

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - MAY 2021

EAST BUDLEIGH COMMUNITY SHOP

The shop has been able to support the community throughout a challenging year, and maintain a vital free collection and delivery service. In the last financial year there was a small drop in total sales, but turnover has now increased to record levels, and the average sale per transaction has doubled. A small business Covid grant from East Devon Council enabled the shop to cover the increased costs of running the shop during lockdown. A decision was taken to absorb a number of significant price increases, and the final profit margin was around 16%. This has still enabled the shop to keep sufficient reserves to be able to work with the Village Hall to further improve facilities.

VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting took place on 27th April. Chris Dearsley stood down as Chair, and Joe Murphy has taken on the role and Frances Allen is the new Treasurer. The hall is starting to reopen for appropriate groups, within official guidelines and the Village Information Point re-opened on 17th May. The financial position is reported as robust, and the Trustees are planning a return to the social and entertainment agenda for the Hall. The year ended with a small surplus thanks to the 'Coronavirus' grant from East Devon Council. With Ray Marrs, I have started some refurbishment work, ready for a new bookcase/display stand for the book exchange and other initiatives, funded by the Parish Council.

DEVON CLIMATE EMERGENCY COUNCIL SUPPORT NETWORK

The Interim Devon Carbon Plan on the Devon Climate Emergency Website has been regularly updated, and has links to a very wide range of resources and information. The attached Devon Climate Declaration aims to show support for growing action and get more people involved in plans to reduce personal and organisational carbon emissions. It has now been signed up to by DCC, EDDC, Budleigh Salterton Town Council, twenty six Parish Councils, and a large number of organisations.

COUNCILLOR ADVOCATE SCHEME (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)

No reports received this month, but Alison Hernandez was elected for a second term of office as police and crime commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial garden is looking better after the recent rain! The Parish Council funds the planting schemes, and I am about to put out the summer planting of geraniums and begonias. The winter heathers have provided good colour most of the year, but have now outgrown their flower beds and will be replaced with new heathers.

Cllr. John Tresidder.

DEVON CLIMATE DECLARATION

1. This Declaration has been prepared by a consortium of public, private and voluntary organisations collaborating through a Devon Climate Emergency Response Group. It sets out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers all of Devon, including those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate here.
2. We are aware of the significant implications of climate change for Devon's communities; it is already affecting our environment, infrastructure, economy and health & wellbeing. If not addressed, the impact on future generations will be profound and the ability to meet the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals will be severely compromised.
3. We understand that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels and reach net-zero by 2050 if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees.
4. We will lead in the global response to climate change through our collective action, innovation and influence.
5. Individually, we will review (within 6 months) our plans to reduce our organisation's carbon emissions to meet or exceed these targets, including ensuring the people we do business with are doing the same. We will publicly report our carbon emissions annually in accessible formats.
6. In collaboration, we will engage Devon's residents, businesses and visitors to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the reduction of Devon's production and consumption emissions to meet IPCC recommendations at the latest. We will openly report progress on its delivery. We know this transformational change will be challenging and will include:
 - Deploying more renewable, decentralised and smart energy systems
 - Retrofitting energy-efficiency measures into our existing buildings
 - Constructing zero-carbon new buildings
 - Travelling less and using improved walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure more often, and using electric and hydrogen vehicles
 - Changing our consumption to use less, re-use more and choose low-carbon options
 - Challenging all economic sectors to review their practices and the values of those they do business with
 - Divesting from fossil fuels
 - Changing our dietary patterns and reducing food waste
 - Changing agricultural practices to reduce emissions associated with farming operations, manage soils sustainably and replenish soil carbon
 - Encouraging carbon storage such as through tree planting, the use of wood in construction and peatland restoration
 - Empowering the people of Devon with the knowledge and skills to act collectively.
7. Additionally, we will work to understand the near-term and future risks of climate change for Devon to plan for how our infrastructure, public services and communities will have to adapt for a 1.5-degree warmer world.
8. Local organisations and communities cannot do this alone as the national government plays a key role in many of the policy areas that are vital to reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. We call on the government to prioritise decarbonisation and adaptation within decision making and work with us by using its powers to provide the resources and funding necessary to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy and society.
9. We challenge every organisation, business, community and individual to do the same.