

Teignmouth Community Organisations

During the pandemic, Teignmouth organisations such as Volunteering in Health, The Alice Cross Centre, and the newly founded Mutual Aid Group pulled together to support the community as best they could, alongside local businesses offering delivery services. In Dawlish, the Town Council brought their community organisations together under Helping Dawlish to co-ordinate their pandemic response, which has continued in support of Ukrainian families, and all affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Teignbridge CVS already runs a regular Coastal Caring Alliance group for health and wellbeing organisations across Teignmouth and Dawlish (including statutory services), but there may be potential for the council to co-ordinate something like Helping Dawlish to bring together all community organisations in Teignmouth so that they can be more aware of the services they each offer and can support each other (shared training courses, fundraising events etc). Sadly, the Meadow Centre/Kingsway Residents Association is very likely going to be closing. Perhaps a group like this could have helped them identify the issues earlier and resulted in a different, collaborative, outcome?

Coastal Connectors

The Primary Care Network is setting up a Coastal Connector scheme, offering a free one off training session to local people who come into contact with the general public (such as taxi drivers, hairdressers, shopkeepers, carers, bar staff, councillors) to give them some basic tips and knowledge about how they can support and signpost people to find the information and services they need, such as community groups, benefits advice, housing support, carers.

It's not about the trained people becoming volunteers, or acquiring all of the knowledge about all of the services available locally, but knowing what kind of support is available and where to go for more information. Local centres such as The Alice Cross Centre can opt to be an Information Access Point and provide the more in-depth knowledge, whilst increasing their footfall and awareness of their own services.

Around 2018, Volunteering in Health ran a similar project called Don't Bottle It Up, in which local bar staff received mental health awareness training, there was a poster campaign, and the pubs put on a fundraising event to support local voluntary mental health services.

Parking at Bitton House

The parking regulations at Bitton House are due to change from 2nd April 2024.

Parkrun

Thank you to Parkrun for recently inviting councillors along. I have been back since and have enjoyed getting back into running. It's fantastic that we have this in Teignmouth as it's such a great community and helps people get into exercise. Although the town council isn't able to provide storage for the Parkrun equipment, I hope that this is able to be resolved soon with Teignbridge council.

Human Resources

Welcome to Terrill Mayho – I'm looking forward to meeting you.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to make the HR committee meetings held about her recruitment because they were too short notice. There haven't been any other HR meetings this year, so I haven't attended any since joining the council. I think the HR committee should be meeting more regularly (for example, quarterly) so that they can be planned ahead to enable better attendance and so that we can notice any HR issues as they arise, rather than waiting for small problems to become big ones.