

Budleigh Salterton

Annual Town Meeting

14 March 2025

Report Pack

Welcome to the Annual Town Meeting for 2025, where we gather to review the progress, celebrate achievements, and discuss the future direction of our beloved town. This report compiles the essential updates, key initiatives, and important discussions that shape the path ahead for Budleigh Salterton.

As we come together to reflect on the past year, it's a moment to recognise the spirit of community, growth, and shared vision that makes our town unique. This document serves as a snapshot of those efforts, providing insights into the ongoing developments and future aspirations.

Budleigh Salterton Town Council

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Planning Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Cllr. S. J. Horn

It has been a very busy year with 98 Planning Applications to consider. As a Town Council we are guided by our current Neighbourhood Plan. Budleigh Salterton 2017 to 2031.

All Applications are discussed by Councillors in attendance at any given meeting. As we meet approximately fortnightly on a Monday evening and Planning is always the first item on the Agenda at all of our meetings, we are able to keep up to date with current Applications. To that end it is to be noted that we begin promptly at 19.00 and the first item on the Agenda is 15 minutes Public Speaking time. Each person that wishes to speak is allocated a maximum of 3 minutes speaking time. Therefore, we can have up to 5 or perhaps more speakers on any given occasion.

To that end the Town Clerk and myself would respectfully ask that, where possible, persons wishing to speak should contact the Clerk by the Friday before a Monday meeting in order to book a speaking slot and give us subject notice. Any member of the public is, of course, entitled to attend the meeting even if they do not wish to speak.

It should be noted that whilst the Town Council meets to discuss Planning Applications, and we report our decisions to East Devon District Council on a regular basis. We are in fact acting in an advisory capacity to East Devon district Council and it is they that will make the final decision on all Planning applications. How ever it is interesting to note that the collective decisions of Budleigh Salterton Town Council fall within a 10% difference to East Devon District Council decisions over the last 12 months.

There are 2 large outline Planning considerations in the pipeline on the outskirts of Budleigh Salterton. Although both technically in Exmouth Exmo20 and Exmo17 are indeed closer to Budleigh Salterton than Exmouth. Exmo20 is for up to 700 houses close to Ting Tong with proposed access onto the already busy B3179. Exmo17 is opposite Liverton Business Park and for 400 houses and Commercial units.

It is to be noted that the Consultation period for Regulation 19 finishes on the 31st of March 2025. All members of the Public are entitled to pass comment on this. To that end I would ask all those wishing to do so to act as soon as possible. This can be done by responding directly to EDDC on their Website under Planning and is the best course of action for those wishing to comment at this late stage.

This concludes the Planning report for this year.

Councillor Stephen Horn.

Planning Chair 07/03/25

Overview of Planning Applications

Mar 2024 – Mar 2025

Planning Applications received	98
Full Permission Granted	5
Permission with Conditions, Granted	41
Listed Building Consent, Granted	3 granted
Refused	6
Withdrawn	0
Trees, Granted	20
Trees, Granted with Split Decision	5
Appeals	2. (1 dismissed)
Awaiting Decisions	18
No of Times BSTC view was overturned by EDDC	4



Finance Committee Report 2024/2025

Prepared by Cllr Gina Woodcraft

I apologise for not being present at tonight's meeting but am on a walking holiday in the Quantocks!

I am pleased to report that the Budleigh Salterton Town Council finances are currently sound and with continued careful consideration and management should be robust enough to cope with any unavoidable or additional costs due in the next Financial year.

Residents will have seen from recent East Devon District Council tax bills 2025/26 summary, that the Precept requested by BSTC for £198,000 has increased for this coming year following two years of no increase and then one year of 5%. This will amount to £66.13 per household based on a Band D property (£198,000:- 2,994) and is still one of the lowest in the county.

Current figures are between £66.88 - £85.88 per household).

During the past year, Budleigh Salterton Town Council has awarded many grants and donations totalling £46,000 across the town. These include Shop Budleigh, The Lions Gala Week, Budleigh Music Festival, Budleigh Salterton Football Club, The Library, The new Cricket Club (The Holt), Budleigh Information Centre, Temple Methodist church, St Peters School PTA, Community Transport Group, new lighting for the War Memorial, Fairlynch Museum and support to The British Legion, all organisations which themselves contribute to and improve the lives of many people in the town.

I am also pleased we have a fund of £51k to distribute this year and will be seeking your ideas for projects (under Section 106 for open space) for what to spend it on. More to follow soon!

We continue to pay East Devon DC £5,500 + for rates and rent specifically to enable the town to keep a 'Free Car Park' and also have a contingency for maintenance and upkeep including keeping the site clean.

In response to EDDC plans to close the Toilet Block at Station Road (in the car park next to the BS Community Workshop and behind the Public Hall and main road bus stops) BSTC have decided to save them due to their location and need, incurring additional costs of about £28,500 per annum for taking these on. This necessary increase in expenditure is for regular 7 days a week 363 days a year opening and closing, regular cleaning, maintenance and vandalism.

There is also money set aside for a town Emergency plan, Elections and Legal Fees.

The Public Hall itself also requires regular repairs, maintenance and cleaning plus hall improvements. This coming year we will be replacing and upgrading the outdated sound system, addressing the feedback we received about poor and intermittent sound quality from many speakers and residents. This upgrade should also help us to attract new users and increase the number of bookings for the hall.

So that we can keep the letting fees for people of the town affordable and maximise usage, we are freezing these for yet another year. We spent £115,000 on the upkeep of the hall this year but the income from letting fees was £32,000. Rates on the Public Hall are £4k pa and there is no likelihood (currently, according to Martin Lewis) of any reduction in gas and electric charges/daily standing charges in the coming year.

Last year our incredible Town Clerk for 23 years, Jo Vanstone, informed us that she wished to retire in April 2025. So for the first time in many years, we needed to advertise and recruit a new Clerk. We are extremely pleased to have appointed Alice Gater - Wildgust. Alice has already day been with us for 5 months shadowing Jo, and we are looking forward to working with her.

Our workload is expanding but we only have one full time and one part time member of staff plus a full-time caretaker. This does have implications in times of sickness and the extra NI kicking in shortly will also have an effect.

We are forecasting a deficit this year of £50,000, but with sensible discussions and planning ahead, we should still have adequate funds to cover our essential costs and maintain a healthy reserve for future uncertainties as more and more public services and their costs will be devolved to local town and parish councils.

We thank the residents of Budleigh Salterton for their support and interest throughout the year and we look forward to engaging with you once again 2025.

Chair of Finance - Cllr Woodcraft.



Foreshore & Footpath Report March 2025

Prepared by Cllr Alan Chaplin

In December 2024 an inspection of the seafront was carried out by EDDC, Streetscene and BSTC.

The damaged shelter by the West End toilets has been repaired and opened to the public.

The damaged bench has been removed and repaired and there are still a number of benches that require painting.

The confusing cycle signs are to be replaced/corrected and additional floor stencils will be added during April 25.

Streetscene and Budleigh Town Council have been clearing the weeds etc. from around the benches and paths from the seafront but it is an endless task and will commence again April 25.

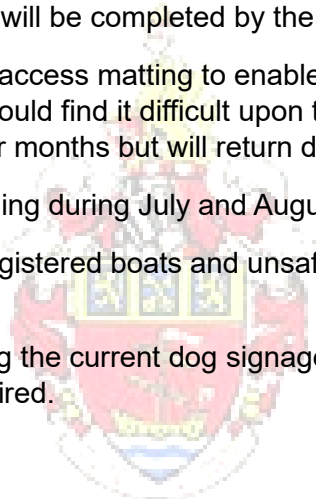
Renovation of the Lime Kiln toilets will be completed by the end of March.

EDDC and BSTC have positioned access matting to enable access to the beach close to the Lime Kiln car park for those who would find it difficult upon the pebbles. Currently this has been stored away during the winter months but will return during April/May again.

Budleigh beach will have life guarding during July and August this year.

EDDC have issued notices to unregistered boats and unsafe winches and are progressing with a likely resolution April/May.

Environmental Health are reviewing the current dog signage, and the Dog Warden will advise if additional signage is required.



A day in the life of a Budleigh Salterton Councillor

Councillor Richard Doorbar

The purpose of this short report is so that members of the Budleigh Salterton Community can have an insight into what a councillor for Budleigh Salterton Town Council does in a typical day.

The first thing to say is that there is no typical day! However, this report is to provide some insights into what a councillor does and is based on what I have done in a typical day. I should emphasise that a local council member for Budleigh Salterton Town Council is not remunerated, and it is an entirely voluntary role. BSTC is hugely fortunate in enjoying the skills of a range of councillors who have worked in a wide range of working environments and bring with them a cornucopia of skills and talents.

On Tuesday 3rd September 2025, for example I attended a meeting in Honiton which addressed the proposed Housing Site Allocations plans. This was an opportunity to reinforce Budleigh's views on appropriate site allocations for building developments. I spoke at the meeting to reinforce Budleigh Town Council's perspective and particularly emphasised the fact that Budleigh Salterton lies within the East Devon Area of outstanding natural beauty, now referred to as the National Landscape. As a result, the National Landscape affords the highest level of legal protection in relation to planning because of such things as attractive vistas and views afforded of the local countryside. I spoke at the meeting to reinforce Budleigh Salterton's Town Council perspective on prospective planning.

During a typical day there are numerous emails to respond to and all require thought and attention to detail.

I am a member of several committees as well as being the Council Representative on the Library Committee where I am also Vice-Chair. We have regular meetings often focussed on supporting the library through fund raising ventures. Naturally, I would need to prepare for all meetings and decide on ways in which I can best help and support. Planning meetings require a great deal of preparation so in a day prior to a planning meeting I can spend at least 4 hours examining plans and information provided relating to the plans.

The Council has been very supportive of the BIC (Budleigh Information Centre). A small group of councillors have met regularly with the amazing BIC members to offer support and to act as a sounding board for their plans. Certainly, the council regards the BIC as an essential resource in Budleigh to support tourism. We are in awe of the commitment and skills that BIC volunteers bring to their role, and we are very grateful for their work. As part of the liaison group, I will spend time at the meeting which can take up to a few hours.

Whilst many meetings are now face-to-face post Covid, there are still several meetings that happen via Zoom or similar. For example, I am the council representative on the Arts and Culture Forum. At such meetings which can be extensive there are great reports about the arts in East Devon and plans for the future. On one occasion there was fascinating information about the value of filming in East Devon which can be quite lucrative for local communities who benefit from film crews staying on location. Clearly, filming proves excellent publicity about the value of holidaying in East Devon in such glorious countryside.

One of the opportunities I have enjoyed is organising the Annual Civic Service with the Mayor and Vicar. The service represents a great opportunity to bring together all groups

within Budleigh Salterton and to especially thank all those people who contribute voluntarily to a range of groups within our community. It is a way of showing gratitude to those volunteers who give so generously of their time, skills and energy including of course the local councillors.

The purpose of this document is to give an insight into the work of a councillor. I am privileged to work with a range of councillors who give so willingly of their time to serve their local community. Certainly, until becoming a local councillor I could not have imagined how much work goes in to being a councillor and carrying out the role in such a committed manner.

So, in summary my role involves the following:

- a) Attending regular meetings
- b) Representing the views of the community
- c) Care and attention to planning
- d) Caring for the environment so that all can flourish
- e) Encouraging groups that contribute to our community
- f) Contributing to Council meetings and being members of committees
- g) Supporting the library
- h) Valuing the contribution of community groups through celebrating their contributions at the Annual Civic Service
- i) Attending relevant training opportunities to fulfil the role of councillor
- j) Being a good representative and a good listener

Councillor Richard Doorbar
March 2025



Library Committee

Council Representative Report – Councillor Richard Doorbar

It is a great privilege to be the Council Representative on the Library Committee. I am fortunate to be part of a very impressive and active team of members of the committee.

The Council regards the Library as a crucial part of Budleigh Salterton and offers an essential community resource for members of the Budleigh community. As you know the library caters for a wide range of people from young children to the more senior members of the community. It fulfils a vital contribution to the community and indeed acts as a focus of support for readers and those searching for information to enhance their lives. We are extremely privileged to have such talented and committed librarians who offer great support to those attending the library.

The council considers that the library's physical environment is so important to enable people to feel comfortable in the library. It is essential to ensure that the librarians have a comfortable environment in which to work and in this respect the Council has provided a substantial grant for renovation works to improve the space at the back of the library enabling the librarians to have their own space to enhance the quality of their experience at work in the library.

The Council therefore regards the library as not only something which is 'nice to have', but far more – a centre for community learning, enrichment and a place in which all can flourish. It is an essential part of the local community and needs to be continuously and generously supported.

As the council representative it has been my pleasure to be part of fund-raising activities for library 'extras'. We are grateful for the donation of books from members of the Budleigh community in this respect. These books can be sold and contribute to fund raising efforts for the library. It should be emphasised that such funds are used for such things as prizes for children's competitions and in no way are part of the funding of the library as a whole. Such fund raising, therefore, contributes to 'extras' that are not part of the main, essential budget of the library.

Councillor Richard Doorbar
March 2025

County Councillor's Report

This has been another difficult financial year for Devon CC. There has been another increase in the number of social care cases and a considerable increase in the number of children who need SEND support (Special Education Needs and Disability). Some of these cases are so complicated that we do not have the specialist support required within County, and they have to be placed in the private sector causing extra demands on the school transport budget. In the meantime, most of my postbag is about potholes. The problem with the SEND situation is nationwide and will need to be addressed before some authorities become bankrupt.

Devon CC met in February and agreed an increase in Council Tax of 4.99% . . . Council Tax on second homes will be doubled.

The Government settlement is not a good one. It is the lowest out of all 21 county councils in England. Given the overwhelmingly rural nature of the county and the additional cost of delivering services this is very disappointing. It is going to make it even more difficult to pay the increase in national insurance costs related to our staff.

However, the budget proposals:

Include £4million extra support for Highways

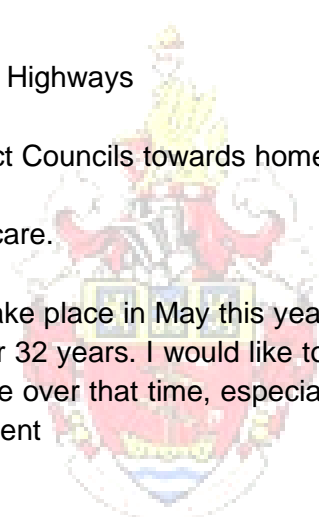
£5m extra for Children's services

An extra £500k to support District Councils towards homelessness services (making a total contribution of £1m for next year)

Increased money for adult social care.

Devon County elections will still take place in May this year. I will be standing down as your County Councillor after serving for 32 years. I would like to thank Budleigh Town Council for all the support they have given me over that time, especially Jo Vanstone and I wish her an enjoyable and well-earned retirement

Christine Channon



District Councillors Report

Cllr Charlotte FitzGerald

Member, EDDC Budleigh & Raleigh

Annual Report to Budleigh Town Council, March 2025

Firstly, thank you to the town council for your support over this year. Although this marks the end of my second year on East Devon District Council, this is the first time I have made an annual report, as I took some time out following the birth of my son in January last year. It also marks the halfway point in the District Council term, so it seems a fitting time to reflect.

One of the highlights of my time at East Devon has been working closely with the Coast, Country and Environment Portfolio team and contributing to the council's efforts to reach carbon neutrality by 2040. East Devon remains one of the best districts in the country for recycling and waste services – helped in no small part by our residents' commitment to recycling. We recently became the first district council to use electric recycling lorries. The council is now considering whether to become the first in England to recycle nappies and sanitary products: I have been leaning into this ambition and hope it may soon become a feather in the council's cap. Taking action against climate change extends far beyond the Recycling and Waste Service however, and the council considers its climate impact in everything from its design quality planning to how it builds playgrounds. I have become Carbon Literacy certified since joining the council and have been really impressed at how a detailed understanding of the climate crisis clearly informs decisions made by cabinet and officers.

Planning is another major function of the council, and I have closely followed the development of the emerging local plan and done my best to understand, for this council's benefits, the complex considerations involved, and at times to explain the –often frustrating – legal limitations facing both councils. As the plan moves toward inspection and begins to take on more weight against the current 'made plan', and as we see sites in Budleigh and surrounding areas coming forward, I aim to help the town council secure the best possible outcomes for its residents, in terms of good quality, suitable housing, properly supported by infrastructure. The past two years' experience of dealing with planning applications and retrospective issues has taught me not to underestimate the potential for obstacles in this endeavour.

Audit & Governance committee work at East Devon is not normally something I would report to the town council, but I am happy to say that over the past two years, the quality of information coming into the committee has been transformed. In the same period, the council has seen an almost complete replacement of the senior leadership team, and the new executive team is putting exponentially more performance data our way – whether this be to do with housing voids, IT security exercises, or planning application turnarounds. Without access to reliable information on the current state of affairs, I really don't think councillors could do their jobs properly, so I have greeted these developments with relief. I am also happy to say that some concentrated work on our anti-fraud and corruption practices has meant that the council is now ranked as a leader in the South-west for its anti-fraud practices.

One of the most gratifying parts of my role has been to represent the council on the

Woodbury, Exmouth and Budleigh Health & Wellbeing Board, which has brought to my awareness the significant contribution to public health and wellbeing made by East Devon

council through its discretionary services. It is only since 2019 that the council has had a Culture, Leisure Tourism and Sport portfolio, and through its support to museums, heritage assets, performing arts centres, nature reserves, beaches, sports clubs and swimming pools, along with its extended social housing services, the council helps create opportunities for improved wellbeing and contributes vitally to social cohesion throughout the region. Budleigh is, to my knowledge, the only town in the district which isn't home to community hubs for East Devon tenants – previously I had assumed this was due to an overlap with Seachange's services, but following a recent conversation with them, it is something I am exploring bringing to Budleigh. I think Budleigh can occasionally suffer from a reputation for being a universally privileged town, and I have found myself challenging this stereotype a number of times and in various forums at District Council.

On the subject of local representation, it would be remiss of me not to mention the impending reorganisation and the devolution project. A lot of the nitty gritty will be negotiated on East Devon's behalf by our leader and deputy leader and the senior executive team. My sincerest hope, and the thing I will endeavour to support, is that whatever form the new unitary councils take, they will bring the best of the councils that preceded them. For East Devon, it has to be our exemplary waste and recycling practices, and our public health and social cohesion work (under which umbrella I also include the culture and leisure services mentioned earlier). As our public health officer once said, the job of EDDC is to keep people well for longer. And somehow, we will have to work out how to keep the strong link with town and parish councils going. I have faith that it will work out – mainly because the alternative is too depressing. But the councillor roles will need to be paid suitably if the government wants to attract diverse representatives – you can't expect people to take on an even bigger ward area on top of a full-time job, or young family.

As I reflect upon the first half of my term on the council, the highlight of this role has been getting to know the town better. Budleigh is an impressive, welcoming town and I now know that this is entirely thanks to the people who pour their energy into it: the volunteers, the café owners, the clubs, the school and of course the town's committed councillors. It is always a pleasure to work with you and I look forward to facing down the next half term!

District Councillor Melanie Martin

Annual report 2024/5

I am now two years into the role of District Councillor for the Budleigh and Raleigh Ward and am enjoying it immensely.

In my first year, I focused on learning about my Ward and the communities of Budleigh, East Budleigh, Otterton and Colaton Raleigh. I attended monthly Town and Parish meetings and met with local residents and businesses.

At East Devon District Council the learning curve was steep but I now have a good understand of internal processes and procedures and have built strong relationships with Officers, and Councillors from other Wards across East Devon.

Work on Committees

In addition to my daily work serving residents within my Ward, I also sit on a number of Committees, which enables me to influence the services that EDDC provides for our residents.

Housing Review Board

The Housing Review Board (HRB) is made up of seven Councillors, five residents or leaseholders and two independent community representatives. The group meets four times a year and reviews new housing policies, procedures and budgets. The board scrutinises the EDDC Housing function and ensures that actions are taken to improve the lives of our tenants and those needing accommodation.

I am pleased to report that in my time on the HRB, I have been involved in the recruitment of the new Director of Housing and Health and have seen a significant improvement in the performance of the Housing department.

As a direct result of our scrutiny of the housing function, I am pleased to report key improvements including among others;

- The time taken for empty houses/flats to be re-allocated.
- An increase in the number of repairs completed on time.
- A decrease in the number of complaints regarding repairs.
- The prioritisation of essential repairs including electrical repairs and damp and mould issues.

The Poverty Working Panel

I sit on this Panel which is involved in the development and monitoring of the East Devon Poverty Strategy. The Panel looks at key strategies to alleviate poverty across east Devon and ensures that poverty relief initiatives are communicated to our residents, these include;

- Household Support Fund
- Pension Credit
- Energy Rebate Scheme
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme

More information on the Poverty Strategy can be found at;

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-business/poverty-reduction-strategy/about-the-poverty-reduction-strategy/poverty-in-east-devon/>

Overview Committee

The Overview Committee covers policy development and review, as well as being involved in the draft budget process. The Committee looks at policies we can introduce in the future to make east Devon a better place for people and businesses, recent policies we have debated include;

- Introduction of Coach Tourism
- East Devon Tree Strategy
- Wildlife Improvement Policy

Personnel Committee

The personal Committee has seen me involved in the recruitment process for the senior roles of Director for Housing and Health, Catrin Stark, and the Director of Place, Andy Wood. I'm pleased to report that these two important services within EDDC are in the hands of excellent people who will make a positive difference across East Devon.

Personal Achievements

Independent Group Leader

Last year I was honoured to be voted Leader of the Independent Group, which gives me the opportunity to meet with EDDC Leader, Paul Arnott, and CEO Tracy Hendren, on a monthly basis. These meetings are a great opportunity to bring important matters relating to my Ward to the attention of the top tier, and to feedback the latest developments to my constituents.

Important issues on the horizon are Local Government Reorganisation, and how this will affect the services that we rely on in our daily lives. On a more local level I have highlighted issues with how Councillors engage with Officers to help residents, and am pressing Paul Arnott, Leader of the Council, to resolve the pathway issues on the Evan's Field/Beeches development.

Local Plan 2020-2042

I am very proud to have worked in partnership with a group of Budleigh residents, in the campaign to resist development on the Green Wedge open space between Knowle Village and Budleigh Salterton. I represented Budleigh in person, speaking at the September 3rd and 29th October Strategic Planning meetings, to object to the proposal.

I am pleased to say that our hard work resulted in this site not being allocated for housing and it will remain open space.

I again stood up at the February 4th Strategic Planning meeting to represent the residents of Dalditch Lane, regarding the concerns about the proposed access to Exmo 20 from the B3179.

Around the District

Budleigh Community Youth Project

I continue to be involved with the youth of our community in my role as trustee of the Budleigh Community Youth Project. The Youth Club is going from strength to strength and has exciting activities planned for 2025 including a camping trip and a wild excursion to Flip Out!

Planning Applications

There have been a number of controversial planning applications within the Ward and I have listened and shown support for public concerns by commenting on the applications.

Housing Matters

I have advocated for residents facing eviction and assisted them through the housing allocation process.

Local Business

I have liaised with EDDC on behalf of local businesses to help them acquire licences and leases to operate their businesses.

Devon County Highways

I have liaised with our County Councillor and Devon County Highways, on matters relating to pot holes and speed limits.



Year Three

In year three of my term as District Councillor, I hope to up my workload across the Ward and use my influence within the committees I sit on, to make the lives of local residents the best it can be. We have a busy year ahead which will be business as usual in the Ward but dominated by the preparation for Local Government Reorganisation.

Local Government Reorganisation

Local council leaders have reached an initial agreement to form two councils which will be;

- A Unitary combining South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon areas with Torbay.
- A Unitary including East, Mid and North Devon, alongside Torridge District and City of Exeter.
- Interim plans have to be submitted to central government by 21st March.

EDDC wants to continue delivering high quality and cost-effective services and to protect the district from the financial instability that may be caused by reorganisation.

At my Leaders meetings, I have emphasised that there must be communication and involvement with all Town and Parish Councils, and to that end a communication strategy has been set up. I will work hard to ensure that Ward is well informed and prepared for any changes that may directly affect them.

And Finally

I would like to say what a pleasure it has been working with residents, Parish and Town Councils and fellow Councillors. I would like to thank everyone for the support and kindness they have shown me in my role, and I look forward to the year ahead.



Report of District Councillor Henry Riddell

It's been a busy and rewarding year, and I want to share some of the key issues and successes we've had together as a community.

I made a big step towards delivering on my campaign promise to improve housing not just in Budleigh & Raleigh, but across East Devon. I am proud to say that the motion I brought to Council to tackle the serious issues of damp and mould passed unanimously. I've seen first-hand the impact these poor conditions have on residents' health and quality of life, so this is a significant step forward. The decision means that urgent cases will be dealt with by the end of the financial year, communication with residents will improve, and we'll align our policies with Awaab's Law to prevent these issues from happening again.

One of the biggest challenges we've faced this year has been the ongoing issues with South West Water. Peter Williams of ESCAPE facilitated a crucial meeting with myself, Cllr Charlotte Fitzgerald (EDDC Budleigh & Raleigh), and Cllr Geoff Jung (EDDC Portfolio Holder for Coast, Country, and Environment). We raised serious concerns about the ongoing tankering, unpleasant odours near the playground, and the related health risks. We made it clear that these problems need urgent attention, and it was agreed that while works are being undertaken to reline pipes, sewage tankers should not be driving up the high street.

In May, I wrote to South West Water's CEO, Susan Davy, expressing our community's anger over repeated failures at the Lime Kiln Pumping Station and the constant tanker movements around the town. After persistent follow-ups and collaboration with a dedicated Budleigh resident and member of the ESCAPE group, we have successfully secured a meeting with senior South West Water staff in July.

I also attended the FORE & Surfers Against Sewage Exmouth Paddle-Out Protest. It was amazing to see such a strong turnout and to stand alongside residents who are fed up with South West Water's conduct. I'm also working to keep local councillors engaged with the planned works in Budleigh to ensure we hold South West Water accountable.

Access to banking services remains a major challenge for our town. With Budleigh left without a single bank and the Post Office set to close for 10 weeks from 29th March, many residents and businesses will struggle to manage their finances locally. This is an issue I've raised before, and it's clear that the need for a banking hub is more urgent than ever. I will continue to push for a practical solution that serves the needs of our community.

Education has also been a key focus for me this year. I had the privilege of attending the Bicton College Military & Protective Services Academy Stakeholder Board. It was fantastic to see students engaging with the British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and the Police.

It was fantastic to be asked to be a part of The Baton of Bicton 100 mile challenge. It concluded on May 2nd with a celebratory event, marking an impressive fundraising effort of over £8k for The Royal Marines Charity and the RNLI. Students and staff demonstrated remarkable perseverance, serving as a shining example of determination. Special recognition was given to Dougie, Scott, Stu, and all the students for their participation and their incredible achievement.

I'm also a member of our local youth project, which has seen fantastic uptake from the community. We're now in the process of planning an exciting trip for the children, which will include a fun day out at Flip Out and bowling, offering them a great opportunity to socialize and enjoy some well-deserved downtime.

Supporting local businesses is vital to the heart of Budleigh Salterton. These businesses are the foundation of our community's economy, contributing to both our local identity and the services we rely on.

When residents raised concerns about anti-social driving in Lime Kiln car park last year, I took immediate action. By securing increased police patrols in the area, we were able to deter reckless behaviour and provide reassurance to residents. This effort has already helped reduce disturbances, and I will continue to ensure that our area remains peaceful for everyone.

I've also had the privilege of attending some important community events. Laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday at the Budleigh Salterton War Memorial, the Civic service and supporting other events in the community. The hard work and dedication of local volunteers make a real difference to our environment and our community spirit.

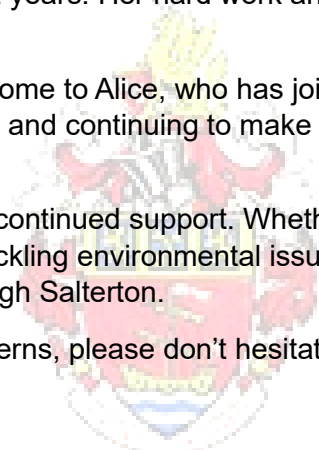
I'd like to take a moment to express my gratitude to some key people. Firstly, a big thank you to Jo Vanstone and Caz Sismore-Hunt for their dedicated service to the Town Council. Their hard work and commitment have made a real difference to our community, and I know many people are grateful for everything they've done.

I also would like to pay tribute to Christine Channon for her incredible dedication and service to our community over the past 32 years. Her hard work and unwavering commitment have made a lasting impact.

I also want to extend a warm welcome to Alice, who has joined the Town Council. I'm looking forward to working with you, Alice, and continuing to make progress together for Budleigh and Raleigh.

I want to thank everyone for their continued support. Whether it's addressing housing, supporting local businesses, or tackling environmental issues, I'm committed to working hard on behalf of all residents of Budleigh Salterton.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Budleigh Community Larder – report for Budleigh Salterton Town Council.

Budleigh Community Larder was started in the summer of 2022 and is based within the community café at Wesley's. The ethos and vision for the larder is an important aspect of the Community Larder movement. Community Larders are friendly, accessible and community-led initiative. They are open to everyone, regardless of means and are not a food bank, or a solution to food poverty. We believe that the Community Larder is a place of value within the community. It offers a space for neighbours and local businesses to share good food, stories and company. All the while they help to build trust and reduce food waste. Community Larders are open to all within a community, regardless of background.

Budleigh Community Larder, whilst conforming to these parameters, goes further than this. There are individuals and households within the local community who find the support of the larder invaluable to enable them to stretch their budget a bit further, or even simply to access free and affordable food within Budleigh.

A dedicated team of more than 20 volunteers ensure that the larder is not only kept clean and well stocked but also support and signpost some of the more vulnerable users of the larder to other sources of support: the pop-up pantry, a mini social supermarket provided by Exmouth Food Bank, Food Bank itself, and community pay-as-you-wish suppers, held at Wesley's through the winter months.

Grants from Budleigh Lions and the Fryer Trust enable us to purchase 100kg of surplus food per week from Fareshare. A grant from Devon Communities Together means that we can hold a regular community supper once a month at Wesley's. Many people using the larder are able to put a donation in the pot, and we use this and generous donations from local individuals to purchase additional items to ensure that the shelves are never bare, and to provide some toiletries and cleaning products.

The contribution of BSTC of £685 has been invaluable in enabling the larder to continue to serve the Budleigh community. Your donation helps cover the hidden costs: things like the additional utilities required by having an extra fridge and freezer, and keeping the lights and heating on for the community suppers, the printing (paper and ink!) for keeping the necessary food safety checks, stock checks and posters. Without your donation, these costs would have to be covered by other sources of funding thereby potentially reducing the amount or variety of stock in the larder.

We hold regular meetings with the volunteers to ensure that the larder runs smoothly and communicate any changes that are required. What comes out of those meetings in terms of feedback regarding the impact of the larder is both exciting and humbling. So many people who use the larder express their gratitude for its presence. One regular user said this in a letter at Christmas:

'Thank you is such a small word to express what you have done at the food larder. I wonder if you all realise the positive impact you have? For me, before I knew about the food larder, I used to feel so despondent as to what I could put on my table, which led me to feel so sad about my situation. The kind and unjudgmental help, and generosity you all give so

unselfishly has completely turned things around for me. When I come now, I look forward to getting home to work out my menus and make me enjoy the challenge and see my circumstances in a completely different and positive way.'

The person that wrote this has now started to volunteer some of their time for the larder.





Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club – Town Council Report January 2025

Dear Town Council

Please find a short report below regarding the status of your £10,000 grant that you kindly donated last year.

The Project

As discussed, when we presented to you, we wished to make safe and accessible the outside areas of the club for 4 key reasons;

1. To make safe the outside area for all the children that come to the club, especially for Friday night junior coaching, and the school festivals and events that we host.
2. To provide greater access to those in wheelchairs, or with a disability. I think I mentioned that the Somerset Visually Impaired team found the area challenging to navigate.
3. To provide a more accessible area for Budleigh's older population who are perhaps using mobility aids or are less steady on their feet.
4. To generally make the area far more welcoming for all the community.

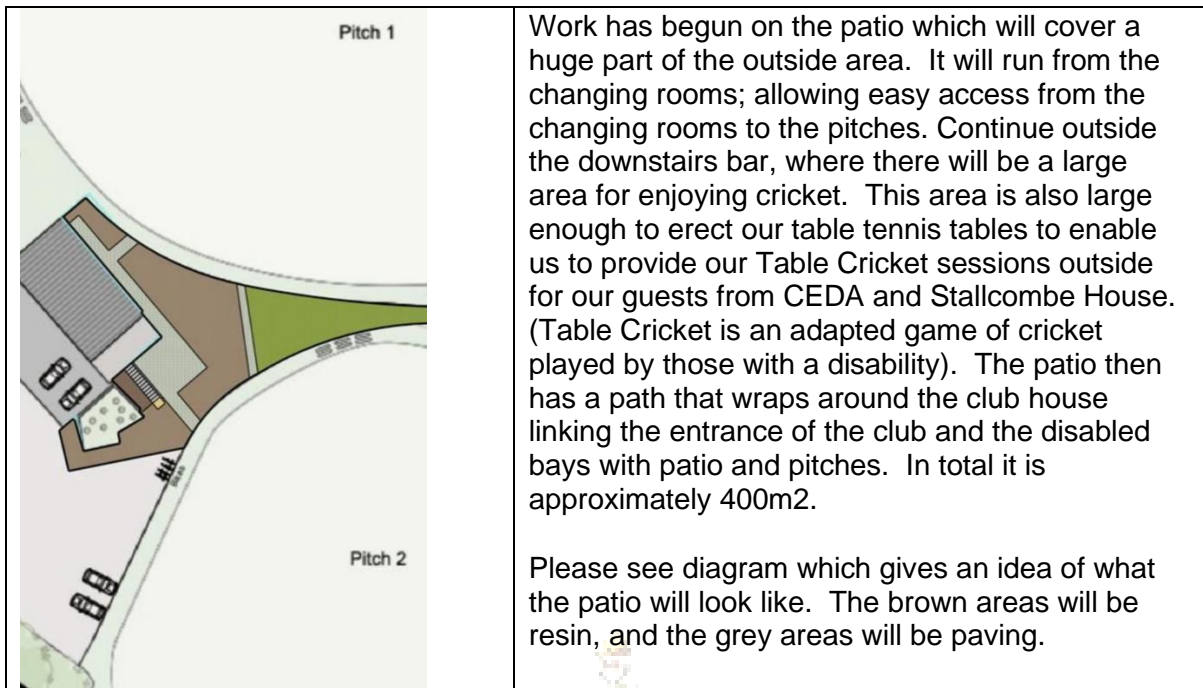
Our vision at BSCC is to be a fully accessible and welcoming community venue available to ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE. Neatening out this outside area will make an enormous difference to many people's enjoyment of the club.

The Process

Following the Town Council's generous grant offer a lot of work was done by club volunteers to raise additional funds to ensure that any patio covered all the above priority areas. This included a community crowdfunding campaign, supported by Sport England.

In total over £40,000 has been raised.

The Design



The Timescales

Work has commenced on the patio. The project is due to be complete by the end of March...weather dependent. Please pop up to the club and have a look at the progress being made.

We are optimistic that the work will all done ready for the new cricket season starting in April.

Ongoing Projects

As a volunteer run community club, we always have other projects on the go. If there is anything the council can do to support these we would be extremely grateful.

Project 1:

Building a community kitchen – Cost approximately £8,000

Although we have the kitchen upstairs, we are bound by strict Health and Safety standards regarding food storage/preparation/hygiene, and we are limited to who can use the kitchen. We are keen to keep the community spirit running through the club, and feel it is important that we provide a smaller “community” kitchen downstairs that anyone is able to use.

The main aims of this kitchen will be the following;

- 1. To enable the club to provide quick and affordable food offerings for families on Friday junior training nights.**

We offer cricket opportunities to children from the age of 5 years. Friday evenings are our family nights when over 150 children come to the club, with their families, to enjoy their cricket training. It is a wonderfully social evening with so much of the community coming

together. The children enjoy playing with their friends outside, and the parents enjoy relaxing with other adults in a really safe environment.

We would love to be able to provide an affordable food offering at the club to enable local families to make the most of their Friday evenings.

2. To continue the tradition of cricket teas.

Providing cricket teas is a dying tradition, but we are desperate to keep it alive at BSCC. The cricket league dictates that a cricket tea can only cost £4 per player. It is therefore only possible to provide this if volunteers are happy to prepare the teas. We therefore need a dedicated space to allow these wonderful volunteers to do this.

We have 3 senior teams, 2 women's teams, and 14 junior teams to support. Not to mention all the schools cricket and festivals, the disability cricket, and the touring sides that come to the club and support the town.

A community kitchen will allow us to provide a cost-effective food offering for all players, for all matches. Often the junior matches start at about 5pm and go on until about 8pm. To be able to offer the children a healthy snack between innings will be beneficial to all.

3. To allow us to better support community events.

In the year since we have been open, we have supported a lot of local businesses, charities and schools, allowing them to use our facilities. These have included a number of running and cycling races that have been based at the club, supporting the Hospiscare memory walk, and hosting a number of local groups including the Literary Festival. In addition, we had our grand opening, that 100's of people from the town came to support.

A community kitchen would help us to support these events better, especially when large numbers are involved, allowing additional catering options to be served downstairs.

Project 2:

Providing shelter to support table cricket for disabled adults, and schools events. Cost approx. £1500

We would like to purchase a large gazebo, 6 metres by 3 metres. There is little shelter outside at the club, and this causes some issues when we are hosting schools events, especially if it is a very sunny day. The children need somewhere to shelter when not playing, or to eat their lunch.

In addition, we host fortnightly table cricket sessions for disabled adults. Currently the sessions are held inside the clubhouse, however in the summer we would love these sessions to be held pitchside, to enable the players to experience a more real cricket experience, and enjoy the fresh air. The table tennis tables can be set up under the gazebo so their cricket can be enjoyed out of the sun...or rain for that matter! This will really make an enormous difference to our table cricketers, many of whom are severely disabled in adapted wheelchairs who don't usually get the opportunity to get involved in sport.

Project 3:

Providing picnic tables with disabled access. – Cost £645 + VAT per table

In 2023 we were awarded "Disability Champion Status" from the ECB following our efforts in making our clubhouse fully accessible. We are fast becoming the HUB for all disability cricket in the South West, and Devon Cricket's go to club. We are providing cricket opportunities to sections of society who have never played cricket before, and would not usually be able to enjoy such activities at any sports club.

We want to make sure that the club is accessible and welcoming to everyone. These tables will help this. They will support us with the following;

1. Allow our wonderful table cricketers (many of whom are seriously disabled in wheelchairs) to enjoy their lunch outside after their matches.
2. To provide appropriate seating for anyone who visits the club in a wheelchair: player, spectator, or anyone just coming to enjoy the club.

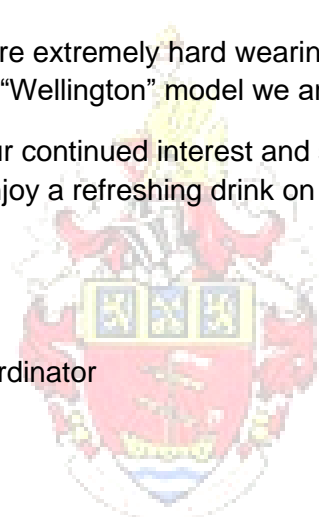
The tables are locally made and are extremely hard wearing. They can be found at DCWpolymers.co.uk, and it is the "Wellington" model we are interested in.

Finally, many thanks again for your continued interest and support. We are looking forward to welcoming you to the club to enjoy a refreshing drink on the new patio this spring.

Kind regards

Carolyn Roper

BSCC Volunteer Fundraising Coordinator





Budleigh Salterton AFC is the towns voluntary run football club that is non-profit making. At present it comprises of four adult teams and a thriving youth section, community coaching on Friday nights – around 150 players and 40 support staff. It provides support for physical activity, team building and comradeship – all of which is great for a person’s wellbeing.

The site is also the town emergency landing site for the air ambulance and supports several clubs for the elderly members of the town.

Unfortunately, the electricity is some 52% of the clubs outgoing, so the panels will reduce the carbon footprint by 3.393 tons – nearly 50% of the annual consumption.

From the BSAFC Carbon Survey the club would be very close to net zero, the possible installation of a heat pump in the future would effectively make the club net zero!

This would make the towns football club one of the first net zero clubs in the southwest.

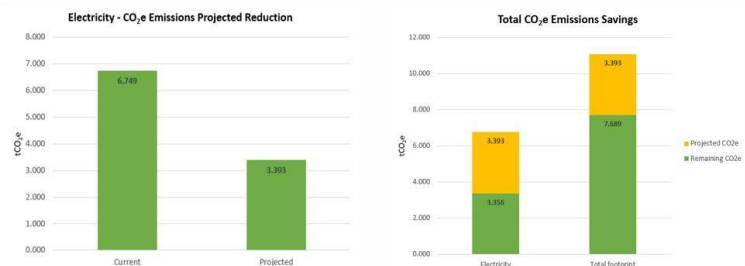
The grant from the Town Council has helped this become possible.

The project is ongoing, with the main panel installation scheduled for March 2025, Sixty four solar panels with two batteries producing 17KW of power. Some of the power will run the club, the remaining power will be transferred back to the grid.



Actionable Carbon Reduction Plan – 2024/2025

Task	Who	Current Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Current Emissions Source	Projected Reduction (tCO ₂ e)	Remaining Emissions (tCO ₂ e)
Installation of 15,082 kWh per year generation capacity solar PV panels 16.74 System size (kW) 36 x Aiko 465w Solar PV Panels 1 x SiggenStar 15.0 TP 15kW Inverter 2 x Siggen 8kWh Battery Module		6.749	Grid connected electricity supply. Standard tariff. Consumption of 30,000 kWh/annum + T&D scope 3 emissions	3.393	3.356
Total (tCO₂e)		6.749		3.393	3.356



Budleigh Information Centre Supported by Budleigh Salterton Town Council

Budleigh Information Centre (BIC) is a non-profit and self-funded organisation. It plays a significant role within the community and receives valuable support from the Budleigh Salterton Town Council.

The BIC is run solely by volunteers, the aim being to provide a central point of contact for residents and visitors, offering information on local services, events, and resources. The centre's location is well sited in the town and provides a warm welcome to both visitors and locals who call in to ask for information. In addition, our 'Love Budleigh' website offers a vast amount of information in a professionally presented format about the town and surrounding area. We maintain a strong collaborative relationship with the local retailers' group, Shop Budleigh, and act as a crucial link between businesses and their potential customers by displaying brochures, advertising places to stay, and directing visitors to shops, restaurants, and services.

As a self-funding Community Interest Company (CIC), fundraising is an important necessity for us to raise income to cover our operating costs and ensure our survival. As such, we organise events to bring the community together while also raising funds for the centre. We are very grateful for the support and financial contributions received from the town council which enables us to keep ticket prices for these events as low as possible, thereby ensuring inclusivity for all our town's residents.

We also greatly appreciate the time given by the councillors to meet regularly with our team of management volunteers to discuss the BIC's activities and seek suggestions and support. These meetings have helped build a good reciprocal relationship between the council and BIC, and we welcome the expertise and recommendations given by the town councillors during these meetings.

The Budleigh Information Centre is a vital community asset, providing essential services and support to residents and visitors alike. We thank the councillors for the strong partnership we have with the local council, which is crucial to the BIC's continued success and which has enabled us to deliver successful community events, such as the Street Parties that have been enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. By working together, the council and the BIC can help Budleigh Salterton remain a vibrant and thriving community by fostering local economic growth and enhancing the overall quality of life in the town.

Budleigh Salterton Library

Budleigh Salterton Library may be small in size but it's a busy, well-loved and well-used library and all the staff, over the years, are very proud of this.

We don't have a separate work room, so all the action - and interaction with our lovely customers, takes place at our front counter, where we also unpack our twice weekly van deliveries. These deliveries, containing book requests - and books borrowed here and returned to other branches - can consist of 11 – 13 skips of stock! We are also lacking in storage and, as a consequence, we have to use the few shelves we have in our office area for storing several reading group sets – which are made up of 10 books or more for each set - as well as work files, children's prizes, our first aid kit and a multitude of other “useful things” which include a couple of boxes of precious, and sometimes heritage documents, about the history of the library and our town! This area is also used by our volunteers, people attending events and by members of the public en route to use our staff toilet!

It was suggested that the library ought to try applying for a grant from Budleigh Salterton Town Council for improvements to our small and crowded office/ kitchen/ staff room. As all the libraries in Devon, except those in Plymouth, have been run by “Libraries Unlimited”, a mutual, not for profit organisation – owned by staff and by the community, and with charitable status - since 2016, any monies spent on our libraries is used for improvements in public areas only.

I put together a funding bid to the Town Council last October, using plenty of data already collected for use in our successful application for the first Budleigh in Business Awards, where we were lucky enough to win the “Best of Budleigh” award. We were all “cock-a-hoop” when, after a meeting of the Town Council on 28th October 2024, it was agreed that a grant of £6,000 would be given to Budleigh Salterton Library towards the library refurbishments.

Because of this very generous grant – and some clever advice from a local contractor - we will be able to transform our small and cramped back-office area, changing the layout and making it much more user friendly. Moving our computer desk and pc, will free up space for a large, wall mounted storage cupboard to be fitted. Staff will no longer have to sit “sideways on” to use the computer – or eat their packed lunches! - and will also have more leg room too, which is a much healthier way of working. The large, ancient, and constantly dripping, hot water boiler above the sink will be replaced with a new, streamlined model and some extra shelves above the sink unit will create more room for our collection of mugs and plates, which are needed for our customer refreshment table and for events and activities. This in turn will free up space in the two cupboards under the sink, for housekeeping essentials, including loo rolls, paper hand towels etc. We're also hoping that this very generous grant will help to provide another storage cupboard for the main room of the library. As we're run by a charity, we need to generate income, on top of our library fees and charges. One of the main sources of this income is from the sale of donated books. The generosity of our customers is remarkable and, as a result we have a vast number of “nearly new” and “not so nearly new books” spilling over onto the floor from our already full shelving unit near our public computers. A large and spacious cupboard, with sliding doors, will help keep this area tidy and make it safer to use for both staff and computer users.

The library has had wonderful support, over the years, from a long list of Budleigh Salterton Mayors and from Jo Vanstone, the Town Hall team and the Town Council too. Your

generous funding of our office refurbishment will provide a transformative, safer and better organised space for everyone who uses this area, which, in turn will have equally positive benefits for our customer transactions that take place at our busy front counter.

A big thank you from all the library staff, our volunteers, and the Friends of Budleigh Salterton Library for awarding us a grant of £6000, and for trusting us to use this money wisely.

We are hoping that work will commence on the week beginning Monday 28th April.



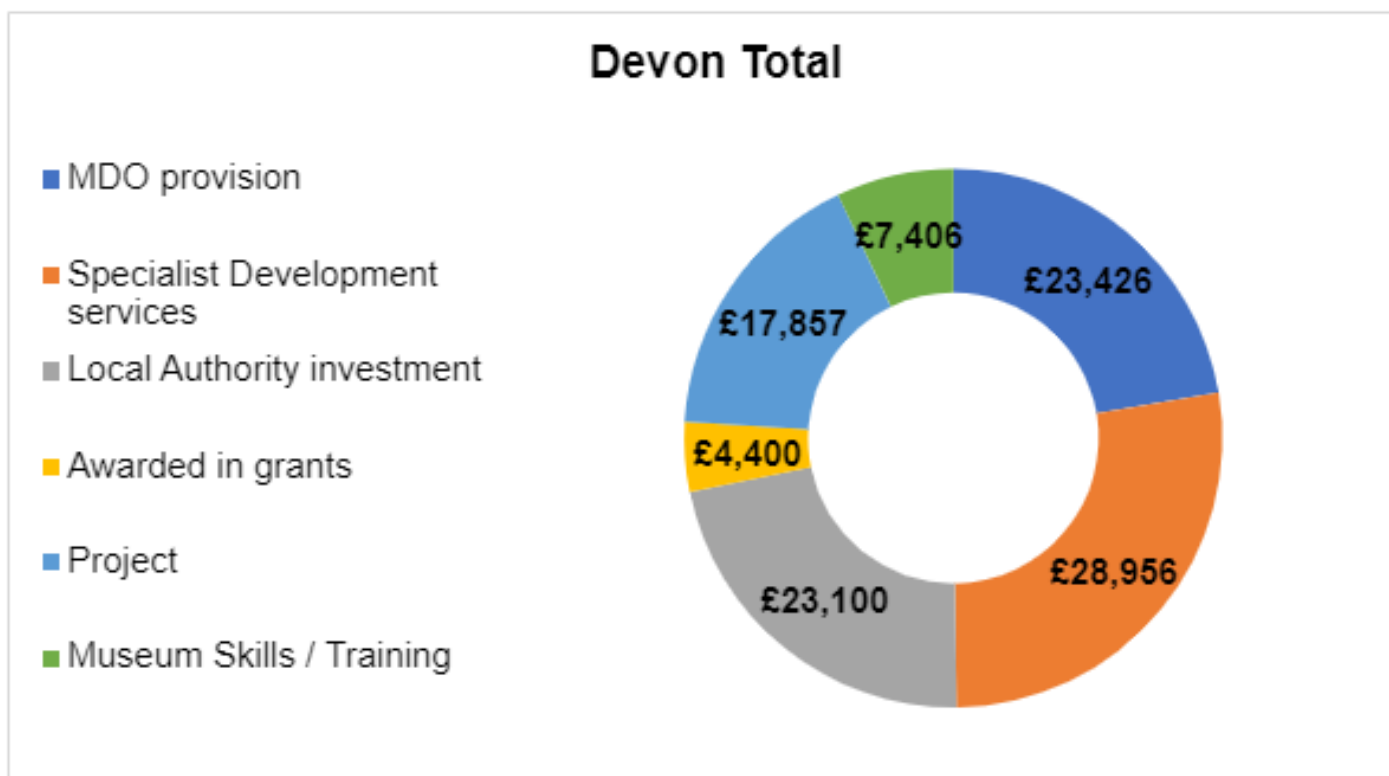
About Museum Development South West

[Museum Development South West](#) (MDSW) works with, and for, the museum and heritage sector in the South West of England to effect positive, lasting change and deliver public value. Supported by Arts Council England and 20 contributing Local Authorities and support partners, we create opportunities which build confidence and skills, encourage innovation, and celebrate our heritage and culture for approx. 300 museums within the Arts Council Accreditation Scheme. An established programme with a track record of delivering museum development services since 2006, the current programme is funded until 2024-27.

What we do

We provide trusted, local and relevant development services to support museum and heritage organisations to improve, innovate, collaborate and celebrate. Read more about [our work here](#)

Our **2024-26 Programme prospectus** provides an overview of the services and activities we'll be delivering over the next two years, **read it here:** [2024-26 Programme Prospectus](#).



Email:
museum.development@bristol.gov.uk
Website:
www.southwestmuseums.org.uk

Our work in Budleigh Salterton in 2023/24

In 2023/24 museums within Budleigh Salterton have engaged in the following Museum Development South West support:

- Advice and support from the local place-based Museum Development Officer
- Specialist **Development Services in Conservation Development and Collection Care** delivered with Budleigh Salterton to advise on replacing the lights in the Linhay with LEDs, and display guidance for documents to remain flat and suitable conservation approaches.
- Preapplication **funding advice and support to museums for Museum Development Grants**
- Access to over **800 fully subsidised training places** provided through SW Museum Skills Programme

Connected and Networked: the Devon Museum Development Officer (MDO) has provided general support and advice offered to all museums with regular updates on opportunities to

engage in SW Museum Development programmes and activities. The MDO has coordinated the East Devon Museums Group Meetings held in March 2023 at Allhallows, Honiton, October 2023 at Axminster Heritage Centre and January 2024 at Ottery St Mary Heritage. The MDO is also the Arts & Culture East Devon (ACED) Museum and Heritage Champion supporting museums to engage in wider ACED opportunities and programmes.

Accreditation: The MDO provides bespoke Museum Accreditation to support museums maintain Accreditation.

Investment: The MDO provided advice on funding options for digital engagement and further support to successfully apply for funding from the East Devon Culture Leisure and Tourism Fund to improve museum lighting. Further advice and support was given to Sarah Elghady, East Devon District Council Cultural Producer, to develop the 'Our Wild and Changing Estuaries' Project and apply for a National Lottery Project Grant to fund the project. Fairlynch Museum was one of three East Devon Museums involved in the project, unfortunately the application for funding was unsuccessful. The Museum Development Officer for Devon is Joanna Cairns

Your investment

Your investment of £800 per annum directly targets museums that are Accredited and those Working Towards Accreditation in Budleigh Salterton to access our full range of support services and opportunities such as those described within this report. Your investment forms part of a local network of investment from other Local Authorities in Devon which amplifies the core services provided by Museum Development South West (MDSW) funded by Arts Council England. Each year MDSW secures additional development opportunities for museums through grants and contract income to improve services for audiences and local communities. This Local Authority investment is essential in delivering effective, tailored services that meet the needs of museums in Budleigh Salterton and the wider region.



Contact

Victoria Harding

Programme Manager, Museum Development South West

23/01/25 Shop Budleigh

Report for Budleigh Salterton Town Council (further to receipt of grant payment in 2024).

How was Shop Budleigh's Town Council grant used?

Shop Budleigh's Town Council grant was used to pay for the installation and removal of Budleigh Salterton's new Christmas lights.

What impact has the grant had?

The impact of these lights has been huge on morale in the High St. and the town generally. There was a really positive buzz around the town after the new lights were installed, and it was said by many that this year's Late Night Shopping event was busier than it has been for years, due perhaps in part to the updated festive lights. The project couldn't have taken place without the money from BSTC.

Countless residents of the town made a special effort to come and speak to Shop Budleigh members; to feedback how delighted they were by the new lights, and to say how much they added to the town during the festive period.

In order to keep Budleigh High St alive and able to serve our residents, we have a responsibility to make it look cared for, and to make it an appealing place to visit. Having an appealing Christmas light display is one way we can do this at a key trading point in what is currently an extremely difficult trading climate.

Were there any particular achievements or challenges?

Achievements

The funds for this project were raised from several sources, and a whole new scheme was designed and implemented by a very small team of Shop Budleigh members. All of the team run their own businesses, and have families, so the completion of this project felt like a significant achievement; we think updating the lights gave the town a festive facelift!

A few of the challenges:

Landlords

Identifying the various landlords of the town, to request necessary permissions was quite challenging. Many landlords are not local, so trying to identify, locate and contact them was time consuming.

Funding

If the town wants annual Christmas lights, ongoing funding and/or fundraising is required. We bought the lights outright this year, but going forwards there will still be costs associated with testing, maintenance, installation and removal. (We are definitely open to donations or sponsorship!)

Ageing Infrastructure

Latterly, supply of power became a limiting factor for the icicle lights on Fore St. After an unusually large storm, the power supply in Wesley's was tripped, we think possibly by the lights, in extremely high winds. Wesley's had been very kind in allowing us to use their supply up to this point but couldn't then risk their power supply (which is old and sensitive) being tripped again, risking the safe storage of their food stocks. There were issues in quickly locating a viable alternative supply before the lights were taken down again in January. We have been speaking to the owner of The Cosy Teapot about potentially using her supply, where we believe the lights would be safely on their own circuit.

Thank you! Shop Budleigh would like to take the opportunity to thank BSTC, and ALL contributors for their donations to the Christmas lights.



East Devon Local Plan Consultation

The East Devon Local Plan consultation is an important opportunity for residents, businesses, and stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed strategies for the future development of the region. This plan outlines key policies regarding land use, housing, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability. The consultation aims to gather input on how East Devon can grow in a way that balances development needs with preserving the area's unique character and natural beauty. Public participation is essential to ensure that the plan reflects the aspirations and concerns of the local community.

We encourage all residents of Budleigh Salterton to actively participate in the East Devon Local Plan consultation. This is a vital opportunity for you to have a say in shaping the future of our community. Your input will help ensure that the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our town.

Budleigh Salterton Town Council (BSTC) is currently preparing a formal response to the consultation, which is due by 31 March 2025

Don't miss this chance to be part of the conversation and influence the future of our town!

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan-2013-2031/>

