

Tuesday 29th July 2025 13:00 – 15.00 NDVS Queen's House, Queen's Street, Barnstaple.

Attendance

Marie Gould, Chief Officer - North Devon Voluntary Services (Chair)

Jill Bond, NDVS (Minute taker)

Joe Newberry, National Landscape Manager, North Devon Coast, National Landscape (NDCNL)

Megan Sanders, Community Manager, Barnstaple Town Council

Tom Humphreys, Communities Project Manager, North Devon Biosphere

Adrian Avery, Torrington District Council

James Lander, One Northern Devon

Apologies: Sarah Milton, Barnstaple PCN Alliance, Bev Triggs, NDC, Marguerite Shapland, Louise Flagg, Susannah Hill, Donna Sibley North Devon & Torrington District Councils (Secretariat), Andrea Beacham

Marie gave a brief update to the new members on the background of the group.

Adrian adds the first step is to identify where help is needed and what is required.

1.0 Welcome introductions & apologies

Marie apologised for the last-minute change from 5th August to today explaining that a Board meeting had been scheduled for 5th. Also, has asked that Board meetings (OND and NDF) are scheduled, for a year in advance, to minimise the risk of this happening again.

1.1 Minutes of the previous Meeting held 17.06.2025

No queries or questions.

Adrian offers to host next in person meeting at Caddisdown, Bideford.

Marie talked about the community life survey, The Community Spirit Level and suggests that we carry out a survey a loneliness survey in ND & Torrington.

1.2 Matters Arising

On agenda.

1.3 Actions, risks and issues log

Not available but priority for next webinar

2.1 Update on OND/NDF Structure - One Programme Two Personalities – overall joint partnership action groups – Community Wellbeing & Inclusion Action Group

Marie updated members on position of OND and NDF. She also informed the group that Chairs and Secretariat come together once a month, for Chair of Chairs to look at cross cutting themes – Marie's main wish for this action group is to take the voice of the community and its needs to the strategic level.

Discussion took place pertaining to the historic barriers in place about health-related projects and the economic value placed on them & the benefits of sharing firsthand experience of need with policy makers. Also, the benefits of lived experience and policy making. Poverty Truth being cited as an example.

2.2 Board Update – the aims & objectives of the group

Adrian asks if Thriving in Northern Devon the central section on the 'flower diagram' can be a different colour to differentiate from the groups.

Shared workplan from OND & NDF – and noted new name of this action group – as per Board – Community Wellbeing and Inclusion.

James asks what the actions of this group will be? the goal is community improvement not just through community development

James suggest that this group should inform the one communities' joint group and any other community developers.

Discussions around the One Communities and their community members

A very rich, open and honest discussion between members and how they can/will contribute through their roles, involvement, understand and learning around community development

2.3 NDVS/TTVS/OND Lottery update – simplified outcomes

End of year 1 of project, Team met with new lottery funding officer recently – Marie provided an overview of project simplified outcomes framework.

James clarified that this group has most relevance – outcome 4. Individuals and their organisations might have cross over with outcomes 1 and 2. Outcome 3 relates to the role of the two Council for Voluntary Services (CVS)

Action – Outcome 4 to be essential part of priority setting for this action group

2.4 Place & Impact Report

James is working on end of year report; we now have format but to note simplified outcomes have just been approved; – and independent evaluation is due out shortly. This might help with are storytelling and finding future investment.

Discussion around how best to connect with potential corporate funders to start the conversation around the impact of community health & wellbeing on their business and the benefits of being part of funding community projects.

Megan adds that Barnstaple Town Council (BTC) Community Developers are part of their core team and not funded only for the length of the project. Megan went onto explain the learning and enormous amount of work that has taken place, including the trust building and various networks, and the understanding that is required to make this work including use of language. Also working on ensuring that the resident's voice was next step. If other town councils can be convinced to take on Community Developers as part of their core team it could be sustainable. Megan also chairs BTC Community Development committee.

Adrian commends BTC approach on community development.

James also added that community development is the mechanism for societal change.

2.5 Member Updates

Tom – ND Biosphere working on our 10-year strategy & 5-year nature recovery plan, with partnership and our working groups – the biosphere has grown in last year and now has 22 employees staffing a variety of funded projects. Particular focus on supporting preparation (resilience and adaptation) in North Devon & Torridge for the inevitable changes brought about by climate change, felt particularly at the local level by communities. ND & T has huge potential for sustainably participating with green economy going forward

2.6 Proposed Priorities Community Wellbeing & Inclusion – follow up from webinar, and setting the seen

2.7 Members Workshop

Due to attendance numbers and wanting to have adequate time to discuss and approve this action group's strategy. Marie will let the group have a shared document to take notes. We will check in at next webinar and dedicate the workshop on 22nd October, to discussing and approving our strategy. Proposed strategy was sent out (and is attached) after webinar of 17th June

Marie asks for feedback & comments on the proposed priorities prior to the next meeting.

Board had asked for Strategy by September, but due to clash with Board (next week) will ask if can submit after workshop on 22

Action- Marie will share the priorities document so everyone can comment and see each other's comments

Donna - Agenda for 22nd October – to be dedicated to this interactive work and ask Board for extension for strategy for this date.

Members - to review the proposed priorities and make notes on shared document, as well as refresh on the community spirit level documentation

Joe asked if Marie can also share the Thriving in Northern Devon document OND/NDF priorities – suggests using Pablo to work collaboratively.

It was highlighted that we are aiming to work collaboratively to understand, from strategic perspective, across the membership and as well as assisting in a thriving community but to reduce duplication, understand and fill gaps, use common language facilitate change through community development.

3.0 Closing Business

3.1 Any Other Business

3.1.1 – Who’s missing (from this meeting including business sector representation)?

Secretariat Support – not discussed

Corporate representation – discussed briefly and for members to consider appropriate representation

3.2 Dates of next meetings

Webinars Sept 9, Dec 2 – 15.15 – 16.15

Face to Face Workshop (venue needed) October 21

January 13 – 13.00 – 15.00

Current Active Membership

Marie Gould Chair	Chief Officer NDVS
Donna Sibley Interim Secretariat	Joint Climate Officer - Torridge District Council
Adrian Avery	Community Engagement Officer - Torridge District Council
Bev Triggs	Senior Corporate and Communities Services Officer - North Devon Council
Andrea Beacham	Senior Programme Manager -One Northern Devon
Joe Newberry	National Landscape Manager - North Devon Coast National Landscape
Tom Humphries	Communities Project Manager – North Devon Biosphere
Rebecca Sharples	CEO – TTVS
Sarah Milton	Wellbeing Team Lead – Barnstaple PCN Alliance
Susanna Hill	Chair – Live Well in Braunton/GP
Rebecca Brady	Wellbeing Team Lead – Coast and Country PCN
James Lander	One Northern Devon and Project Internal Evaluator
Louise Flagg	Partnership’s Officer and Project Co-ordinator - NDVS
Megan Sanders	Community Manager, Barnstaple Town Council
Jess Foy	Deputy Town Clerk, Barnstaple Town Council

Tom Mack	Programmes Manager - Active Devon
Marguerite Shapland	Councillor