

VILLAGE green

Issue
Dec
2010

122

helping communities help themselves



HRH Princess Anne opens the CCD Annual Conference
MPs hear how the 'Big Society' could work for Devon
Challenges of coping with extreme winter weather
Feature on Rural Community Transport



Quarterly news from the Community Council of Devon



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CCD COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Community Buildings (in association with Devon Association of Community Buildings)

Community Enterprise

Community Led Planning

Parish Councils (in association with Devon Association of Local Councils)

Playing Fields (in association with Devon Playing Fields Association)

Poverty and Disadvantage (social inclusion programme)

Rural Housing (in association with the Devon Rural Housing Partnership)

Rural Services

Rural Training (Devon Rural Training Unit)

Rural Womens Support

Local Food

CCD SUPPORT SERVICES:

CCD Consultancy

Grants Administration

CCD Publications

(including Village Green)

CCD Research

CCD Website

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Chief Executive: Jay Talbot

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Cover image:
Princess Anne flies into Woolsey.
Photography by
Graham Hobbs

VISION STATEMENT

CCD's vision is of active communities shaping their own futures with improved opportunity and quality of life for all.



The **Community Council of Devon** (CCD) is an independent charitable company, offering advice and support to Devon's rural communities since 1961. CCD is supported by Defra, Devon's local authorities, trusts, foundations and other partners.

Membership: We welcome new members, whether you are an individual or organisation working within Devon or simply wish to support the work of the Community Council. For details of our membership scheme please contact the Office Manager on 01392 382533. Membership subscriptions run from April to March each year.

Village Green is available to all full and supporting members of the Community Council of Devon and to all members of Devon Association of Local Councils and Devon Association of Community Buildings. It is no longer available on a subscription only basis. If you would like additional copies mailed to the same address, these are available at a cost of £6 per annum (four quarterly editions). Where appropriate, please circulate this magazine to all your committee members or fellow parish/town Councillors.

Advertise to our readers: Village Green circulates 3000 copies every quarter and has over 11,000 readers in organisations and communities throughout Devon. If you would like to advertise in Village Green please contact Grant Harrison at: Zara Media & Design, 14 Kingfisher Court, Venny Bridge, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8JN. Tel: 01392 201227. Email: info@zaramedia.co.uk.

Be a contributor: We welcome all contributions to Village Green but regret that we cannot guarantee publication and we reserve the right to edit for reasons of space or style.

Village Green 123

2011 is the Community Council's 50th Anniversary. Look for details in the next edition.

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From the Chief Exec's Desk

What an autumn it has been. We were delighted that Stuart Burgess, who chairs the Commission for Rural Communities, agreed to address our annual conference at Woolsery. We were overwhelmed when The Princess Royal agreed to open it. And then it was all hands to the pump managing the huge local interest and the security aspects. I was extremely proud of the team on the day.

A week earlier we had just mounted our first ever Westminster briefing for Devon MPs. They, like many Council

leaders, were very interested in our Big Society paper – making it work for Devon.

All this high profile activity is for a very important purpose. The spending cuts recently announced, and the challenge they present to local authorities and families, will put severe pressure on many, including those least able to cope. The Community Council wants to make sure that the needs of rural Devon are reflected in any new thinking.

Now perhaps is the time to take a fresh look at town and

parish plans, and respond to the call for 'Big Society'. If families, communities and local groups are to compensate for big cutbacks in the social safety net, during a time of financial hardship, they need respect for what they have already achieved, and guidance to achieve more.

2011 is the Community Council's fiftieth anniversary. We will be using it to highlight the enormous strength and resilience within Devon's communities, and to ensure they have the best possible advice in order to turn



JAY TALBOT
Chief Executive

challenges into opportunities.

Ideas on Devon's 'Big Society' go to Parliament

Representatives from the Community Council visited MPs at the Houses of Parliament in October to share their ideas on how the Big Society can work for Devon's communities.

The visit was organised by the Community Council's Jay Talbot and Gary Streeter MP and was attended by MPs and their researchers.

"The aim of our visit was to highlight the good practice that is already happening in many areas of our county and share ideas about how the Big Society can work for the good of Devon's communities.

Across Devon, communities are already used to being self-reliant and neighbourly. There is a great opportunity here to build on the foundations that currently exist, such as our Parish and Town Councils, effectively run community buildings and high levels of community plans and volunteering" Jay said.

However he added "Individuals and groups need to feel supported and positive about more power being given to communities. There must be practical support in place to help them understand and to adjust to any changes. And communities must not be taken for granted".

The response of the MPs was very positive "It was a particularly

hectic day in Parliament, so we were delighted that three MPs and aides for 2 others showed such interest" commented Jay.

"All of them indicated that they wanted us to keep them informed and continue the dialogue, and those who couldn't attend are also now following this up".



Jay Talbot and Sue Southwell visit Devon MPs in Westminster

Back from Oz!

We are delighted to welcome back Paul Edwards. Paul previously worked for CCD back in 2007 as a member of the community planning team. He now joins us again, replacing Charlotte McEvoy, on a temporary contract until the end of the migrant workers project in March 2011.

New Staff

We would also like to welcome Michelle Farley as Office Manager who replaces Marilyn Evans, and Becky Horner as Admin Assistant who is with us on a temporary contract.

Welcome ABoard

We have three new Trustees joining the Community Council's Board. Gay Hill is the new Devon Association of Local Councils representative replacing Margaret Squires. At the Annual General Meeting, Roy Turner (Woolsery Parish Council and affordable housing scheme) and Linda Bealey (working for TorrAGE and much involved with Young Farmers) were elected. They replace Mollie Hemens and Juliet Williams whose terms had come to an end.

The Princess Royal calls on rural communities to 'crack on' with affordable housing

The Princess Royal urged more support for affordable rural housing schemes in Devon as she praised the achievements of two Devon villages, at the Community Council of Devon's Annual Conference. She flew into Woolsery, to hear about the successes and challenges of building affordable houses for locals.

In an inspirational speech in the award winning Community Hall she called on rural communities to 'crack on' with affordable housing developments, saying they could 'make a huge positive difference' to those living in rural areas. "I would strongly encourage those who have thought about it...to give it a go" she said.



The Princess Royal's inspirational address

Conference Photography by Graham Hobbs



The Princess Royal visits an affordable housing site under development at Woolsery. Accompanying her are the Community Council's President and Lord Lieutenant, Eric Dancer, with Chairman David Baker, and Dr Stuart Burgess, who chairs the Commission for Rural Communities

The Princess then visited a Devon affordable housing success story, across the road from the Community Hall, where the building of twelve homes is underway.

Rural housing is usually the top of the list of public concerns in the countryside. Over the past 5 years communities themselves, with the help of our Rural Housing team, have identified a need for over 1400 affordable homes in our villages.

Her address was followed by a keynote speech by Dr Stuart Burgess, the Chair of the Commission for Rural Communities. He talked of the challenges facing both communities and government, and the need to 'hold the balance' between landscape protection and evolving rural settlements.

The 150 delegates who packed the conference later took part in a debate on rural housing issues, chaired by Alan Qualtrough, Editor of the Western Morning News. A full conference report is available from the publications page of our website or from our Admin office.

Coming soon – a new improved website

The time has come to say goodbye to our current website. Listening to comments from some of our customers earlier this year we realised that it was due an overhaul. At nearly ten years old we have definitely had our value for money from it, with most websites being updated on average every four years.

Our new website will go live early in the New Year. It will be much more user friendly, so that you can find the information you need quickly and easily. It will also have up to date capabilities like on-line booking for training and events and a donation facility. Over time we also hope to develop our member's area. With luck this will see us through for another ten years!

Opening hours for Christmas and New Year



CCD offices will be closed at 5pm on Thursday 23rd December and will re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 4th January.

Seasonal greetings and best wishes for a peaceful New Year to all readers of Village Green.

Two housing developments given glowing praise by The Princess Royal

Princess Anne presented awards to two Devon villages that have made outstanding contributions towards providing affordable housing in their areas at CCD's annual conference in October.

The awards recognise publicly, albeit in a small way, the massive contribution that community volunteers make to achieving affordable housing in rural areas. This year there were two categories – one for the **Most inspirational individual** and one for the **Most effective housing group**.

Irene Matthews received the



Most Effective Community award on behalf of the High Bickington Community Property Trust. The judges were particularly

impressed by the level of community involvement in this project and the wide range of the vision.

Pam Johns Chair of The Holsworthy Community Property Trust won the award for the Most Inspirational Individual. Her effective communication skills were praised by the judges along with her leadership skills

The Devon Rural Housing Awards, now in their 3rd year, were sponsored by Torridge District Council. The judges were Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Exeter, Colin Molton, Regional Director of the Homes and Communities Agency in the south west and Dr Richard Yarwood from Plymouth University.

‘Big Society’ - Getting the debate going



Dr Stuart Burgess addresses the Community Council's annual conference at Woolsery

At the end of September, the Community Council published a short paper titled ‘Big Society’: making it work for Devon. [this is available from our website newpage – date 27th September – or from our Admin office]. It has been very well received in many quarters.

Locally, we have strong support from Devon County Council Chief Executive Phil Norrey and hope to get it on their Cabinet agenda. It has also been welcomed by a number of other Councils and is up for discussion at the Devon Districts Forum. In central government our link at the Rural Communities Policy Unit has circulated it within Defra and to other Government departments.

Dr Stuart Burgess, who chairs the Commission for Rural Communities, described it as excellent in his presentation at our annual conference. He intends to use it to influence Government Minister Caroline Spellman and their Big Society advisor Philip Blond.

Our hope is that the initiative will not only work for rural communities, but will benefit from our practical experience in Devon.

CCD MEMBERS FORUM

Members met on 4th October to discuss Renewable Energy solutions for communities.

Paul Baker from DARE (Devon Association for Renewable Energy) gave a presentation covering

- Wind turbines
- Solar energy
- Hydro electric
- Biomass
- Heat pumps

Special thanks also to Rachel Coaker for telling us about the Rattery Village Hall Solar Voltaic installation and the issues they had to resolve with FITs (Feed In Tariffs)

NEXT MEETING - Monday 10th January 2011

The Rural and Community Transport Team

Community Transport is the provision of non-profit making transport for members of the community who do not have suitable conventional public transport services available for their travel needs. This is a problem experienced by some rural parishes within the County, but it is also because some residents find that they are physically unable to use the bus service on offer.

Community Transport tackles this problem by involving local people in the identification of transport needs within their community, and devising solutions. Devon County Council

actively promotes this process by forming partnerships to organise, develop and run these alternative transport schemes to best serve the community needs.

Devon County Council's Rural and Community Transport Team provides advice, support and some financial assistance to help keep Community Transport services on the road. Karen Rose, Rural and Community Transport Adviser said;

"The team provides support and advice to existing voluntary and community transport groups and to local communities

wanting to address the transport needs in their area. This includes help with identifying the most appropriate transport solutions, updating groups on changes to legislation, signposting to expert bodies and the practicalities of setting up new transport projects".

The Team also works at a strategic level to raise the profile of transport issues. This includes encouraging organisations to think about transport and access issues when planning new services and taking an active role in developing strategies and policies. The Community Transport Team look at the

provision of services on a county wide basis and try to ensure that there is no duplication, that services are integrated where possible and that the best use is made of existing resources.

If you would like to talk to the Team, they can be contacted using the following details:

Rural and Community Transport Team, Transport Co-ordination Service, Devon County Council, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QW
01392 382123
comtrans@devon.gov.uk

Community transport award winners



Earlier this year, Devon County Council organised an awards ceremony to honour those who have made outstanding contributions to community transport.

The Winners

Pauline May
Outstanding Lifetime Contribution Award

Terry Chapple
Employee of the Year

KingsCare League of Friends
Best Fundraising Campaign/Event

Exeter Community Transport Association
Outstanding People Development award

North Devon Theatres Group
Most Innovative Project

Ann Wilson
Community Transport Volunteer of the Year

Volunteer awards were also presented to: Bert Cloke, Barbara Davies, Nina Dutton, Jean Harris, Fred, and Arran Wilkins in recognition of their contributions.

All nominations were considered by a judging panel consisting of representatives from Devon County Council, the Community Council of Devon & Involve - Voluntary Action in Mid Devon.

Councillor Stuart Hughes, Devon County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, said: "We received plenty of nominations that were worthy of an award so there were certainly no easy decisions for the judging panel.

"This award ceremony is a small way to recognise the efforts of those involved in community transport and this year's new categories provided even more opportunity to honour those who made such important contributions to our local communities. Not everyone can win an award but all of those involved have shown outstanding dedication and commitment that deserves our thanks."

Devon County Council Press Office

A Service Users Guide

Useful booklets on accessing services in Torridge, North Devon, Mid Devon and West Devon have been produced by local transport and access groups, with financial support from Devon County Council and District Councils.

A wide range of information is included in the publications, such as how to access

transport, health facilities, young and older people's services, money advice and leisure activities.

The information is also available through the internet

West Devon – www.westdevonservices.co.uk
 Mid Devon – www.involve-middevon.org.uk/accessguide
 North Devon – www.northdevonservices.co.uk

Torridge – www.torridgeservices.co.uk

Devon County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, Councillor Stuart Hughes said

"I am very pleased to be supporting this initiative. There is a lot of information in the booklets. Many people are unaware of the options that are

available and these booklets are an excellent opportunity to coordinate a wide range of information into local reference points. I hope more people will now benefit from the services that are available within Devon."

Call the Community Transport Team at Devon County Council on 01392 382123 to request a copy for your area.

THE TARKA LINE

The Tarka Line runs for 40 miles through beautiful Devon countryside and links Exeter and the main line network with communities along its length, ending up at Barnstaple, where the station serves many towns and villages in north Devon.

There are 12 stations. The biggest and busiest is, not surprisingly, Barnstaple and the smallest and least used is Chapelton. Every train stops at six intermediate "railhead" stations (Crediton, Yeoford, Copplestone, Morchard Road, Eggesford and Umberleigh) whereas Newton St Cyres, Lapford, Kings Nympton and Portsmouth Arms have a more limited service.



A Community Railway

The Tarka Line has been officially designated as a Community Railway - and with good reason! Firstly it is a vital transport link for the rural

communities within the catchment area of the line. Its worth was demonstrated last winter when the Tarka Line was the only way to reach parts of mid and north Devon when roads were closed! Secondly,

the communities themselves are involved in looking after the stations - although more volunteers would always be welcome! Each station (bar one) has been adopted by a group of local people, and a station floral competition is run each year by the Tarka Rail Association with Sponsorship from First Great Western.

With so much countryside to enjoy within a stones throw of the railway, the Tarka Rail Association has published an award winning free glossy Tarka Line Walks booklet containing walks from each station along the line. It can be obtained by ringing 01752 233094.

John Phillips
Tarka Rail Association

Transport For Your Community – “Just Ask” Campaign

There are over 80 community transport schemes operating across Devon, run by local charities and not for profit groups. They make a huge difference to the lives of people across the county, particularly for residents in rural areas – and it is in many cases thanks to the dedication of volunteers.

Over the past few months, individual Community Transport schemes operating across Devon have been working together to create a new identity to:

raise awareness of the

services they provide, to highlight their profile with funders and

to recruit new volunteers to assist in the delivery of their services.

The result has been a marketing toolkit, which brings schemes together under one collective banner whilst retaining their valued independence and local identities.

During 2010 the 'Transport For Your Community - Just Ask' DVD was launched. The DVD is supported by leaflets and display information, and a website

hosted by Devon County Council.

Councillor Stuart Hughes, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, said:

"The 'Transport For Your Community' brand brings together the many individual Community Transport Schemes under one collective identity whilst retaining their valued independence and local individuality."

"It is hoped that the new united identity will help raise awareness of the services provided by the

various organisations and attract new users, as well as recruit volunteers and encourage vital funding."

Individual Community Transport schemes around Devon can join the network and use these new marketing tools to promote their services to those who really need them.

To find out more about the campaign and to view the short film on line, please visit our new website at www.tfyc.org.uk, or call 01392 382123.

An alternative for rural public transport in Devon – the Fare Car

Many rural areas are served by a conventional service bus. But for some more isolated communities, a bus service is only available once or twice a week to their nearest town.

With an increasing number of people living in rural areas having access to a car, leading to a low demand, alternatives have been sought to the conventional service. The Fare Car serves remote rural areas, the first of which began in Devon in 2000.

Fare Cars are public transport services provided by taxis and

Private Hire cars. They run to regular timetabled arrival and departure times in towns from around 0800 to 1800 if required, but operate according to demand in rural areas generally where there is no bus service. They operate to several designated points in town centres, often including supermarkets, the hospital and/or the Doctors surgery. Therefore providing a door-to-door service for most people.

Anyone can use it, but you must book up to a day in advance, normally with the taxi operator. When you book, you

need to specify which journey(s) you will be using, and the taxi operator will give you a pick-up time from your address before you travel. Fares are no more than £3.50 per person per trip.

The network of Fare Cars has been progressively expanded to include additional parishes that did not previously have access to daily public transport. There are now 12 services covering many rural areas of Devon. Further expansion is unlikely to occur in the foreseeable future due to Government spending cuts.

For further information on whether your village is covered, please look at the Devon County Council website www.devon.gov.uk/fare-car or call 01392 382800. For information on bus times, ring 0871 200 22 33 or look on the interactive bus map on the website:

<http://www.journeydevon.co.uk>.

If you need a bus timetable covering services in your local area or a Fare Car leaflet, ring 01392 382800.

Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association

We are a registered charity based in Ivybridge which provides transport for the elderly, disabled or residents rurally isolated in villages within the South Hams.

The Association provides 2 services:

Ring & Ride



This is a weekly shopping service provided by our 2 minibuses. They visit a different village every day and offer a door to door service for these residents to the nearest shops, banks, post offices and

supermarkets. Both vehicles are wheelchair accessible so people who are wheelchair bound are delighted to use the service and be able to go shopping independently.

Many of these shopping services have also become social outings; every week friends catch up on all the news and often have a cup of tea in the local cafes while waiting for the bus to return them home.

Voluntary Car Services

This service is for more personal appointments like visiting the doctors, dentists, hospital or just to visit friends. A team of volunteers use their own cars to provide the transport and take these groups of people to their various appointments

These transport services

provides a vital link for the elderly, disabled and people who are rurally isolated. Many of these groups of people are unable to walk very far, have no transport of their own, are not able to use public transport, and in many cases there is no public transport available for them to use.

By accessing community transport it allows them their independence and without it many of these people would be housebound and their quality of life seriously diminished.

Dave Simpson
Co-ordinator for IDCTA
www.idcta.co.uk



Ivybridge & District Community Bus

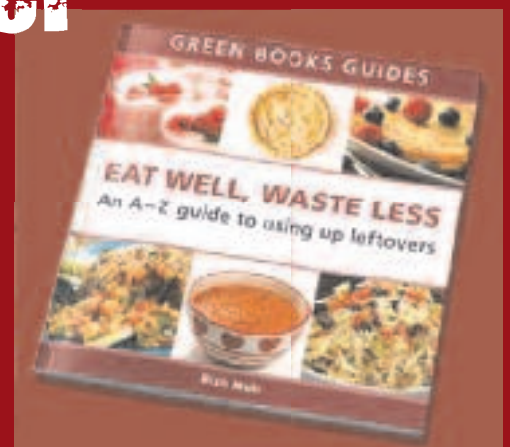


This Christmas give your leftovers a makeover

This Christmas don't let your leftovers go to waste, turn them into something really tasty with the help of our FREE cookbook. Less food waste to landfill, more cash in your pocket.

To get some inspiration visit www.recycledevon.org

Don't let Devon go to waste



Clever Christmas cooks

Make that kitchen full of food go further this Christmas, and save money by re-using festive food in clever ways.

12 tips of Christmas

Let's face it, we all buy more food than we end up needing at Christmas - but the left-overs don't have to go to waste. Stick these twelve top tips to your fridge for on-hand ideas on how to re-use extra food in delicious ways.

1 Heat small amounts of left-over mincemeat in a pan and spoon over ice cream for an alternative Christmas pudding. 2 Stilton can be frozen ready to make cheese

sauce to go with seasonal winter veg in January. 3 Freeze left-over gravy to use as a flavourful base for soup at another time. 4 Freeze left-over bread sauce - as long it hasn't been frozen before. It's great with roasted game birds.

5 Chestnuts are highly perishable. To keep them fresh, put in a plastic bag in the fridge salad box. You can also freeze any that won't be eaten over Christmas. 6 Pile left-over smoked salmon on toasted bagels, spread with cream cheese and sprinkle with lemon juice and black pepper, or mix into scrambled eggs for a Boxing Day breakfast.

7 Delicate puddings can be frozen on a large plastic box lid, with the bottom of the box over the top.

8 Shops closed and you only have a day old loaf? Hold it very briefly under a running cold tap. Give it a good shake and pop in a hot oven for about ten minutes; it will be as soft and crusty as freshly baked bread. 9 Whip left-over cream before freezing to stop it becoming grainy when thawed. 10

If you're making your own mince pies, freeze them uncooked so they're on standby - just bake a few at a time when visitors call. 11 Slice left-over jacket potatoes into wedges and scatter with left-over cheese and strips of bacon, salami or ham. Try a drizzle of pesto or chilli sauce, bake until crispy and serve with salad and pickles. 12 Turn left-over turkey into that great Boxing Day favourite, curry.

The ultimate re-use recipe



Devon celeb chef Paul Da-Costa-Greaves has whipped up an easy Christmas

pudding ice cream recipe for Love Christmas hate waste, which turns leftover pud into a fruity ice cream which would be perfect on New Year's Eve.



Left-over Christmas pudding
Left-over custard

1. Put the Christmas pudding into a suitable bowl and microwave until warm.
2. Add the custard - you'll need a good half-pint.
3. Mix well and transfer to a plastic container suitable for freezing and place in the freezer for a couple of hours until frozen.
4. Remove and enjoy!

GET MORE INFO AND RECIPES

For other useful recipes visit: www.recycledevon.org/lovefood

Or for more information on the Don't let Devon go to waste campaign: Tel. 0845 4502477.

Email: info@recycledevon.org www.recycledevon.org

Don't let Devon go to waste

**LOVE
FOOD**
hate waste

Is this the Key?

It might be odd to start an article about transport with parking. However, I am sure that this is one of the more regular topics at most town and village council meetings.

Our medieval towns and villages were not designed for the car and are rapidly becoming elongated car parks. How are we going to accommodate more vehicles as households acquire a second and third cars?

As residents we feel we have the right to park close to our homes. Yet at the same time we all recognise the loss of amenity value from streets lined with cars.

Maybe that is where a car club could be really helpful.

Moorcar started in 2002 with



only one lease car and six members. We now have nine modern fuel efficient vehicles in five towns and have registered over two hundred members. Most people join to make the occasional journeys that would normally require a family owning a second car which of course would have to be parked somewhere.

The advantages of a car club are that you join for a year and only show your documents once. Then make a booking online for as little as an hour or a couple of days. You only pay for the hours you use the car and a mileage rate for the distance you travel.

Studies from Europe and the US show that a car club car can replace up to 25 privately owned

vehicles. We estimate that in Ashburton where Moorcar started we have replaced up to twenty vehicles which would have had to be parked on-street.



The voluntary group behind Moorcar has also started another car club www.e-cocars.com. Like Moorcar, members can book a car on-line but we have added the opportunity to book using a smartphone. The cars are fitted with telematics; this records all journeys remotely and lets members open the car with their personal smartcard.

We will shortly have four vehicles with reserved parking at Totnes and Newton Abbot railway stations to encourage more visitors and businesses to take the train and use the car club car for the short onward trips.

Jeremy Farr

The National Bus Pass

The National Bus Pass entitles the pass-holder to free off peak travel on local buses anywhere in England.

The pass is available to older people or those with certain disabilities.

How can I apply?

If your sole or principal residence is one of the council areas of Devon; Exeter City, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge or West Devon (East Devon from 1st April 2011) you can apply by contacting:

Concessionary Bus Travel Room 18, Matford Offices County Hall, Topsham Road Exeter EX2 4QW Telephone 01392 383688 or 01271 383688.

nationalbuspass@devon.gov.uk

A booklet and application form will be posted to you. The booklet and application form are available in large print, audio tape and CD for the visually impaired.

Eligible residents from other council areas should contact their local council for details of how to apply for a National Bus Pass.

Devon wheels 2 work continues to support local people

Devon Wheels 2 Work provides personal transport solutions to individuals 16-65 throughout Devon to enable them to get to places of training, education employment and social activities.

Devon Wheels 2 Work loans out scooters, motorcycles and mopeds for six month periods and beyond enabling people to get on their feet and ultimately afford to buy their own transport. They can even buy the bike they ride!

Riders pay from as little as £22 per week for a fully insured, taxed and maintained 50cc machine, to £36 per week for a

125cc machine. Beneficiaries of the project need a provisional UK drivers licence and a current and valid CBT certificate.

Included in the loan fee Devon Wheels 2 Work provides a European approved protective motorcycle jacket and gloves, the safety helmet works on a one rider, one helmet basis and must be purchased by the rider. Our organisation can provide this facility at a subsidised rate of £40.

Our organisation runs a fully fitted professional motorcycle service and repair workshop alongside a VOSA approved motorcycle MOT facility, we

employ fully qualified technicians and offer motorcycle related support services to the general public. We are hoping that by increasing demand for this facility we can become self

sustaining and not having to rely so much on funding.

Contact Aprille Eaton Phone 0845 0944308 www.devonwheels2work.co.uk



The Challenges of coping with extreme winter weather

This issue of Village Green is about how we move around Devon. However sometimes that is not easy – and not just because our community is not on a frequent bus route. Floods, hail, ice, snow – extreme weather events could become more frequent and we in Devon need to be prepared and ready to respond. Following the last two years' severe winters, councils, transport officials and the emergency services know that it is vital for us all to work together and share information in order to keep Devon moving and help communities to help themselves.

On 28th September, Devon County Council, in partnership with the Met Office, hosted a knowledge-sharing conference looking at what we've learnt, planning resilience, care for the community and self-help advice. This free conference was attended by the emergency services, Highways Agency, NHS, Environment Agency, district councils, parish and town councils, businesses, schools, transport operators, and local media.

The presentations from the conference, together with videos from the event can be seen at <http://www.devon.gov.uk/print/extrameventsconference>.

A lot of work has been done since the severe weather of the last two winters. There is now a new plan to deal with severe weather conditions that might affect Haldon and Telegraph Hills. There are some excellent factsheets and information leaflets available designed to help communities prepare for, and deal with, bad weather conditions. For instance, Extreme Events Factsheet 1 – keeping Devon's Roads Moving deals with what the County

Council can and cannot do if snow and ice make travelling difficult.

Self Help:

There is a lot that local councils and individuals in communities can do to help themselves. Supply Zone (tel 01392 384600) can supply not for profit organisations and parish councils with salt and equipment to spread it. DCC are going to pilot Snow Wardens – local volunteers who are willing to undertake some limited training, be a contact for DCC, know where to access information and who will then be insured under the DCC insurance to direct snow clearance e.g. on footways. Also the insurance situation about householders liability if they clear snow and ice from pavements has been clarified. As long as householders carry out clearance in a responsible manner (that is, not in a way which would create a greater hazard like pouring water on the ground which might freeze), then they do not need to worry about claims for damages.

Grit Bins:

These are expensive to fill, and need to be used just for the public highway. Each grit bin will now have an identifying number on a sticker inside, along with instructions on how to make the best use of the contents. It seems that a table spoon of salt/grit can go a long way!

The key messages that came out of the conference that would help us all keep traffic moving on Devon's roads in winter conditions can be summed up below:

- Know what Devon County Council will do
- Know what you can do
- Know what information is available
- Act now, be prepared

The government unveils its 'localist' transport fund

The government has unveiled plans for a new Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

Local transport minister, Norman Baker MP, has announced that the fund will "challenge local transport authorities outside London to develop packages of measures that support economic growth and reduce carbon in their communities as well as delivering cleaner environments, improved safety and increased levels of physical activity".

Measures could include encouraging walking and cycling, initiatives to improve integration between travel modes, better public transport and improved traffic management schemes.

The government also announced that it intends to create fewer but larger funding streams.

Mr Baker said: "It is at a local level that most can be done to change patterns of behavior and



LESLEY SMITH
County Secretary

encourage more sustainable travel, especially for short journeys."

"And in an environment of tighter budgets and greater local flexibility, the government is determined to reduce bureaucracy and make local transport funding more efficient."

Funding for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund will be set aside from within the department's overall funding allocation following conclusion of the Spending Review.

Details about the new fund, including the resources available and how it will operate, will be announced later in the year.



helping communities help themselves

CCD Consultancy carries out commissioned research and consultancy in the following areas:

- **Community Planning:** including Village and Town Appraisals, Design Statements, Parish Plans and Planning for Real.
- **Participation and Engagement:** including Community Consultations, Strategies and Partnerships, Market and Coastal Town Initiatives.
- **Social Inclusion:** including Assessment of Need, Outreach Work and Participation Styles.
- **Affordable Housing:** including Housing Needs Surveys and Assembling partnerships.
- **Rural Transport:** including Surveys and Appraisals.
- **Rural Training:** through the Devon Rural Training Unit, CCD can provide, promote or broker training courses tailored for rural communities.

To discuss your project please contact CCD Consultancy on:

Community Council of Devon
County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 1QB
• 01392 363443 • 01392 362062 • info@devonrcc.org.uk

Women Do Business opens new Women's Business Centre in North Devon

Having established the first dedicated Women's Business Centre in the South West last summer, a new Business Centre has just launched to serve women across North Devon. It will run from the Amory Centre in South Molton and will offer a range of services including a menu of training and development workshops, mentoring, action learning and a host of on-line support services including free membership of the Women Do Business supplier directory.

The launch of the centre was marked by a Business Showcase event at the Assembly Rooms in South Molton on October 12th. This not only enabled women to promote their business and network with other local business

women but also provided access throughout the day to a range of business support providers, including Business Link.

Free developmental workshops were also on offer - one offering a wealth of information on surviving and thriving in the current economic climate and the other focusing on maintaining a healthy work/life balance whilst running your business. Attendees were

also able to check out the opportunities open to them via Women Do Business and to advance book onto the upcoming training workshops.

Local business owner, Penny Blower, who runs an image consultancy business, said 'the whole day has been really fantastic and I have booked appointments with a number of new clients from my stand here today'.

Women Do Business is also supporting a number of women's business networks across the county. These include one for women-owned businesses across a wide variety of sectors meeting monthly in South Molton, and another for women involved in arts related businesses, based in nearby Great Torrington. There are also networks running across Greater Dartmoor, South Devon and in Tiverton.

More information about the Women Do Business programme can be gained from the website www.womendobusinessdevon.org.uk or by calling the Women Do Business Team on 01392 383443.



HOGCO UPDATE

The Home Grown: Community Owned (HogCO) project currently has two groups negotiating agreements with the National Trust to lease land for community growing.

Broadclyst Community Farm near Killerton, East Devon received its first pigs recently, so members can look forward to free range sausages and pork ready for Christmas.

Six young pigs immediately took to their new paddock, rooting around in long grass and eating apples and bread from their trough. The pigs have been purchased with money raised through supporter donations. They will be looked after on a twice-daily basis by the farm's volunteer Livestock Group.

Broadclyst Community Farm has also been approved for a community tree planting pack of 420 sapling trees from the Woodland Trust. People are encouraged to get involved in planting the saplings at Broadclyst Community Farm Open Day on 13th November (11 am - 3 pm).

Broadclyst Community Farm is run entirely by volunteers, who are planning to develop a social enterprise on their 32 acres including a farm shop, orchard, livestock, fruit and veg plots and more.

The Buckland Food Growers are currently negotiating with the National Trust for land at Buckland Abbey, West Devon which includes a paddock for their pigs, an orchard and part of

a field (probably almost 2 acres for the fruit and veg!). They are also planning to have chickens and bees, make cider and more.

They will soon be getting some advice on landscaping design, with the Director of Landbased

Learning from the Embercombe Project advising their group, funded by HogCO.

To find out more about the HogCO project contact Sophia or Jane on 01392 383423.



Broadclyst Community Farm's Livestock Group with their six young pigs

Devon's Voluntary and Community Sector – the facts

A 'Baseline Study for Devon' undertaken by independent company Ekosgen and managed by the Community Council was completed in September and has now been published.

There are about 3750 organisations with formal structures and probably twice as many operating informally. The study estimates that the sector is a significant economic force. It employs about 28,000 people in Devon and has a combined income of about £750 million.

The majority of organisations that responded to the survey were well-established, with 65% operating for over 16 years, and one third delivering to more than 500 beneficiaries in the past financial year.

60% of responding organisations were registered charities, 29% were neighbourhood or community groups with a formal constitution, and 20% companies limited by guarantee.

70% provided services to the

general public. The most common services provided are social activities (59%); community development and mutual aid (34%); community buildings (30%); and provision of advice to individuals (30%).

Looking ahead, nearly 70% expected their organisation's expenditure to increase over the next three years, but only 38% felt that income would rise, with 32% expecting it to fall.

The study was commissioned by Devon Consortium through its

Lottery funded 'Total Support' programme. It is available for free download from the Consortium website:

www.devonconsortium.net

Or you can contact the Consortium on 01392 202055 or email:

info@devonconsortium.net

for more information. There will be a link also from the front news page of the Community Council's website.

Success in Devon!! - CASE investments awarded to two excellent community enterprises

In September news broke that the first two projects in Devon had been successful with their applications to the Community and Social Enterprise (CASE) fund.

Cullompton Community Centre

This project led by the local Parochial Church Council had their bid approved for £700,000 towards the total project cost of around £1.5 million. The new build community centre will serve the town and surrounding rural parishes with a range of facilities and services planned. Flexibility of design has been key, from small meeting rooms and office space to a venue where amateur dramatics could be put on with a seating capacity of up to 182 people. It will also have full disability access and a greatly reduced carbon footprint by using green technology.

Sparrowhawk Centre, Moretonhampstead

This project is led by the Moretonhampstead Development trust. They received approval for a grant of £170,000 towards their £500,000

project. They will redevelop the old school building in the centre of town into a community owned hub for local services including; community business offices, exhibition and workshop space for local artisans, a youth centre and the relocation of the adult & community learning centre into more accessible and modern premises.

The Social Enterprise team at the Community Council of Devon provide a facilitation service for community enterprises who want to apply to this fund – PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE AN INVESTMENT READY PROJECT that provides sustainable services to rural communities. Contact: Dawn Eckhart, Social Enterprise Advisor on 01392 383681 or dawn@devonrcc.org.uk, or Charlotte Weedon, Community Projects Officer on 01392 383345 or charlotte2@devonrcc.org.uk



Spreyton Community Shop's top ten tips to success

In July 2007 Spreyton lost its village shop. This year Spreyton Community Shop opened for business. Here are their top ten tips to avoid pitfalls and achieve success:

A well-structured committee (optimum 8 members), who are competent, determined and resourceful. Have others as part of sub-groups if needed. Don't rely on just a few people.

Key to the committee is a good 'finance' man: must be experienced with business plans and the assumptions that underpin the figures.

Ascertain what the village wants: questionnaires, canvassing, set up a stall at all local events and engage with people to work out what is needed in your village.

Be realistic about what you plan to achieve – it must be in proportion to the village. Come up with a project plan to pull the strands of work together in a timely, coordinated manner.

May need cash flow (we needed £20k) to be underwritten by locals/committee (as some funders pay in arrears).

Ensure you engage key partners in the project: local people, local businesses, local government and the Plunkett Foundation. The shop committee worked closely with the village hall, the Parish Council, the Community Council of Devon, West Devon Borough Council, Devon County Council and our local MP. The project would have been nigh-on impossible without the Plunkett Foundation.

Fund a part-time manager from the start: it reduces the volunteer workload, provides continuity and establishes best practice from the outset.

Know (or learn) where you need professional help and employ someone.

Carry people with you, manage your internal village marketing sensitively, say thank you and maintain goodwill.

Stick to it – its hard work but rewarding. Be positive!

Mrs Roo Haywood Smith
Chairman, Spreyton Village Shop Committee

Dates for your diary		From December 2010		Devon Rural Training Unit	
Course	Date	Location	Venue	Who should attend	
New Clerks Short Course	7th Dec	Teignbridge	The Kenn Centre, Nr Exeter	Parish/Town Council Clerks and Deputies	
Pre-Election Briefing	7th Dec	Teignbridge	The Kenn Centre, Nr Exeter	Parish/Town Council Clerks	
Fund It Build It	17th Dec	North Devon	Witheridge Parish Hall	Community Building committee members	
Fund It Build It	10th Jan	East Devon	Broadclyst Victory Hall	Community Building committee members	
Coping with Cuts	19th Jan	Torrige	Beaford Village Hall TBC	Community Building committee members	
Financing Your Community Enterprise	24th Mar	West Devon	Spreyton Village Hall	Community enterprises and organisations	
Funding your Vision	2nd Feb	Teignbridge	Longdown Village Hall	Community enterprises and organisations	
Fund It Build It	10th Feb	Teignbridge	The Kenn Centre, Nr Exeter	Community Building committee members	
HogCO – Veg Growing part 1	15th Feb	Torrige	Riddlecombe	Community Garden Volunteers	
Community Planning Drop In Surgery	4th Mar	Near Exeter	TBC	All welcome	
HogCO – Veg Growing part 2	8th Mar	Torrige	Riddlecombe	Community Garden Volunteers	

Our training programme is developing all the time. If you can't find the training you need, let us know and we aim to help you fulfil your learning needs. Often the specific types of training we offer are only otherwise available out of county or at a prohibitive cost. For any enquiries relating to CCD training events, please contact: Eleanor Rutley on 01392 383443 or email eleanor@devonrcc.org.uk. For any enquiries relating to DALC training events please contact Cara Stobart on 01392 382534 or email cara@devonrcc.org.uk

7 Grants awarded through the County Grant Scheme

7 community buildings received grants in the last round of the County Grant Scheme. As ever, we were overwhelmed with applications and unfortunately could not support all the really good projects taking place.

Farringdon Village Hall: £11,935
 Bishops Nympton Parish Hall: £20,000
 Uplyme Village Hall: £15,500
 Burrington Parish Hall: £15,000
 Hartland Village Hall: £6,399
 Ipplepen Village Hall: £15,000

Congratulations go to the following community buildings who did receive a share of the £88,000 which was allocated:

Roundswell Community Hall: £4,937

For more information on the County Grant Scheme, including application forms and guidance notes, see our website www.devonrcc.org.uk or email grants@devonrcc.org.uk.

Interest free loans

Up to £2,000 is available under the Rural Initiatives Fund. The aim of the fund is to enable groups to overcome cash flow problems by getting an up front loan.

Loans can then be paid back when income from the project comes in or over a period of time, allowing local

fundraising/grant applications to come to fruition.

How do we apply for a loan?

To request an application form or for more information regarding the Rural Initiatives Loan Fund please contact Cara Stobart at cara@devonrcc.org.uk or see below.

County Grant Scheme Deadlines

Community Buildings and Sport and Play
31st December 2010

For more information call 01392 383443 or email grants@devonrcc.org.uk. Information can also be found on our website www.devonrcc.org.uk

Community Hubs project update



The Community Hubs project is delivered by Community Council of Devon in partnership with Exeter Community Initiatives (ECI) and Devon Association of Community Buildings (DACB) as part of the Stronger Communities Programme funded by Devon County Council.

has started at a challenging yet opportune time for Community Buildings in Devon. The challenge remains that of providing appropriate, affordable and local services for the communities at a time when statutory provision and resourcing is being significantly reduced.

innovative services and models of delivery. These are being captured in a series of Exemplar case studies that will be promoted on the CCD website to encourage and inform others.

Year 1 Exemplars:

- **Bridestowe Village Hall**
- **South Brent Old School Centre**
- **Spreyton Village Hall**
- **Winsford Trust**

Year 1 Hubs:

- **Bishops Nympton Village Hall**
- **Blackdown Healthy Living Centre**
- **Isington Village Project**
- **Seaton Voices**
- **Appledore Community Hall**

Community Buildings are potentially well placed to deliver some of these services and address some of the unmet need, especially with the support, training and awareness that the Community Hubs project can provide.

The process of Hub selection in year 1 has highlighted the interest in the support that the Hubs project can offer. Selected Hubs in Devon have been very keen to engage and commit to the intensive support package the project provides.

In addition, other support agencies and Local Authorities are keen to harness the engagement of the project to support projects that they are currently engaged with. The project will be proactively informing and linking with these agencies as the project develops over the next 2 ½ years.

Some community buildings have already established

The Community Hubs project



South Brent Old School Centre

Rattery's Green Energy

It has been a long and sometimes frustrating journey to make our hall eco friendly, but the eventual outcome is positive.

Our hall is completely powered by electricity using about 18,000kw per year. In April 2008 we decided to look at harnessing some green energy. We contacted the Devon Association of Renewable Energy to survey our hall. They concluded that the only avenue for us to explore was to install photovoltaic panels on our large south facing roof to produce electricity.

We attended a presentation by BECO explaining how photovoltaic panels worked and how we could get payments of 9p for every kW of electricity produced plus 5p per kW exported on to the grid. We received an estimate of approximately £90,000 including VAT for an 18.3kW system. This

was the largest installation we were allowed to connect to the grid in Rattery.

We got grants from the Low Carbon Building Programme paying 50% of cost, South Hams District Council contributed £3,550 and Rattery Parish Council £1,500. We were unsuccessful with other applications so paid the remaining £42,000 ourselves.

The system was commissioned on the 10th August 2009, all seemed well until March 2010. We then heard that schemes commissioned between the 15th July 2009 and 31st March 2010 would no longer receive payment for power produced unless grants were paid back. This seemed unbelievable as we were producing power for no return on our investment. Nobody in the government departments could tell us how to go about repaying

the grants to enable us to be entitled to the new feed in tariffs. (FIT)

Fortunately the situation was clarified by a European directive confirming that organisations could keep their grants and still receive FIT payments.

The result is we can now receive approximately £6,000 per annum and free daytime electricity. The original investment could be repaid in

less than 7 years. Payments are guaranteed for 25 years and they will help secure the future of our hall. As well as generating renewable energy the installation saves 9 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

At this point we feel it was worth all the headaches!!

**Rachel Coaker
Rattery Village Hall
Committee**





New BLF funding for Community buildings

The BIG Lottery Fund is investing an additional £75 million specifically for rural and urban community-use buildings through its flagship programme, Reaching Communities.

From early December 2010, voluntary and community sector organisations and parish and town councils across England will be able to apply for capital funding from BIG of between £100,000 to £500,000.

The money will be available for all types of multi-purpose buildings used by communities including community buildings and village halls. Each project should have a total value of no more than £750,000.

A note of caution

Funding for capital work on community buildings costing over £100,000 will only be available in certain areas in England – those most in need of support based on the area's

index of Multiple Deprivation. This information is not available as we go to press, but you will be able to check your eligibility on our website from December. http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities

An online support checker will enable projects to assess their eligibility at a glance, before submitting an outline proposal. Applications will be assessed on a monthly rolling basis taking the pressure off applicants having to rush through an outline proposal. Organisations can register for further information by calling 0845 4 10 20 30.

The Community Council of Devon will be working closely with Big Lottery to maximise the opportunities for community buildings in Devon, see more details on training on page 11 and the enclosed training flyer for community buildings.



Since the launch of Hallmark in Devon in 2007, the scheme has developed from strength to strength. Devon Hallmark is now part of ACRE's nationwide scheme which is now recognised by funders and insurers.

In Devon we currently have 82 community buildings signed up to Hallmark, 30 of which have achieved Hallmark 1, 15 who have achieved Hallmark 2 and 2 which have achieved Hallmark 3.

A Hallmark award lasts for 3 years, so many of those early

recipients will be coming up for review. We will be contacting those committees in due course to arrange review visits to maintain their Hallmark status.

The overall aim of Hallmark is to recognise the good work undertaken by volunteer management committees. It does not criticise the way you work but instead encourages good practice and development. If you would like to find out more about Hallmark, contact Cara Stobart by emailing cara@devonrcc.org.uk.

Get ready for Winter!

Remember those slippery paths and treacherous slopes? To avoid a repeat this winter get your salt orders in early for your community building as well as other organisations and individuals in your village.

Management are offering exceptional value on rock salt this Winter. DACB members have an exclusive offer of a 4% rebate on all Supply Zone orders (and 2% over £1000 total spend pa).

Place your order now by ringing 01392 384600.



Use your local Community Building and reduce CO2 emissions

Do you find yourself using the car getting yourself or your family to leisure activities, health appointments, and meetings?

Well there may be another way that involves less cost, time and inconvenience. That is the option of these activities and services being available in your local community building or village hall.

Research conducted by CCD in 2007/8 found that a total of 2,000 tonnes of CO2 was saved per year through accessing local activities and saving the journey

miles to alternative venues. This example is one based on a community building interviewed as part of the research.

Example of Community building 'X'

Yoga is attended by 12 people who probably would go to Tavistock (10 mile round trip). 40 weeks x 12 people x 10 miles = 4,800 miles

Villages in Action deliver performances 4 times a year. They sell out, 60 full capacity. This audience would otherwise have to go to Exeter or Plymouth

for music and entertainment. 60 people x 11 x 8miles = 3,540 miles

Total = 8,340 miles saved per year

How much CO2 could your village save by accessing services in your hall? Enter the mileage you could save into this web based calculator www.climatecare.org/calculators/car/

If your community building doesn't currently offer an activity or service which you access elsewhere talk to the

management committee and see how it might be delivered on your doorstep.



Government strategy for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise groups

The Office for Civil Society has published its strategy for the sector. Nick Hurd, the Minister for Civil Society, also launched a consultation on how best to provide advice, training and funding to front line groups.

There are promises to reduce 'red tape'. Whilst funding is less than in the past there is a new 'transition fund' to help organisations with the challenges created by funding cuts.

The Government's analysis, and their earlier announcement on abolition of a number of quangos serving the sector, imply a reduced role for umbrella

organisations.

They hint that there are too many such bodies mopping up too much funding. Instead they suggest a greater role for the private sector, the internet and peer-to-peer networks.

You can contribute to the debate on improving support for 'frontline civil society organisations' up to the 6th January.

Both documents can be found from the Cabinet Office website [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk] or via the Community Council's news page [item dated 26 October].

Making sense of 'the CUTS'

The massive reductions in public spending announced in the autumn will have many intended and unintended affects. Job losses, service closures, grant reductions, along with tax increases, will affect health and care services, public transport routes and costs, housing programmes and most aspects of daily life. It remains unclear in most cases how quickly and how deeply.

Housing benefit changes, and less funds for new housing, could undermine progress recently achieved in improving affordable housing in our villages. Transport funding will be reduced by 21%

and this is almost bound to mean less rural buses. There will be less help for the disabled.

The local authority dimension is now being calculated. Unlike some neighbouring counties there are signs that our principal councils are listening to the public and not panicking. The Police Authority are upbeat about their service.

The hope that communities and local groups can take on more in future, will be compromised by grant reductions, and financial and caring pressures on individual families.

Devon Countryside Access Forum

Applications for membership of the Devon Countryside Access Forum are now being accepted. The Forum is a statutory forum, set up under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000. Its role is to give independent advice on the improvement of public access to land in Devon for open-air recreation and enjoyment. There are fifteen members of the forum, representing land managers, access users and other interests.

Over the past year the Forum

has responded to a number of consultations including those related to coastal access, Forestry Commission land, Local Development Framework documents, Devon's recreational route network and rural health.

The Forum meets three times a year and, in addition, has occasional working group meetings and site visits.

In this round of appointments applications from landowners or land managers would be particularly welcome. The

closing date is January 29th 2011.

For further information and application forms please contact the Forum Officer:

E-mail: hilary.winter@devon.gov.uk

Tel: 07837 171000

By post: Devon Countryside Access Forum, Lucombe House, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QW

Devon Consortium welcomes a new Chair

The Devon Consortium has appointed a new Chair, Diana Crump. She takes over from Alistair Macintosh. Alistair had chaired the Consortium since its launch almost six year ago.

Diana, whose day job is Chief Executive of Living Options Devon, has several years experience on the Management Board of the Consortium. The post was advertised and Diana's application provided compelling evidence that she has the full range of skills that is required.

Driving safer for longer



Everyone's getting older and driving is not getting any easier, so here's a little help.

For a free **DVD** and **booklet** contact:

**Road Safety
Helpdesk**

0845 155 1004

rshelp@devon.gov.uk

If you can get 12 or more people together we will come and run a Safe Driving workshop for you, the only cost is the hire of a suitable venue.

www.devon.gov.uk/drivingsaferforlonger



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