

Tithebarn update

Tithebarn is so excited; it now has a shop! After nearly 7 years of waiting it's taking a while to get used to that fact. If I run out of a crucial ingredient I don't have a 25 min walk to the shop or a car journey. Such luxury, think how much carbon will be saved for just a pint of milk.

Fran Aggleton the first chair and founding member of the Tithebarn residents association performed the opening duties! Tesco donated £500, which will be put towards the defibrillator the Parish Council wants to install outside the building. More funds are still required to cover all the costs but hopefully it won't take too long. (Tesco does have a defib within the building which you can access during its opening hours). Dunelm have made an offer of assistance which I have yet to hear directly from.

There is a fabulous statue in the square commissioned by Eagle One. The sculptor Martin Staniforth carved a representation of a creature that lives in our ponds. It's been great to watch the community walk, cycle and scoot on the plaza. People sit on the benches enjoying a bite or a drink they have bought.

We look forward to the opening of the Strawberry Fields cafe in the local centre in a few months. By the time you read this hopefully the children's playgrounds and the pocket park will also be open. Fran and I popped down to check out the cafe and look forward to their opening. They hope to be able to work with the community after they have found their feet.

The planning application for the new sports pavilion to be built by Persimmon is being examined. It will be a great venue if all the comments on the application are taken on board. I had the privilege of a site walk with Persimmon to check out the site recently. It's got some difficult levels to deal with but we keep our fingers crossed that this will be the first community building that we can actually use.

The Residents Association is one year old, we held the AGM at the Black Horse Inn. Lots of new faces and their dogs came along and a new committee was created. They are all keen to build and contribute to our growing community. Look out for events during the year. Anyone who can offer their time to help can find more details at www.tithebarn.uk.

With ongoing development in the area, 240 homes were built in Tithebarn last year whereas there were only 40 in Cranbrook. There are ongoing problems with the developers in many areas including how they manage mud coming out of their sites, which is a particular problem as Persimmon are building a new road for phase 4 and 5 of Mosshayne.

Persimmon, will soon be instating a banksman at the crossing of the new road and Mosshayne Lane. There is to be signage warning people about the construction vehicles too.

They are setting up a contract for a small street cleaner to go up and down the road each day to try and keep on top of the mud. A health and safety assessment is being done and pot holes being filled in.

They will also be a jet washer at the end of Tithebarn Lane to try and cope with mud coming out of site there.

This is really needed as after the bad weather at the weekend, there is 4 inches of mud on the lane at the crossing points. Mosshayne lane is an important active travel route across the parish.

Barret,

Barret were the first developers in Tithebarn and will probably be the last to finish. Their Exeter office closed at the end of last year and Bristol Barret have taken over. Its proving very challenging for them as there has been no proper handover.

Hotel

The first net zero hotel in the country is due to open at the end of February in our parish, there will be an opening coffee morning, date be released.

Science Park

SP happy to try an activity over Easter holidays in the dome. Looking for interested community groups.

Bikes

Hopefully you know that Sarah Vaughan has some money to give some bikes from the charity Ride On to people that can't otherwise afford bikes. Hoping the food bank might be able to help distribute leaflets to people or open to other ideas. She has written an article for the Broadsheet on this story.

East Devon District Council is kicking off the new year by providing extra support to enable local community groups to deliver environmental projects across the East Devon area.

The council is partnering with [Community Action Groups \(CAG\) Devon](#) and funding a dedicated project coordinator to empower new and existing groups – many of which are led by teams of committed volunteers – to work towards a more sustainable future.

CAG Devon works at a grassroots level with residents across the county to improve sustainability and equip them with the tools, skills, and know-how to make a lasting impact. The groups 'activities have a particular focus on 'green 'initiatives, including waste reduction, composting, sharing, re-use, repair, biodiversity, and energy saving.

In the last year alone, the CAG Devon network's activities have:

- Prevented 111 tonnes of waste.
- Diverted 68 tonnes of waste from incineration.
- Avoided 361 tonnes of carbon emissions.
- Provided almost 25,000 volunteer hours, valued at over £380,000.
- Hosted 88 events across Devon, engaging with 44,732 attendees.

Fifty groups are currently supported by CAG Devon, including five in East Devon. Each group delivers a unique service, from surplus food cafes and community fridges to water refill stations and clothes swaps.

Sarah Kersey, the new project coordinator for East Devon, has been busy supporting the East Devon groups that are already up and running: the SAVE Food Hub, Seaton Repair Café, Transition Exmouth and Broadclyst Environment Group.

One of the groups that has benefited from membership is [Sidmouth Repair Café](#), which last year prevented 1.35 tonnes of waste, avoided nearly three tonnes of carbon emissions and saved consumers over £9,000 by repairing electrical items like vacuum cleaners and radios and mending clothes, bags and teddy bears – all through volunteers' time worth nearly £16,000. The café operates on the last Saturday of every month (except August and December) from St. Francis Church Hall in Sidmouth.

"As members of the CAG Devon network, we have felt supported and encouraged," explains Angie Carney of Sidmouth Repair Café. "Each month, a member of our team uses the simple software provided by CAG Devon to enter statistics gathered at our latest event to calculate the amazing impact we have made. Our team has really become its own lively community, and we enjoy opportunities the network provides to share our story with others thinking of setting up a repair café in their own towns or villages."

Sarah and the wider CAG team are on hand to provide advice on organisational issues that might otherwise act as barriers to groups being able to get their ideas off the ground. Membership is free and open to groups with a democratic membership.

Sarah will work with East Devon groups to:

- Increase their impact on reducing waste and improving sustainability.
- Facilitate connections with other likeminded groups and support organisations.
- Help them access grants and funding.
- Expand community events and activities.
- Deliver training, implement basic governance, and sort insurance.

East Devon District Council is committed to achieving its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2040. The partnership with CAG Devon and the new project coordinator role reinforces the council's support for local communities in building a greener future.