

# IVYBRIDGE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday 18 March 2024

The Watermark, Ivybridge

## Present:

Cllr A Spencer (Town Mayor)  
Cllr V Abbott  
Cllr P Dredge  
Cllr A Khong

Cllr T Lannin  
Cllr M Steele  
Cllr S Weeks

## In attendance:

Cllr V Abbot (District Councillor)  
Cllr N Dommatt (District Councillor)  
Cllr M Steele (District Councillor)  
Mrs K Elliott-Turner (Town Clerk)  
Mrs L Lane (Minutes Secretary and Administration Officer)  
Mrs J Gilbert (Assistant Town Clerk)  
35 Members of the Public

**Apologies:** Cllrs Austen, Cao, Cole, Hladkij, Murphy, Pringle, A Rea L Rea, County Cllr Croad

The Mayor, Cllr Alan Spencer, welcomed everyone to the Ivybridge Annual Town Meeting 2023/24 and advised that he has had the privilege of serving as Mayor for just over 10 months now. He went on to introduce the Town Clerk, Kate Elliott-Turner and explained that her role is to ensure that the Ivybridge Town Council operates legally and is in charge of the council's administration and staff. She ensures that the decisions of the Council are carried out and is responsible for advising Councillors to assist the Council in making informed decisions.

He then introduced the Administration Officer who was taking the minutes for the meeting.

### **24/1 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of 25 May 2023**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25 May 2023 (previously circulated) were received and accepted.

### **24/2 Town Council Reports:** To receive a report from the Mayor and Town Clerk on the activities of Ivybridge Town Council.

The slides for the presentation are available in Appendix 1

**The Mayor provided the following report:**

## This year 2023/2024

We started in the most democratic way possible, having fought contested elections during May in both Ivybridge wards welcoming Cllrs Austen, Cole, Murphy, Smith, Steele, and the Weeks' to provide fresh ideas and balance to the existing incumbents (many of whom have been serving for well over a decade). Lately Cllr Cao joined our ranks to make us a full complement of 16 members.

Sadly we said goodbye to Jonathan our previous Town Clerk, as he moved on to pastures new. He offered an approachable and reassuring style, which combined with his 8 years of running the Watermark and the local knowledge that entailed, gave him a unique Ivybridge understanding. When he announced his departure it was a body-blow, knowing his shoes would be almost impossible to fill. Almost. The search began, finally short-listing the 3 strongest candidates Kate emerged to accept the job, with an impressive list of credentials and personality to match she combines the strengths of our previous clerks to offer Ivybridge a bright future.

In November we held our annual Christmas Festival. This always fills me with pride, as walking around with a very animated Prancer seeing the numbers of Ivybridge residents coming out to enjoy and soak up the festive atmosphere. The behind the scenes work which makes this event happen is considerable, long hours on the day, often cold feet and hands; I must offer heart-felt thanks to Town Council staff and fellow Town Councillors for the time and dedication in making the event happen. I must also offer thanks to the residents who said how wonderful the event was, this makes it all worth-while.

On the Christmas theme, the Town Council co-ordinated the distribution of Christmas hampers by a fantastic team of volunteers, which were very welcomed by those who received them.

The Town Council has started work on the Community Economic Plan with South Hams District Council, with three consultations - businesses, residents and young people. These are now closed and the results are being analysed, and will go forward to forming the Ivybridge Community Economic Plan.

There are other Town Council operations which just appear to seamlessly happen - management of Longtimber woods, Filham Park, Victoria Park, and often forgotten as a Town Council operation, The Watermark. This wonderful resource offers a venue for big names to perform, local club and organisations to meet, and perhaps a refreshing coffee and cake whilst visiting the Library.

## Looking forward 2024/2025

We have a new community event on Saturday 25 May 12noon to 4pm, in Victoria Park which is being organised by town council. This is hoped to become a regular annual fixture in our diaries.

MacAndrews and Victoria Park new play equipment projects are well underway and we hope to see the updated play equipment in place by August.

The Town Council continues to work with Skate South Devon on their wheeled sports facility at Filham Park.

We also support WATER (Wild about the Erme River) in their goal to take action to protect the river from harmful effects of pollution, put measures in place to reduce further impacts and to restore the river back to its natural state.

A group of councillors and interested stakeholders led by Cllr Shirley Weeks have formed a working party to set out both a youth strategy/vision for Ivybridge and explore practical steps to improve youth provision in the town. Including supporting existing projects and collaborating together to identify need, target the effective provision and where appropriate collaborate to source funding and training opportunities.

We will be looking to improve our engagement with our residents, and will be producing a formal community engagement strategy.

Everything the Town Council does is for the benefit of residents, but residents can also help us. Hold us to account by attending our meetings, offer us your ideas, tell us when you like what we are doing, offer us ideas for improvement when you don't. We are your Town Council.

### **Report from the Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk introduced herself and explained that she would be giving a very brief overview of our budgeting process, how we arrive at the council tax you pay and some examples of how we spend our money.

At this time of year, everyone wants to know what their council tax will be for the coming year. Your Town Council uses money derived from council tax to help fund the services and facilities it provides to support our community. Your Ivybridge council tax is collected by South Hams District Council on behalf of the following bodies:

- Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner
- Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority
- Devon County Council
- South Hams District Council
- Ivybridge Town Council

In October/November of each year, a budget review is carried out. We consider costs for any potential new assets or liabilities for the town council - either by transfer or purchase, continuation of services carried out on behalf of other authorities, any known new or continuation of existing projects, together with projected operating costs to continue providing existing services and facilities.

Recent years have seen extreme pressures on certain budget lines, in the main our utility costs, employment costs and supplies costs. This coming financial year is expected to see the same pressures.

Following that review process, a budget for the forthcoming financial year is agreed. A figure known as the Precept is calculated using the budget figures and the council tax base - which is the number of Band D equivalent properties liable to pay council tax, and then this money is collected on behalf of the town council by the District Council via your council tax.

To explain, Band D properties are used by the District Council to calculate all other council tax bands and charges to them. So you will all likely be on different Bands and therefore have a different council tax charge apportioned to you.

#### What does this mean for your council tax?

Our Precept of £588,773 for 2024/2025 is a slight increase on last year, and in real terms means that a Band D property in Ivybridge will see an increase of 11p per week.

#### Do we obtain income from other sources?

Yes, we do. This can come from hiring income, so from charged use of rooms within our Town Hall and Watermark buildings and our Watermark top floor leased commercial units. It can come from sales, such as cinema tickets, and purchases from our very popular cafe at the Watermark.

Some of our income, particularly associated with projects, can come from developer contributions known as Section 106. We may also obtain funds via grants, donations or sponsorship. As an example, to help fund the well-received Christmas Hampers, we received grants and donations from Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, Erme Lodge Masons and Ivor Jones Financial Planning.

Some of our money is budgeted annually, including income, and some once obtained is held year on year for specific purposes - known as Earmarked Reserves. Having healthy reserves gives council more options, particularly in an operating environment that is uncertain.

#### Once we have received that money, how do we use it to benefit the community?

One way to directly benefit the community can be to help fund a group or organisation's project or activities through our grants process.

Twice a year, usually in April and September or October, we consider applications from local clubs and organisations for project funding. We also help some of our charitable organisations with free use of our rooms for their meetings.

During 2023/2024, we awarded grants to:

- The Bridge Project
- Citizens Advice

- Ring & Ride
- Royal British Legion
- Ivybridge Caring
- Community Action
- English Lessons for Ukrainians

The closing date for the April round of grants has passed, but we will start advertising towards the end of August/early September with the deadline of the next round, so keep an eye on our Facebook page, website and posters around the town.

We also use our money on projects and improvements, such as:

- Investment funds to provide new and exciting play equipment at Victoria Park and MacAndrews Field, together with some of our reserves.
- Using Reserves to fund a much-needed overhaul of our IT and network systems for the Town Hall and Watermark, which will greatly improve our staff working efficiency, and will provide visitors to both buildings with much improved WiFi availability!
- Using our budgets for an improved grass cutting and grounds maintenance contract, which will see the areas which we cut on behalf of Devon County Council having double the number of cuts of recent years. We have also agreed to take on grass cutting of the full length of verges in Cornwood Road and Woolcombe Lane. We will be continuing with our existing wildflower areas, and will be looking to add new 'wildflower pockets' in appropriate places.

And finally, as always, our accounts are open to the public to inspect. To ensure we have appropriate staff available to help you with any queries, please do contact our office first to make an appointment.

**24/3 District and County Reports:** To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

The slides for the presentation are available in Appendix 2

The District Councillors advised that their aim is to make people aware of what each council is responsible for, for example SHDC is responsible for planning, car parks, waste etc.

In the past year District Councillors have dealt with questions about a wide range of things including leaves on Blachford Road, grass, memorial benches, vegetation and rats. They are the first point for residents to contact.

The Community Economic Plan consultation has been taking place with the aim to identify projects within the town then prepare should funding become available. It was apparent from this consultation that the river is the town's main asset and recent tree works in partnership with the Town Council have opened up views of the river. There were also good comments about the shops and the town providing a safe environment.

Dame Hannahs have been looking at accessibility. Wheeled access and dropped kerbs are often overlooked. Packs are available to shops to help people to communicate with those who are non-verbal.

#### Questions

Is there any plan to bring back free garden waste collections?  
At present no, the cost is only £1 per week.

What is happening about dog wardens as they have not been seen for a long time?

This has been subject to a consultation and it is in the council plan. They are building a policy and hope to have action by the summer.

#### **24/4 Ring and Ride**

The slides for the presentation are available in Appendix 3

#### Questions

Do you always need more volunteers?

They are always looking, currently they have 24 volunteers but last week received 30 calls. Mileage is paid to volunteers and this activity is normally covered by normal car insurance. If they do not have enough volunteers sometimes they have to turn people away.

#### **24/5 Speaker: DNPA Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes**

The slides for the presentation are available in Appendix 4

This covers the upper catchment area but it does extend all the way to the sea for the Erme.

#### Questions

Ivybridge is being billed as the gateway to the moors but most access is blocked by the landowners, is anything being done about this?  
Colleagues are working on this.

Who should be contacted about grant schemes?

They are looking for a panel from the community to oversee these. Please contact the speaker.

Will you be liaising with existing groups?

Yes, they aim to liaise with existing groups.

What is the Ivybridge Hub?

Working to increase awareness of existing access routes to, from and around Ivybridge.

#### **24/6 Speaker: Woodland Trust – Wood N Moor Project**

The slides for the presentation are available in Appendix 5

Wood N Moor is part of Dartmoor Dynamic Landscape's projects, and is one of three projects the Woodland Trust is running as part of the wider project. The aim is to combine the restoration of ancient woodland with peatland restoration.

Ancient woodlands are areas of woodland that have persisted since 1600 in England. This is when maps started to be reasonably accurate, so we can tell that these areas have had tree cover for hundreds of years. As these ancient woodlands, their soils, and wildlife have co-evolved for hundreds, if not thousands, of years they have developed unique and diverse communities of plants, fungi, insects and other microorganisms. This longevity and diversity makes them irreplaceable – they cannot be recreated or replaced.

However, despite being home to more threatened species than any other habitat, ancient woodland now only covers 2.5% of the UK. Around half of this has been felled and replanted with non-native species. Typically, these are conifers, but it can also include non-native broadleaves such as beech, red oak and sweet chestnut. These are known as Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). However, these woods still retain valuable remnants such as ancient trees or dormant seeds alongside cultural features from their past. These are the building blocks for restoration.

Restoration is the careful process of removing threats such as non-native trees, which create shade across the woodland floor, and invasive species (like rhododendron and Himalayan balsam) which out-compete native plants. This creates the light and space required for the native plants and trees to regrow and wildlife to thrive.

Like woodland, peatlands are crucial in the fight against climate change. While they only cover 3% of the earth's surface, they capture more carbon than all of the world's forests combined. Unfortunately, most of the UK's peatlands have been seriously damaged by human activities including removing peat to use for fuel and compost and draining areas for agriculture and forestry. Damaged and dried-out peatland releases carbon, contributing to emissions and accelerating climate change. However, healthy peatlands have numerous benefits. As well as capturing and storing carbon, they absorb water so can help to reduce flooding. They also improve water quality and soil health, and act as wildlife habitats for British insects, birds and reptiles.

The South West Peatland Partnership, which is a collaboration between local and regional government agencies, non-governmental organisations, businesses, landowners, commoners and farmers are working together to restore peatland across Dartmoor, Exmoor and Cornwall. Stopping peat from further drying out and raising the water table in degraded areas is a key element of peatland restoration.

This is where the wood comes in. Untreated timber in the round and wooden planks can be used to block larger ditches or erosion gullies, slowing the flow of water, helping to raise and stabilise the water table and stop the peat from drying out and eroding. This then supports the growth of Sphagnum moss,

which also supports water retention. As a result, the waterlogged acidic peat is sustained and active peat build up is promoted.

Wood N Moor hopes to bring together the restoration of these two very important ecosystems, ancient woodland and peatland, by exploring the economic opportunities of local timber.

For a number of years, the Woodland Trust has been working with the South West Peatland Partnership, supplying the timber required for the vital restoration which is a by-product of our woodland management. So, it really is a double win for restoration as the sale of the timber to the Peatland Partnership has helped unlock ancient woodland restoration on several Woodland Trust sites.

As the Peatland Partnership requires a combination of boards, stakes and timber in the round it can utilise low-grade timber that doesn't normally have much commercial value. Furthermore, as the planks and stakes can be processed on-site using a mobile sawmill, it means timber can be extracted from sites with difficult access that wouldn't be suitable for a timber lorry. Meanwhile, it doesn't stop high-grade timber from going to other markets such as construction.

We believe this model has potential for other landowners who want to manage their woodland but are currently finding it uneconomical due to the size of the site, difficult access or steep terrain.

The Woodland Trust is therefore looking for ancient woodland sites that have been converted to conifer, where we can work with landowners to optimise the timber, biodiversity and income potential. This will all start with an ancient woodland assessment. As you may know, the Woodland Trust was founded in Devon over 50 years ago. Everything we do is informed by evidence, so, since then, we have been refining the way we assess ancient woodlands.

- 1) We start by identifying the **remnant features** from before the conversion to conifer. In particular, woodland specialist flora such as bluebells and anemones; relic trees that pre-date the plantation; and archaeological features such as ancient buildings or previous management e.g. charcoal or sawpits.
- 2) Next we highlight and threats. They could be tree disease such as ash dieback or phytophthora; browsing by deer; pollution; and shade demanding species such as conifer or rhododendron.
- 3) Finally, we make a series of recommendations or proposals. These could include: Halo thinning around remnant features; the removal of invasive species; management of deer or squirrel and enrichment planting.

Importantly, the ancient woodland assessment sets out the gold standard – we then work with the landowner to work out what is practical and affordable. Before hand holding them through the process of producing a management plan and undertaking management.



Dartmoor's Dynamic Landscape are looking to use Longtimber Wood as a trial site and to roll this model out to a wider area.

**24/7 Awards:** Presentation of the David Britton Citizen of the Year Award and the Nick Cummins Community Group of the Year Award.

Mavis Sturman was chosen to receive The David Britton Citizen of the Year Award in recognition of all the amazing voluntary work she is involved in, with the Brownies, Guides and Trefoil, with The Bridge, St John's Church and generally for her smiling, friendly personality and insatiable appetite for helping others over so many years.

The Salvation Army – The Bridge have been chosen to receive The Nick Cummins Community Group of the Year Award, in recognition of the service they provide to the community, collecting toys each Christmas for the toy appeal, running the café providing a non-judgemental safe place where everyone is welcome, running the Bees baby bank, providing emergency help and white goods and clothing for those in need and at the last minute holding the Christmas Lunch on 25th December for all those in need or alone.

The Mayor of Ivybridge, Cllr Alan Spencer, presented the awards.

**24/8 Written Questions:** To consider any matters submitted to the meeting in writing by electors of this parish.

No questions were submitted to the meeting in writing.

**24/9 Matters Arising:** To consider any matters to be raised in person at the meeting by electors of this Parish.

What is happening with Butterpark?

The Town Clerk advised that the developer is waiting on ecological surveys which have to take place at certain times of the year. This is holding up pre-planning discussions.

Why have the hedges in Victoria Park been cut back?

This is where laurel has been removed as it is a non-native species.

Can anything be done about pavement parking near the tennis courts?

This is an issue for Devon County Council. Concerns can be fed back to Cllr Croad.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.

Signed .....  
Cllr Spencer (Chairman)

Date .....

DRAFT

# LET'S TALK ABOUT FINANCE

Ivybridge Town Council

Kate Elliott-Turner, Town Clerk &  
Responsible Financial Officer

## Your Council Tax

Your Council Tax is collected by South Hams District Council, on behalf of:

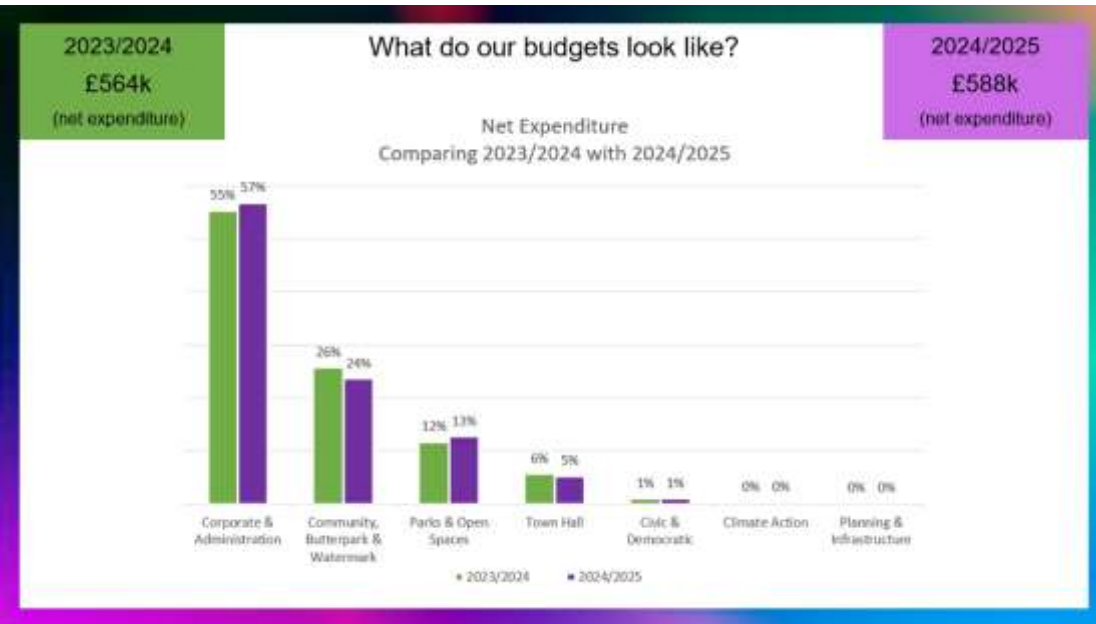
- Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner
- Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority
- Devon County Council
- South Hams District Council
- Ivybridge Town Council

How much do we need?

**BUDGETS**  
&  
**PRECEPT**



*The* Watermark



# What does this mean for your Council Tax?

2024/2025 Precept of £588,773 is an increase of 4.4% on last year

This translates to a 4.2% increase in the Town Council element of Band D property Council Tax

A Band D property will see an increase of 11p per week

# Do we obtain income from other sources?

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Hiring charges &amp; leases</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire of Town Hall rooms</li> <li>• Hire of Watermark rooms</li> <li>• Lease of commercial units</li> </ul> | <p><b>Sales</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cinema tickets</li> <li>• Watermark Cafe</li> <li>• Information Centre</li> </ul> | <p><b>Grants, donations &amp; sponsorship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S106 developer contributions</li> <li>• South Hams DC Locality Fund</li> <li>• Devon County Council Growing Communities Fund</li> <li>• Local business donations/sponsorship</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

# How do we use our money to benefit the community?

Recipients of grants awarded this year...

- Bridge Project
- Citizens Advice
- Ivybridge & District Community Transport (Ring & Ride)
- Royal British Legion (Ivybridge Remembrance)
- Ivybridge Caring
- Community Action (formerly CVS)
- English Lessons for Ukrainians



Investments

Reserves

Budgets

Play equipment at  
Victoria Park and  
MacAndrews Field

Overhaul of IT and  
network systems

Improving verge  
cutting and grounds  
maintenance



Ivybridge  
Town  
Council

Our accounts are open to the public  
to inspect

Please contact our office to make an  
appointment

Ivybridge Town Council  
Town Hall  
Erme Court, Leonard's Road  
Ivybridge, PL21 0SZ

[townhall@ivybridge.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@ivybridge.gov.uk)  
01752 893815



Appendix 2

## What Does the District Council Do?



South Hams  
District Council

## What Do We Do? What Have We Done?



South Hams  
District Council

## Ivybridge Community Economic Plan Consultation



# Ivybridge Community Economic Plan Online Review March 2024

**South Hams District  
Council-led project  
working together with  
Ivybridge Town Council  
and the Ivybridge  
Community**

## Headline Figures

2991 visitors to the website  
548 respondents  
348 residents' surveys completed.  
395 comments  
32 business surveys completed.

Why people live in Ivybridge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access and connectivity</li> <li>2. The school</li> <li>3. Child-friendly environment</li> </ol>
What makes Ivybridge special	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access and connectivity</li> <li>2. The River</li> <li>3. Residents /local community and neighbourhood</li> </ol>
What they like about the town	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local shops</li> <li>2. The River</li> <li>3. Access and connectivity</li> </ol>
Main assets of the town	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. River</li> <li>2. Community facilities/library</li> <li>3. Access/location</li> </ol>
Feeling safe in Ivybridge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safe</li> <li>2. Very Safe</li> <li>3. Unsafe sometimes</li> </ol>
Vision statement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ivybridge is the Gateway to the Moors</li> <li>2. Great community</li> <li>3. Good local shops</li> </ol>



Recent clearance of riverbanks below the Ivy Bridge by South Hams District Council working together with Ivybridge Town Council



NEWS



• Cllr Abbott with The Voice Group

## Councillors visit Dame Hannahs

SOUTH Devon District councillors Victor Abbott and Pablo Munoz visited Dame Hannahs recently.

BY RICHARD HARRING

visited with one young adult. "All in all the day was a really good one overall."

Ivybridge and South  
Brent Gazette  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March



Funding Available  
for Community and  
Environmental  
Projects



- Cllr.Matt.Steele@swdevon.gov.uk
- Cllr.Victor.Abbott@swdevon.gov.uk
- Cllr.Pablo.Munoz@swdevon.gov.uk
- Cllr.Nadine.Dommett@swdevon.gov.uk
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ivybridgedistrictcouncillors/>



## Appendix 3



IVYBRIDGE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION



### Our organisation is

- A Registered Charity No 1123577 with board of trustees
  - Dave Simpson Chairman
  - Alan Hutson Treasurer
- Not for Profit Company Limited by Guarantee.



### What do we do?

- Operate a Ring and Ride bus serving Ivybridge and surrounding Parishes.
- Manage a Community car scheme for Ivybridge area

## What is Ring & Ride

- Door to Door service to shopping destinations
- Our drivers are able to provide assistance to passengers getting on or off the bus if needed and will carry their shopping to from the bus to their door if requested.
- This timetabled service is charged at a fixed price per passenger.
- Accessible tail lift vehicles
- Regular weekly service

## Memory cafe

- Bring clients to and from memory café at the Watermark on a fortnightly basis.
- All journeys are door to door.

## Social Trips

- We organise trips to places of interest requested by clients, generally incorporating at a lunch to allow maximum social interaction and friendship development.



## Ring & Ride - Ivybridge Town Area



This year we have been serving Ivybridge for 30 years

We collect and take passengers into Ivybridge town centre and also to Tesco Lee Mill, Morrisons Totnes & Asda Newton Abbot.

Last year we carried 2250 passengers by bus in the Ivybridge area.

### Parishes Surrounding Ivybridge

- We collect passengers from all of the villages surrounding Ivybridge and take them to shopping destinations enabling independent living.
- Primarily we serve the frail, elderly and mobility impaired however, where there is no other public transport available we provide transport to all.
- Shops in Ivybridge benefit from the customers we bring into the town.

### Community Car Scheme

- Provides journeys by car for all persons without their own means of transport and those with mobility or health difficulties where travelling by conventional transport would be difficult or unsafe. Last year we carried just over 800 passengers by car.
- IDCTA manage a car scheme covering Ivybridge, Cornwood, Shaugh Prior, Sparkwell, Brixton, Wembury, Newton & Noss, Yealmpton, Ermington, Ugborough, South Brent and Harford.
- Community car drivers use their own vehicles to take passengers to pre-booked destinations, most frequently medical appointments, but also other appointments such as dentists, opticians, chiropodists etc.
- Drivers wait up to two hours while passengers attend appointments.
- Volunteers get mileage paid at allowable HMRC rate of 45p/50p per mile.

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## Staff

- Alex coordinator part time who manages the organization on behalf of the trustees.
- Lauren assistant coordinator part time
- Dawn office volunteer part time
- Two part time paid bus drivers
- We also have eight volunteer bus drivers as needed to cover paid drivers.
- We have twenty four volunteer car drivers of which fifteen are based in Ivybridge.
- We are based in an office in the Watermark open between 09-00 to 12-30 weekdays

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## Finance

It costs around £100,000 to run the service each year  
We receive grants from Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, Ivybridge Town Council and local Parish Councils we serve.

These Grants total around £55,000, Fares around £16,500 leaving us a shortfall of around £30,000 to raise each year.



## What we need

**More Volunteer drivers**  
**More Funds**

## Contact Details

- **01752 690 444**
- **Email** [info@ringandride.net](mailto:info@ringandride.net)
- **Web** [www.ringandride.net](http://www.ringandride.net)
- Or Google **ringandride Ivybridge**



## Questions

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## Appendix 4



# Dartmoor's Dynamic Landscapes

Partnership programme supported by NLHF

Annual Town Meeting – Ivybridge, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

James Sharpe



## What is DDL?

A two stage programme of work between 2023 – 2029

A Partnership

Primarily funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund

With a focus on natural heritage in the landscape and more sustainable communities



Partnership



Dartmoor's  
farmers



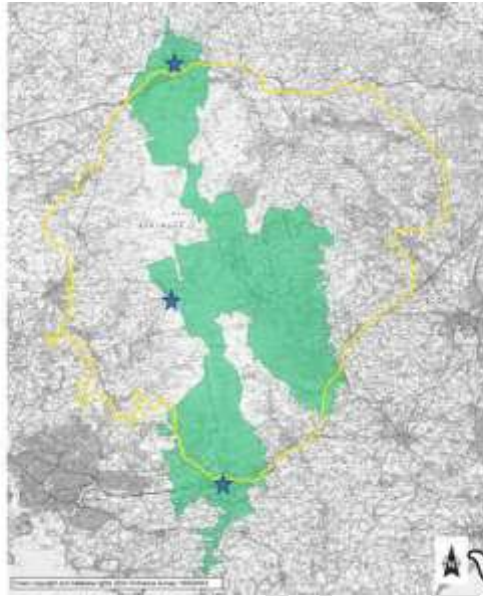
Local communities







## Scheme Area



★ Gateway towns



## Partners will work towards the Vision for Dartmoor in 2045

creating more naturally resilient landscapes, through working with land managers and farmers -

- we will have a better understanding of grassland and river habitats, moorland birds, and ancient trees;
- capturing more water and carbon in the landscape through natural flood management, peatland restoration and restoration of ancient woodland sites;
- facilitating knowledge sharing through mentoring opportunities and events.

and connecting people to their place, with a specific focus on the gateway towns of Ivybridge, Okehampton and Princetown -

- improving access and route knowledge in and from the towns to enable active travel to green spaces;
- celebrating landscape heritage, for example through a programme of river and moorland festivals;
- opportunities for community grant funding.



**RIVER AND MOORLAND FESTIVALS**

**OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING**

**WHEN:** THURS 21ST MARCH  
**WHERE:** MAKE SOUTHWEST  
**TIMES:** 4PM OR 6PM  
**INFO:** WWW.EEA.ORG.UK

FLOCK EEA



For more information and how to book - <https://eea.org.uk/whatson/events/open-community-meeting-river-moorland-festivals>

Session 1 will run from 16:00-17:30  
Session 2 will run from 18:00-19:30



**Gateway Hubs**

- Ivybridge Hub
- Wild Echoes
- A Warm Welcome
- Miles Without Stiles
- Trishaw
- Bike It Wild

Heritage Fund

The image shows a menu for 'Gateway Hubs' overlaid on a photograph of a person in a motorized wheelchair on a dirt path in a rural landscape. The menu items are: Ivybridge Hub, Wild Echoes, A Warm Welcome, Miles Without Stiles, Trishaw, and Bike It Wild. The Heritage Fund logo is in the bottom right corner.



**Moorscapes**  
- community-led grant schemes for nature

Heritage Fund

The image features the 'Moorscapes' header with a Dartmoor National Park logo. Below the text are two photographs: a child in a white shirt using a stick to dig in a shallow hole in the ground, and a field of tall green grass with white flowers. The Heritage Fund logo is in the bottom right corner.



**Moorscapes**

- 5 year programme, 2025-2030
- Delivered in partnership

Heritage Fund

The image shows a large, moss-covered tree trunk in a forest setting. The Dartmoor National Park logo is in the top left corner. The programme details are listed in the center, and the Heritage Fund logo is in the bottom right corner.



# WOOD N MOOR

A double win for ancient woodland  
and peatland restoration



## ANCIENT WOODLAND

What is it and why is it so special?



Ancient Woodlands are those that have persisted since 1600 in England and Wales, and 1750 in Scotland.



**Biodiversity value:** every fraction is important to the ecology and wildlife of the UK.



**Cultural value:** treasure troves of archaeological and cultural features.



**Economic value:** timber, wood fuel, flooding, shade, health and well-being.



## ANCIENT WOODLAND

Why do our Ancient Woodlands need restoring?



Ancient Woodland only covers 2.5% of the UK.

Around half are **Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)**.

Our Ancient Woodlands suffer other threats too, including: **climate change; invasive species; pests and diseases; and development.**

Restoration can **secure and enhance** the remnant features of ancient woodland, and **build its ecological integrity and resilience.**





## PEATLAND Why is it important?

Healthy peatlands capture and store carbon; help reduce flooding; improve water quality; preserve archaeology; and provide a habitat for many insects, birds and reptiles.

87% of peatlands in England are dried and degraded.

Dried and damaged peatland releases carbon, contributing to emissions and accelerating climate change.

Less than 1% of Dartmoor's blanket bog is still functionally intact.



## PEATLAND RESTORATION



## WOOD N MOOR A double win for restoration

- Peatland restoration can use low grade timber in the form of boards, stakes and round timber, therefore purchasing a supply of wood that normally doesn't have much commercial value.
- These planks and stakes can be milled within the woodland setting using a mobile sawmill, meaning timber can be extracted from sites with difficult access.
- This has helped make ancient woodland restoration more economically viable.





# WOOD N MOOR

## It all starts with an assessment



Introduction to the wood



### 1. Remnant features

- Indicator species
- Relic trees
- Deadwood
- Archaeology



### 2. Threats

- Conifer canopy
- Invasive species
- Browsing
- Pollution
- Disease



### 3. Proposals

- Thinning
- Invasive removal
- Squirrel / deer management
- Enrichment planting

Thank you  
for listening

Not heard enough?  
I can tell you more

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