forthcoming white paper on devolution, delayed now because of the pandemic, but likely to be published in the autumn. We will be pressing for the non-extension of referendum principles, making it easier to set up local councils and ensuring that our sector can access funding streams and grants that are available to the rest of local government.

We have secured good recognition of the sector with the government thanking everyone for their work during the pandemic; a House of Lords report outlining the role councils can play in supporting the rural economy; and the implementation of legislation to exempt public conveniences from business rates which will save the sector many millions of pounds a year.

NALC has also continued to improve the services we provide to county associations and councils. As well as our work providing advice and guidance around the pandemic we have produced a guide to tackling loneliness which received positive

national attention and sets out the role councils can play in helping address this problem which costs the economy around £39bn per year.

Many councils have declared a climate emergency and following our annual conference we set up a task and finish group to produce material to help Councils and County associations with this important initiative.

We have a comprehensive set of resources pertaining to our key theme this year, health and wellbeing, available on our website.

Local councils have shown over the last 125 years that they are of the community and for the community. They have demonstrated they absolutely have a key role to play in the 2020s. Now, more so than ever before, their time has come.

Dr Jonathan Owen, NALC Chief Executive

We have entered into a new partnership with HR Services Partnership to provide HR support to County associations and councils and produce a suite of HR policies and how to guides including template employment policies that could be tailored to councils' needs.

Encouraging and sharing good practice is an important part of our work which we achieve through our quarterly house magazine LCR, our events programme (now remote) and Points of Light publication. And as ever huge congratulations to this year's star councils finalists including council of the year, Woughton Community Council in Milton Keynes.

Thanks to Cllr Ken Browse, elected back to our management board this year and Cara Stobart and her team who I know have had a particularly challenging year. And thank you all for the great work you do to support your communities.

Local councils have shown over the last 125 years that they are of the community and for the community. They have demonstrated they absolutely have a key role to play in the 2020s. Now, more so than ever before, their time has come.

Have a great remote AGM!

Dr Jonathan Owen
NALC Chief Executive

SIGN UP FOR LCR MAGAZINE



nalc
National Association
of Local Councils

YOUR STORIES

Celebrating the incredible work of our parish and town councils

BELSTONE'S FIRST ELECTION IN NEARLY 30 YEARS!

Belstone is a small village up on the high moor on the northern tip of the Dartmoor National Park; Okehampton is the nearest town. The cattle, sheep and ponies from the surrounding commons wander freely around the village in amongst the many walkers and other visitors who come to admire the scenery and enjoy the local tearoom and the pub.

It has an electorate of 213 and it has peacefully allowed those willing to volunteer to become parish councillors to do so unhindered for the best part of 30 years. Indeed it has often been necessary to co-opt willing residents to make up the numbers – a situation familiar to many parish councils up and down the country. But this year, as the

four year term of office of the existing council came to an end, things were stirring in Belstone.

A planning application for the construction of a new house in the village, potentially the first for two decades, divided opinion amongst the residents. The parish council recommended refusal and the planning authority agreed, but it marked a change in the village. When the time came for nominations for the new parish council, instead of struggling to fill the places, 13 candidates stood for the seven available places. The parish clerk ran out of nomination forms and had to seek more, much to the surprise of the election staff at West Devon Borough Council.

On the day of the election, 2nd May, an astonishing 74.65% of the electorate turned out to vote – even better than 72% of the national electorate who voted in the European Referendum. The normal figure for parish council elections varies between 30-40%. And there were no spoilt ballot papers!

When the result was announced, six of the seven existing parish councillors had retained their seats, with just one new member. However, all of them now have a mandate for the next four years as they seek to do their best for the local community.

Kate Little
Clerk to Belstone Parish Council

ONE OF THE YOUNGEST MAYOR'S IS APPOINTED IN GREAT TORRINGTON

On 29th May 2019 Great Torrington celebrated the introduction of the new Mayor for the forthcoming year, Councillor Miss Keeley Allin.

At the age of 22, Cllr Allin joins the handful of “youngest Mayors” across the country. However, despite her age she certainly does not lack experience as Keeley has been involved with the Town Council from a very young age. At the age of 12 Keeley acted as the Mayor's consort for her mum and has since had a serious interest in Town Council activity. Whilst at Great Torrington School Keeley sat on the School Council and was a senior leader in year 11. In 2015 Keeley joined the Town Council as a Councillor and since then has worked hard for Great Torrington, with the people the Council represents being Keeley's main priority.

Her proudest achievements are setting up the 'Town Tidy' Initiative, which sees everyone come together to tidy the town up before big events such as

Mayfair and being part of a group who have worked hard to get a youth club back into the town.

Keeley said “as Mayor of Great Torrington I am very much looking forward to a busy year ahead, with my diary already filling up! I have set up a Facebook page (Great Torrington Mayor's Blog) where I will keep everyone updated and will continue to contribute to The Crier with the monthly 'Mayors News' article.

“I feel very proud to hold the office of Mayor of Great Torrington this year and I'm really looking forward to supporting our town and various projects. I also hope that the lovely people of Great Torrington will feel free to contact me if they would like me to attend any events over this forthcoming year.”

Keeley has nominated 1st Torrington Scouts and Torrington Police Amateur Boxing Club as her chosen charities for the forthcoming year.



Karen Chapman, Clerk to Great Torrington Parish Council

SANDFORD OPENS ITS REFURBISHED PLAY AREA



Before the start of the September parish meeting Chairman Jim Stephens declared open the newly refurbished Sandford play area.

A toast was proposed in local cider provided by Sandford Orchards, and local milk supplied by the Sandford Gate Milk Co.

The Council had held a public event to establish what kind of new play area equipment was needed, and have also been holding meetings with parents and grandparents. This has

all been masterminded by former Parish Councillor Pat Yeo who was warmly thanked by Jim Stephens and presented with a book token. She in turned thanked Malcolm Vallance Parish Clerk for all the time taken to sort out the finance for the project.

Funding enabled the Parish Council to purchase two new pieces of equipment a cone swing and a see saw, and also a new bench. At the same time the other play equipment has been repainted and refurbished thanks to Andy White of Ministry of Play, who has family living

in the Parish, who worked carefully with the Parish Council to ensure their budget was spent in the best way.

The project had been financed by donations from parish organisations, a grant from Mid Devon District Council, Devon County Council, £106 monies, and Parish Council funds earmarked for the project at a total cost of £20k. A recent bingo session run by Sandford Parish Hall raised a whopping £665 towards play equipment!

Once again this has proved what a great community Sandford is at pulling together!

The next project is likely to be the installation of an outdoor gym at the play area. A suggestion has also been made to install a toddlers swing at the Creedy View play area.

A new play area sub committee has been formed consisting of Cllrs Dave Hope, Stephen Haley and Mike Snow. Pat Yeo has been co-opted to the group.

Malcolm Vallance
Clerk to Sandford Parish Council

OKEHAMPTON'S SIMMONS PARK WINS 'MUCH LOVED' STATUS

Okehampton Town Council is celebrating receipt of 'Much Loved' status for Simmons Park from the Fields in Trust Best Park Award 2019.

The park was in the top 20% of parks UK-Wide and 1 of 4 in the South West to achieve this status. 28 parks across the South West were nominated; Page Park in Bristol chosen as the best park in this region and 3 others achieving the 'Much Loved' status including Simmons Park.

Photo of the Mayor, Cllr Julie Yelland, with the Park-Keeper, James McGahey, and Groundsperson, Neil Cleave, with the certificate at the Bandstand in Simmons Park.

Emma James
Clerk to Okehampton Town Council



KINGSTEIGNTON'S MENTAL HEALTH ROADSHOW

Residents of all ages from Kingsteignton and neighbouring areas attended the Mental Health Roadshow in their hundreds on Saturday 23 November. Speakers from several organisations supported the event by making presentations; advice was given of symptoms, how to recognise issues in those around us, how to obtain help and information, who to contact and most of all to promote that we all need to be kind and caring, listen to those suffering and let them know that they are not alone.

Mental health issues can happen to anybody at any time. It can be brought on by something minor but can easily grow into a major issue. The sooner people seek help the sooner the issue

can be addressed, resulting in the problem hopefully becoming smaller and eventually being eradicated.

The event was put on by Kingsteignton Town Council working in collaboration with Kingsteignton charity, KingsCare, in support of the #DoItForDeaks campaign in memory of Kyle Deakin, who sadly lost his life to this awful illness back in 2018.

Officially opened by Mayor of Kingsteignton, Cllr Dave Rollason, Kyle's Mum, Yo, was a key speaker at the event and although life is not easy for her following the loss of her son Kyle, she does not want any other person or family to have to deal with the grief that she has. Maggie Bonnell of KingsCare



also spoke of the work they are doing as a charity in order to support a growing population and who offer mental health support through their keyworkers.

Since the event, other communities have been in contact and wish to work with Kingsteignton Town Council to promote awareness of these issues.

Carol Lakin
Clerk to Kingsteignton Town Council

LET'S TALK FREMINGTON

Fremington Parish Council, with support from Devon County and North Devon District Councillors, has taken an innovative step to fund a 46 week programme to help improve mental health within the Parish. The programme will be run by Clarity, a Barnstaple based mental health charity offering a range of counselling and group therapy to people experiencing mental health or emotional issues.

For some time, Fremington Parish Council has wanted to help members of its community who may suffer with depression or anxiety, low self-esteem, be socially isolated or lonely and need support with these factors, as they all impact on mental wellbeing.

Cllr Sue Kingdom, Chairman of Fremington Parish Council said "I am delighted that Fremington Parish Council has taken the initiative to provide mental health services in its community. Mental health and isolation issues can affect anyone at any time and I know that all the local councillors are pleased that this council with the support of district and the county



councillors are able to provide this service for our community.

Cllr F Biederman, Devon County Councillor for Fremington said "I am very pleased to be able to support this initiative, there are so many in our community that suffer with varying levels of mental health, I went through a period of depression myself at one time, I was lucky to have the support of my employer, who organised a few support sessions, that made a huge difference and enabled me to get over it relatively quickly. I hope this will give others a similar chance".

Local ward member for Fremington, Councillor Jayne Mackie, says: "It is such a privilege to be able to give grant money and my support to such a forward-looking project. This initiative highlights how we need to start the conversation about mental well-being at parish and ward level and hopefully, more areas will take our lead".

The group runs every Tuesday at the new Beechfield Centre.

Kate Graddock
Fremington Parish Council

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

A memorable evening was had by all who turned out to celebrate the Parish Council's 125th Anniversary. Over 50 past Chairman, present Parish Councillors, and current Parishioners gathered together at Sandford Congregational Church Hall.

Guests included County Councillor Margaret Squires, and District Councillor Elizabeth Wainwright, and Liz Brookes Hocking representing the Devon Association of Local Councils.

Thanks were extended to Karen Stephens for making the delicious cake and thanks to Shauna Miles and Pat Yeo for assisting with the Catering arrangements.

A vote of thanks was proposed for 37 years as Parish Clerk to Malcolm Vallance.

In turn thanks were extended to Chairman Jim Stephens for all his research, and networking in advance of the celebrations.

Tony Wright a past Clerk, Councillor and Chairman cut the celebration cake and Jim Stephens proposed the toast to the next 125 years. 2020 is already looking to be an exciting year for Sandford with the 125th Anniversary celebrations continuing with the planting of 125 trees, assisted by Sandford School. Also a planned Beating of the Bounds/Boundary Walk.

Other events are also planned and a public meeting will take place in the new year. So lots to look forward to in Sandford and we know at the end of the Day "no one does it better than the Parish of Sandford!"

Malcolm Vallance
Clerk to Sandford Parish Council



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BROADHEMPSTON PLANTS A NEW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Broadhempston Parish Council planted a community orchard at the end of November. This initiative links with the parish council's climate emergency declaration and was embraced by local residents.



Children from Broadhempston Primary School planted 38 trees, with community volunteers helping to fence and protect the trees. The community will continue to plant trees and lay hedges over the winter. In the future, they will be adding seating, a shelter, BBQ areas and pizza oven. To increase biodiversity they will be hanging bird boxes. The new community space will be used to host wassails, blossom festivals and other annual events.

Cllr Nicholas Wright said: "the parish council really wanted to make

something of the paddock that the parish could enjoy. We are so lucky in Broadhempston to enjoy many different spaces and resources including our fantastic new village hall facilities, our recreational ground and pavilion at Headlands, two small playgrounds, a vibrant community village shop, a thriving annual village fete and many excellent clubs and societies. The Community Orchard provides another very different kind of resource with quiet corners and open group spaces with amazing views of the surrounding hills. The fruit will be available for everyone and we

have chosen a large range of species including local, regional and a few international varieties. We want to see this space being used by people as well as encouraging traditional rural skills and natural habitat. John Hoyle, Jane Collings and Peter Stevens have been instrumental in pushing this project forward in time to plant this year and it would not have been possible without all their hard work, though this is just the beginning!"

Rachel Avery, Clerk to Broadhempston Parish Council

FREMINGTON'S BIG CLIMATE FIGHTBACK

Fremington Parish Council are part of the Big Climate Fightback and supported Tree Charter Day on Saturday 30th November by ordering 105 trees funded by a community councillor grant from Devon County Council, organised by Councillor Frank Beiderman. Fremington Parish Councillors Jim Bell, Kelvin Groves and Ian Crawford supported by residents and councillors of a Climate Emergency Working Party set up by the Council when it declared a climate emergency

in July this year, led a tree planting event in three locations at Yelland, Fremington and Roundswell.

Lead councillor for the climate emergency, Ian Crawford said, "We are delighted to take this initiative of tree planting to improve our local environment when there is so much that we need to and can do to reduce carbon emissions. In the new year we hope to promote a community event at the recently opened Beechfield

Centre where residents can find out what steps can taken to make further improvements to our local environment and how everyone can become involved. This is an exciting time to be a councillor when there are so many challenges to be met to protect and improve the local environment".

**Cllr Ian Crawford
Fremington Parish Council**

PLASTIC-FREE ASHBURTON

Ashburton Town Council, alongside Cornish Charity Surfers Against Sewage (SAS), as well as 16 communities across the South West of England, has become one the latest to sign up to the plastic-free movement to reduce single-use plastic.

SAS said it is about "shifting things back to how they used to be". Communities

can work towards plastic-free status by achieving various objectives towards the national project run by [Plastic Free Coastlines](#), including parish and town councils who are committee to plastic-free alternatives and encouraging local businesses to get on board.

Ashburton Town Clerk Bruce Boughton said the council has designed its

reusable cotton bags as a way of 'starting small' to get people thinking. "It's the hearts and minds thing. You've got to get people on side to do their little bit". He added, the council is working with Facebook group, Plastic-Free Ashburton, to find ways to encourage others to reduce plastic-use.

BRAUNTON OPENS A COMMUNITY WORK HUB

Braunton Parish Council has opened a community work hub in the former Braunton Police Station. The building was purchased by the council to keep a police presence and provide a community work hub for small start-up businesses, home based and mobile workers. The police have retained an office within the building and the remainder has been turned into a community work hub consisting of

four fully furnished modern offices and six affordable hot desks. There is also a social hub for meeting clients, exchanging information and networking. Office hire starts from £48 per week, hot desks can be booked for half a day at £5 or all day for £10. Prices include utilities, business rates and cleaning. Funding for the project came from the council and Devon Works Hubs.

A NEW DEFIBRILATOR FOR HOLSWORTHY HAMLETS

Holsworthy Hamlets Parish Council purchased a defibrillator and arranged training on how to use it. The council determined Chilsworthy Village Hall to be the most suitable location for the defibrillator and approached the village hall committee for permission to site

the machine by the front entrance of the hall. A training session was run by the South West Ambulance Service and saw over 60 people attend what was described as a very hands on session. Funding for the defibrillator came from the Babbington Wind Turbine Fund.

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- GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Parish and Town Councils across the County have been at the forefront supporting their communities through the Coronavirus pandemic. Here are just a few examples of their work at the start of lockdown.

SOUTH TAWTON USED ITS EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM

South Tawton Parish Council has been using the Voluntary Emergency Telephone System for a few years; this is a system linked to the Community Heartbeat Trust where the village is given its own unique emergency telephone number. When the number is called, it goes through to a number of volunteers who can then provide help where its needed. They have been using their VETS number as a way of coordinating help for those in the parish; the number is already widely known and publicised.

BROADCLYST PARISH COUNCIL UTILISED ITS EMERGENCY PLAN

Broadclyst Parish Council mobilised their emergency plan to allow them to respond to the crisis. They set up a dedicated COVID-19 webpage with online forms for those needing support or offering to volunteer following conversations with their insurance company to discuss risk management in running a community support scheme. They now have a database of over 70 volunteers with area coordinators to help cover their diverse and rural parish. They have two online counsellors, a safeguarding officer and a working agreement with the village shop. They feel prepared to deal with the next few months due to their sustainable plan.

SANDFORD PULLS TOGETHER

Sandford Parish Council worked with Sandford Community Stores to send out a flyer offering to supply and deliver goods using their team of volunteers. This flyer also had a form for volunteers to complete and a way for those needing help to make contact. A Sandford Pulls Together banner has been printed and placed in the village and the parish clerk is acting as a contact point for volunteers.

MORETONHAMPSTEAD DISTRIBUTED LOCAL INFORMATION TO HOUSEHOLDS

Moretonhampstead Parish Council sent a leaflet and postcard to every household detailing how to access help, how to volunteer and which businesses remained open. It included information from different services and businesses in the parish about what they're doing and how you can contact them; this includes the local vet, pharmacy, newsagents, pubs, garages, library and the health centre. It's a lovely way of showing that the community is working together and providing information to those who might not be online.

OFFWELL WORKED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS

Offwell Parish Council used East Devon District Council's Safeguarding and

Safe Practice guidelines for their support groups coordinators and volunteers. The clerk has worked with the local pharmacy (Lloyds) to agree a safe procedure for the collecting of prescriptions. They also have a village website with information from official sources which is regularly updated.

GREAT TORRINGTON COORDINATED THE SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL GOODS

The town council sent out leaflets to all their residents via the Royal Mail with a list of essential numbers and those who offer essential goods. They also kept an up-to-date webpage on COVID-19. Their volunteers were given a privacy statement and a list of 'dos and don'ts' to sign, as well as being provided with the council's risk assessment.

Recipients of help were given volunteer phone numbers so can decide whether they still need assistance; the Town Council made follow-up calls to check that everything had went gone smoothly.

NORTH TAWTON'S 'RED H' SCHEME

North Tawton Town Council distributed red 'H' signs, printed on card for durability, to all their households. The signs can be displayed in a prominent window by anyone in need of emergency assistance and had a space for phone numbers.



If residents see the sign in a neighbour's window, they can contact them to see what they need. They may then be able to do some emergency shopping, fetch medication or call for further help if needed. This is a great way of enabling people to help themselves and others.

RINGMORE REACHED OUT TO THE VULNERABLE AND ISOLATED

Ringmore Parish Council wrote to all its residents to deliver the current guidance for those who may find it difficult to stay up to date. They circulated the phone numbers of some councillors who would help if needed and asked for volunteers who would be tasked with collecting shopping, prescriptions etc. Volunteers were encouraged to provide a chat service for those that were isolated; this is a great way of tackling loneliness at the time.

The forms explain what help may

be available (transport to essential appointments, food shopping, prescriptions etc).

BRADNINCH TOGETHER

In Bradninch a group of residents set up a Bradninch Together initiative; 80 volunteers dedicated to ringing those who need a chat, providing home-baked goods to NHS frontline staff and revitalising the art of letter writing.

They also compiled a list of local eateries offering takeaway or other businesses that are able to provide support; such as a pharmacy sourcing baby formula for those struggling to find it. They also provided some support for parents and young families; including asking children to paint a rainbow for display in a window to create a community rainbow trail.

They arranged for leaflets advertising their scheme to be delivered via Royal

Mail; this is a great tip for those of you struggling to reach some parts of your parish.

ASHBURTON

Ashburton Town Council, with Ashburton Community Care, the Local Church and Ashburton Town Team, set up 'Ashburton Community COVID Response Team'.

Initially, the group set up a WhatsApp group with a call for volunteers and set a centralised number to manage calls. The response team completed a leaflet drop to all households with the help of 140 volunteers, who are also carrying out food deliveries working with local shops, delivering prescriptions and setting up wellbeing calls. All volunteers were given guidance on keeping safe.

The team then introduced a formal structure and a dedicated phone number with ten channels and an

NETWORK REPORTS

TEIGNBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

TALC has enjoyed an active year with a wide range of speakers covering issues that affect our town and parish councils. The Police and Crime Commissioner's office explained rural policing issues and PCSO support, which led to a very active Q&A session. Similarly, the Community Infrastructure Levy, explained by Teignbridge District Council, was particularly interesting since this can lead to income that is so important to local councils.

We have heard from several speakers regarding changes to Teignbridge District Council plans including housing, efficiencies, climate action and finance proposals. Their ideas to support solar generation, car charging and pollution reduction are a sign of the times. A presentation by Teign Energy Communities illustrated their promotion of renewal energy schemes and processes to reduce energy usage and carbon emissions, a foresight of the inevitable way ahead.

Waste and recycling matters were

aired in detail both from Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council. TALC members heard and had wide discussion on options and what the future might hold. A Devon County Council Highways Officer also spoke of her role which of course led to an active discussion - Yes, potholes, speeding vehicles, cycle routes were all aired.

Our regular meeting with the Leader of DCC brought us up to date with their ominous budget prospects, in particular how such things might affect our rural communities, transport, schools and health care. Our final meeting for 2019/20 heard in detail about TDC's finances although of course, all the carefully considered finances have been upturned by COVID-19 consequences.

Whilst TALC has enjoyed an active and wide ranging year, a Working Group is reviewing how meetings take place in future. So watch out for a transformed TALC next year.

Dudley Swain, Secretary

IVYBRIDGE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Ivybridge and District Association of Local Councils (IDALC) is a forum for a dozen parishes in the Ivybridge area.

Meetings are normally held six monthly and form a vehicle for the sharing of ideas, experiences, future plans and any perceived threats. Representatives from the parishes include both clerks and councillors and they bring a wealth of experience and interests in common to the meetings.

COVID-19 has caused us to meet using zoom technology and we were fortunate to be addressed at our recent meeting by County Officer Cara Stobart who gave a talk on holding remote town and parish meetings. Members found this most useful and raised

many questions. They also related their experiences using this system and it was interesting to note that in some instances public participation had increased although this was not the case for some parishes where the new technology had proved to be a challenge.

With the technology now available we are in a position where the number of meeting held each year could be increased if members so wished.

As ever we are very grateful to our secretary Julie Gilbert for all the work she does in preparing for and recording the minutes of the meetings.

Cllr Philip Dredge, Chairman

RADDON HILLS GROUP

The Raddon Hills group of Parish Councils continues to meet twice a year. The October 2019 meeting at Upton Pyne Parish Hall saw Cllr Jim Enright (from Newton St Cyres Parish Council) elected as the new Chairman, following the departure of David Baker who moved out of the area. The February 2020 meeting took place in Stockleigh Pomeroy and both meetings were well attended. Regular agenda items include updates from individual parishes, the Police and Devon County Council's Footpath Scheme. Regular discussion items include common issues and problems with DCC Highways and broadband provision. New areas for discussion were the need for social housing, proposed ward boundary changes for Mid Devon District Council and speed limits within the parishes. The Group provides a useful forum for discussion between Councillors and helps to highlight the similar issues faced by parishes in the Raddon Hills area

Jane Hole, Secretary



DALC SUPPORT FOR AREA COMMITTEES

We will always be an advocate for networking. There is great benefit for officers and councillors to meet with other parish and town councils in, and outside, their area. From exchanging information, attracting guest speakers, to peer support and inspiring project ideas; there is a lot to be gained for your council in coming together with others.

We are aware that some parts of the county have really good area meetings, and others are either lacking or efforts to come together have dwindled. We want to see opportunities for all our members to be able to meet. We can support established groups with grants of up to £200 to contribute to meeting costs i.e. for room hire. We also welcome invitations to attend your meetings.

If you want to reinvigorate an old committee, or create a new one, please email car@devonalc.org.uk to discuss.



CLERKS' SUMMER SOCIALS

For the past few years, we have been delighted to host Summer Socials, jointly with the Society of Local Council Clerks (Devon Branch), for clerks across Devon. This year was no exception and we enjoyed some of our largest gatherings to date.

We recognise that the role of clerk can be quite an isolated one, especially for those from smaller councils where they are the only member of staff. The social events provide a much needed networking opportunity enabling clerks to meet face-to-face, discuss common issues and receive peer support.

The three events this year had 75 clerks in attendance. Unfortunately events for 2020 have had to be cancelled, but we look forward to more social events in 2021.

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REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

TRAVELWATCH SOUTH WEST

TravelWatch South West, a social enterprise company, is the representative body and Government consultee for public transport users throughout the south west of England. It operates at a strategic level in discussions with Government. It has formed close links with the Department for Transport (DfT), seeks to influence thinking by pre-emptive action and is consulted by the DfT at franchise pre-specification stage.

DALC is a member of TWSW which gives it the right to have a representative attend all meetings and it has a vote at AGMs.

The current TWSW Chairman is Christopher Irwin, who is an acknowledged authority on matters relating to public transport in the United Kingdom and further afield, is ably supported by a board whose expertise includes sustainable public transport, rural mobility, integration, delivery modes, user engagement and climate change and represents all corners of the south west.

Normally, in addition to the AGM there are two business meetings each year based at Taunton (which attract in excess of 100 attendees) although should the need arise more specialised meetings for important topics such as a change in legislation or the process of awarding a new rail franchise being underway, may be called. The format of the meetings involves speakers, who are experts in their field and include senior managers from the region's train and bus operators and senior politicians including ministers as well as local politicians, leading discussions. There is an increasing focus on environmental issues connected with public transport.

Throughout the year, individual directors and the company secretary take part in working parties and other meetings with operators, Network Rail and local government.

Cllr Phillip Dredge

EAST DEVON AONB

East Devon's AONB has had a busy few months in the year to March 2020. It has continued its project work in areas such as encouraging sustainable agriculture, working with groups of farmers, and major work in the conservation of species.

The AONB has a small staff of 3, operating from its HQ at Kennaway House in Sidmouth. It also has a wide range of supporters, "ambassadors", who help it to promote the ideas in practice. Since joining the AONB in January, I have been warmly welcomed by Chris Woodruff, the manager and his team, and had the opportunity to participate in an annual ambassadors' networking event for all those interested. For me as a newcomer this was an amazing event, and showed the depth of commitment of many people across East Devon. We were able to participate in looking for suitable iconic

species to promote local conservation in our area. Since this event I have learnt in more detail about a successful AONB project to rehouse a roost of Horseshoe bats, whose roost had become unsuitable. The picture shows another rare bat, Bechstein's bat.

AONBs nationally have been busy, with the implementation of the Colchester declaration of 2019, committing to sustainability and habitat protection, acknowledging the urgent need to act against greenhouse gas emissions and dangerous climate change. The East Devon AONB has consulted its members on aspects of this, as well as the development of a Planning guidance document.

The East Devon AONB had been working to host the National Annual AONB Conference in Exeter, now postponed to July 2021.

DEVON COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

DCT objectives are to support communities to be healthier, more vibrant and resilient and economically stronger in order to have increased capacity to address local issues. During 2019-20 these activities continued via training, support and consultancy targeted on the needs of our Devon communities.

Some of these activities include:

- providing a voice for rural communities on Devon County Council's Net Zero Task Force, which has been established to work towards the county's target of becoming zero-carbon by 2050.
- being the delivery partner for the Devon Community Resilience Board encouraging communities to develop their own emergency plans and allocating small grants to help them
- Supporting young people towards the job market through Constructing Futures Devon in partnership with South Devon college to provide work experience in construction projects

More recently to combat the virus pandemic DCT has managed help-line services.

Cllr Ian Cowling



In summary, I would like to thank AONB staff for my warm welcome, and for the work they do, and commend all local councillors across Devon to take an interest in the work of their local AONB or National Park in this beautiful and environmentally important part of the country.

Cllr Tim Dumper

CORNWALL AND WEST DEVON MINING HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP

This year has been a busy one for the Partnership, and not totally for the right reasons. Early on, we learned that the World Heritage Site was to be placed on the 'at risk' register. Our Chairman, Julian German and Team Leader Deborah Boden attended the World Conference in Baku and established that there had been a series of misunderstandings, mainly about the English Planning system. As a result, in April, we held a virtual webinar for the 'powers that be' to explain how the English planning system provides protection for World Heritage sites and how it applies in our case. That appears to have been successful and we hope that this means that we can move forward positively.

What this stressed to the Partnership is that we are constantly under scrutiny and it is vital that we keep our Planning, Conservation and Management policies up to date and that we ensure that they are applied consistently across the whole of the World Heritage site. We are currently working with West Devon Borough Council to ensure that their policies and practices are brought up to date, consistent with the rest of the area.

Our other main focus has been to update the Management Plan for the World Heritage site. The draft Management Plan:

- explains the reasons for designation
- describes the extent of the Site and

- some of its notable landscape features defines how it is protected
- outlines the key management issues, and resulting policies and strategic actions

As DALC's representative I was heavily involved in the drafting of the draft Plan, especially the Section on Area A10, Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock. Future work will focus on ecology and biodiversity, sustainable tourism and Marketing (including income generation for the Partnership)

Cllr Graham Parker

HEART OF THE SOUTH WEST JOINT COMMITTEE

This committee consists of representation from Somerset and Devon County Councils, all the district and city councils in the two counties, Torbay Council, the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups for the two counties, Exmoor and Dartmoor National Parks, the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HOTSW LEP) and now... the Devon Association of Local Councils (also representing the Somerset ALC).

The county councils consulted the Devon and Somerset ALCs several times in the last few years on proposals coming from the Local Enterprise Partnership. Town and parish councillors responded but were never sure how their comments were received or dealt with. Observer status on the HOTSW Joint Committee was requested and agreed at the end of last year.

The first (and only) meeting attended in the period of this Annual Report was 31st January 2020. As I was leaving the meeting, a news alert on my phone announced the first COVID-19 case in the UK. Inevitably, attention on the part of all public bodies gradually switched to the pandemic. The March meeting was cancelled and progress on key items from the January meeting stalled.

It is still an unfolding story, however, and virtual meetings have resumed. Although there will inevitably be changes to plans,



it is worth reporting on strategies that are delayed not abandoned. The Local Industrial Strategy is a key document that is waiting to be signed off by government before it can be released and to date, it is still waiting. It is based on documents that can be found on the HOTSW LEP website - <https://heartofswlep.co.uk>. This site is worth exploring for information on the economic drivers for the LEP area and strategic plans to develop this part of the south west as a leader in clean technology and green, inclusive growth.

One other strand worth mentioning is the Great South West, at this point a general concept of a south west brand. Potentially, it includes Cornwall and the Scilly Isles, Devon, Somerset and Dorset - a grouping of an economic and regional significance that might attract government support in the right circumstances.

Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking

YOUR OFFICERS

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| PRESIDENT | <i>Vacant</i> | CHAIRMAN | K Browse |
| VICE PRESIDENTS | G Hill | VICE CHAIRMAN | L Brookes-Hocking |
| | A Liverton | TREASURER | I Cowling |
| | G Short | COUNTY OFFICER | C Stobart |
| | M Squires | NALC REP | K Browse |

COUNTY COMMITTEE*

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| EAST DEVON | T Dumper | R Eastley | D Stewart | C Trudgeon | 2 x vacancies |
| MID DEVON | E Brookes-Hocking | K Browse | G Guest | P Heal | A Perris |
| NORTH DEVON | I Cowling | J Pateman-Jones | C McCormack-Hole | I Roome | 1 x vacancy |
| SOUTH HAMS | P Dredge | J Hodgson | L Granados | | 3 x vacancies |
| TEIGNBRIDGE | M Hocking | J Goodey | M Retallick | | 2 x vacancies |
| TORBAY | R Haddock | | | | |
| TORRIDGE | D Chalmers | R Craigie | D Watson | | 2 x vacancies |
| WEST DEVON | D Butland | J Goffey | G Hill | G Parker | 1 x vacancy |

*all names correct as at 31 March 2020

THE ROLE OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE

The County Committee normally meets 4 times a year . All members represent the whole of Devon, and all of the association's member councils. As the executive body of the Association it has the following functions:

- elects Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer of the association
- nominates representatives from its number to form the General Purposes Sub Committee which has delegated powers from the County Committee
- control of the association's banking and investments
- through its members, represents DALC on other bodies at a strategic level
- acts to respond to consultation papers to give an overview response from Devon's town and parish councils
- debates matters of local concern and interest (that have a more than local relevance), and where relevant, proposes motions to the National Association of Local Councils, or other bodies
- builds up knowledge of its members through information sharing, helping member councils keep abreast of developments and opinions
- enhances communication between members and the association, through representation at local area meetings, or similar groups

OUR MEMBERS

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| EAST DEVON | All Saints Awliscombe Axminster Axmouth Aylesbeare Beer Bishops Clyst Brampford Speke Branscombe Broadclyst Broadhembury | Buckerell Budleigh Salterton Chardstock Clyst Honiton Clyst Hydon Clyst St George Colaton Raleigh Colyton Combe Raleigh Combpyne Rousdon Cotleigh | Cranbrook Dalwood Dunkeswell East Budleigh Exmouth Farringdon Farway Feniton Gittisham Hawkchurch Honiton | Kilmington Luppitt Rewe Rockbeare Seaton Musbury Newton Poppleford Northleigh Offwell Ottery St Mary Payhembury | Plymtree Poltimore Rewe Rockbeare Seaton Sheldon Shute Sidmouth Southleigh Stockland Stoke Canon | Talaton Uplyme Uppottery Upton Pyne West Hill Whimble Widworthy Woodbury Yarcombe |
| | Bampton Bickleigh Borden Gate Bow Bradninch Burllescombe Cadbury Cadeleigh | Chawleigh Cheriton Bishop Cheriton Fitzpaine Clayhidon Coldridge Colebrooke Copplesstone Crediton Hamlets | Crediton Cruyws Morchard Lapford Culmstock Down St Mary Halberton Hemyock Hittisleigh | Holcombe Rogus Kentisbeare Lapford Morchard Bishop Morebath Newton St Cyres Nymet Rowland Oakford | Poughill Sampford Peverell Sandford Shobrooke Silverton Stoodleigh Templeton Thorverton | Tiverton Uffculme Uplowman Wembworthy Willand Woolfardisworthy |
| MID DEVON | Arlington Ashford Barnstaple Berrynarbor Bishops Nympton Bishops Tawton Bratton Fleming Braunton Brayford | Brendon & Countisbury Burrington Chittlehamholt, Warkleigh & Satterleigh Chittlehampton Chulmleigh Combe Martin East Down East & West Buckland | East Worlington Filleigh Fremington Georgeham Georgenympton & Queensnympton Goodleigh Heanton Punchard Horwood, Lovacott | & Newton Tracey Ilfracombe Instow Kentisbury & Trentishoe Kings Nympton Landkey Loxhore Lynton & Lynmouth Marwood | Mortehoe North Molton Parracombe Pilton West Rackenford Romansleigh Rose Ash Shirwell South Molton | Swimbridge Tawstock West Down Westleigh Witheridge |
| | Ashprington Aveton Gifford Berry Pomeroy Bickleigh Bigbury Blackawton Brixton Buckfastleigh West Buckland-tout-saints Charleton | Chivelstone Churchstow Cornwood Cornworthy Dartington Dartmouth Dean Prior Diptford Dittisham East Portlemouth | Ermington Frogmore & Sherford Halwell & Moreleigh Harbeton Holbeton Holne Ivybridge Kingsbridge Kingston Kingswear | Littlehempston Loddiswell Malborough Marldon Modbury Newton & Noss North Huish Rattery Ringmore Salcombe | Shaugh Prior Slapton South Brent South Huish South Milton South Pool Sparkwell Staverton Stoke Fleming Stoke Gabriel | Stokenham Strete Thurlestone Totnes Ugborough Wembury West Alvington Yealmpton |
| NORTH DEVON | Abbotskerswell Ashburton Bickington Bishopsteignton Bovey Tracey Bridford Broadhempston Buckland-in-the-Moor | Christow Chudleigh Coffinswell Dawlish Denbury & Torbryan Doddiscombesleigh Dunchideock Dunsford | Exminster Haccombe with Combe Hennock Holcombe Burnell Ide Ideford Ilsington Ippelen | Kenn Kenton Kingskerswell Kingsteignton Lustleigh Mamhead Manaton Moretonhampstead | Newton Abbot North Bovey Ogwell Shaldon Shillingford St George St-Giles-on-the-Heath Stokeinteignhead Tedburn St Mary | Teigngrace Teignmouth Trusham Whitestone Widcombe-in-the-moor |
| | Abbotsham Alwington Ashwater Beaford Bideford Black Torrington Bradford & Cookbury Bradworthy | Bridgerule Broadwoodwider Buckland Brewer Buckland Filleigh Clawton Clovelly Dolton East & West Putford | Frithelstock Great Torrington Halwill Hartland High Bickington Holsworthy Hamlets Holsworthy Langtree | Littleham & Landcross Luffincott & Tetcott Little Torrington Merton Milton Damerel Monkleigh Northam Pancrasweek | Parkham Pyworthy Roborough Shebbear Sheepwash St-Giles-in-the-Wood St-Giles-on-the-Heath Sutcombe | Thornbury Weare Gifford Winkleigh Woolsery Yarnscombe |
| SOUTH HAMS | Beaworthy Belstone Bere Ferrers Bratton Clovelly Brentor Bridestowe Broadwoodkelly | Buckland Monachorum Burrator Chagford Dartmoor Forest Drewsteignton Exbourne & Jacobstowe Germansweek | Gulworthy Hatherleigh Highampton Horrabridge Iddesleigh Inwardleigh Lewdown Group | Lifton Lydford Mary Tavy Meeth Milton Abbot Group Monkehampton North Tawton | Northlew Okehampton Okehampton Hamlets Peter Tavy Plasterdown Group Sampford Courtney Sourton | South Tawton Spreyton Sticklepath Stowford Sydenham Damerel Tavistock Throwleigh |
| | Brixham | East Devon Otterton | North Devon Atherington East Anstey Meshaw Molland | South Hams East Allington | Torrige Alverdiscott & Huntshaw Ashreigney Petrockstowe Peters Marland Virginstowe | West Devon Lamerton |
| TORBAY | | | | | | |
| TORRIDGE | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| WEST DEVON | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| NON MEMBERS | | | | | | |

ACCOUNTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

| INCOME | 31/03/2020 | 31/03/2019 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Advertising | 400 | 0 |
| AGM, Conference and Exhibition | 6,769 | 7,025 |
| Bank Interest | 162 | 106 |
| Grants | 8,450 | 8,450 |
| Investment Interest | 1,047 | 1,044 |
| Member Services | 2,629 | 742 |
| Subscriptions | 91,622 | 90,128 |
| Training and Events | 37,599 | 16,258 |
| | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | 148,680 | 123,753 |

| EXPENDITURE | 31/03/2020 | 31/03/2019 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Staff Costs | 39,626 | 0 |
| Other Staff Costs | 2,412 | 333 |
| Premises Expenses | 3,565 | 0 |
| Office Expenses | 9,051 | 9,931 |
| Governance Costs | 11,223 | 57,105 |
| Subscriptions | 36,641 | 36,192 |
| AGM, Conference and Exhibition | 6,494 | 6,770 |
| Training and Events | 18,084 | 18,814 |
| Grants | 110 | 8,660 |
| Depreciation | 998 | 0 |
| | | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 128,204 | 137,805 |

| | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------|
| Net Income/(Expenditure) | 20,475 | (14,052) |
| Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investment | (862) | 369 |
| NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR | 19,614 | (13,683) |

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial position improved significantly compared to the previous year producing a net Income of £19,614 compared to a shortfall of £13,683 in 2018/19. The improvement is largely due to increased training income and an increase in charges under member services such as book orders.

Expenditure items were similar to the year before except for Staff and Premises costs which previously appeared as Governance costs when our staff and offices were provided via a Service Level Agreement with Devon Communities Together. The one-off revenue costs to create our own office at Cheriton Bishop have been included in 2019/20 expenditure.

Cllr Ian Cowling
Honorary Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2020

| FIXED ASSETS | 31/03/2020 | 31/03/2019 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Office Equipment | 3,978 | 0 |
| | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Debtors | 5,802 | 0 |
| Prepayments | 2,171 | 0 |
| Bank Account | 61,023 | 52,546 |
| Investments | 23,240 | 24,102 |
| | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Creditors | 1,869 | 0 |
| Accruals | 1,188 | 4,265 |
| Payroll Liabilities | 1,026 | 0 |
| VAT Control | 4,224 | 4,090 |
| | | |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | 87,907 | 68,293 |
| | | |
| RESERVES | | |
| General Fund | | |
| Balance at 1 April | 66,777 | 80,460 |
| Surplus/(deficit) | 19,614 | (13,683) |
| Balance at 31 March | 86,391 | 66,777 |
| | | |
| County Training Partnership Fund | | |
| Balance at 1 April | 1,516 | 1,516 |
| Surplus/(deficit) | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at 31 March | 1,516 | 1,516 |
| | | |
| BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2020 | 87,907 | 68,293 |

GOVERNANCE

The County Committee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the association. In addition, it is also responsible for preparing the financial statements each financial year.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020, were approved by the Shadow Board of Directors and signed on their behalf by:



I Cowling, Honorary Treasurer



K Browne, Chairman



C Stobart, County Officer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 which are set out on pages 24 and 25.

Respective responsibilities of Members and Examiner

The members consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the association and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and

consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements to prepare proper accounts in accordance with the constitution have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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Is a range of 10 integrated modules for Local Council management supported by portals that integrate with your Council website and mobile apps that collect data for the modules.

Modules

- Admin (free with any other module)
- Admin+ (agendas & minutes)
- Allotments
- Asset Manager
- Epitaph (for cemeteries)
- Facilities (for bookings)
- Finance
- Markets and Events (new)
- Planning
- Playgrounds
- Service Manager (jobs & timesheets)

Portals and Apps for AdvantEDGE Modules

- Booking portals for Facilities & Epitaph
- Genealogical portal for Epitaph called **HeritEDGE** (new)
- **Report it** portal planned for Service Manager
- **InspectEDGE** app for memorial inspections & more versions planned

Software as a Service (SaaS) Benefits

- Always on latest software
- Data backed up hourly
- Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery
- Escrow for 60 days access to download software with 18 month license
- Rental, no capital expenditure
- Monthly, 1, 3 or 5 year contracts
- Annual price per module starts at £123 per concurrent user & charged in bands based on usage so smaller Councils pay less
- GDPR compliance features in software
- Accessible 24x7 from any device
- Minimal IT requirement
- Support for Windows, Apple & Android



Training

- Via Microsoft Teams until end of Pandemic
- One to one and group training

Options

- Accountancy services
- Cemetery consultancy & memorial inspections
- Digital mapping options including Pear Technology
- Multi factor authentication (MFA) using Cisco mobile phone app
- Escrow options for in perpetuity license and software source code

IT Solutions

EDGE also provide hardware, software, and support including Microsoft 365, Microsoft Teams and Telavox VOIP. We are specialists in Local Council solutions.

WEBINARS

As there are no events this year due to the pandemic we are running a series of webinars to demonstrate our products and services. Come and ask your questions or just watch and listen at one of our virtual events. For details and to register please goto <https://www.edgeITsystems.com/events>



www.edgeITsystems.com