

NOTES OF THE **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025** AT 7.00 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Councillor: R Buscombe (Chairperson) Presiding  
M Joyce (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors: C Davieson  
A Ineson  
C Parker  
M Ryan  
L Wood

Councillors P Parker and N Yabsley were also in attendance

By invitation: Nadine Freestone, Manager at Templer Wellbeing  
Chris French, CEO Devon Football Association

Officers In attendance: Linda McGuirk, Principal Administrator  
Pierre Doutreligne, Projects & Strategy Officer  
Nigel Canham, Communications Advisor

Also, in attendance County Cllr J Fry

22. **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP 2025/26**

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairperson of the Community & Engagement Group for the year 2025/2026.

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Richard Buscombe be elected Chairperson of the Community & Engagement Group for the year 2025/2026.

23. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors L Cooke and A Hall.

24. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP 2025/26**

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice Chairperson of the Community & Engagement Group for the year 2025/2026.

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that Councillor M Joyce be appointed Vice Chairperson of the Community & Engagement Group for the year 2025/2026.

25. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

26. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were received and signed as a correct record.

27. **COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee gave due consideration to the Terms of Reference for the Community & Engagement Group, as circulated prior to the meeting.

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference for the Community & Engagement Group be hereby, approved and adopted.

28. **PRESENTATION – DEVON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

The Chairperson, Councillor Richard Buscombe, welcomed a representative from the Devon Football Association (DFA), who gave a detailed presentation covering:

- FA vision, engagement levels, and strategic priorities (2024–2028)
- Newton Abbot base and community facilities
- Community outreach: 1,000 weekly participants, 223 matches per year
- Educational and accessible facilities, including a refurbished clubhouse
- Programs: Pay and Play (summer), Fit for Feb, Boot Bank
- Future developments: community garden, physio studio, gym, food bank/welfare hub.

**Discussion points raised by Councillors included:**

- Appreciation for DFA's presence and facilities in Newton Abbot
- Issues regarding referee abuse and mitigation
- Links with various local football clubs
- Environmental concerns about astro turf drainage
- Club affiliation and unaffiliated clubs
- Participation by men aged 16+ and decline in engagement
- Walking football and older adult services
- Site comparison pre- and post-lockdown
- Membership and usage queries
- Community communication and support opportunities

The Chairperson thanked the representative and encouraged continued collaboration.

29. **PRESENTATION – TEMPLER WELLBEING**

The Chairperson, Councillor Richard Buscombe, welcomed representatives from Templer Wellbeing, who presented on:

- Role of social prescribing and community support
- Services across four local surgeries
- Project aims and accessibility (including to non-registered residents)
- Partnership approaches, case studies, and user feedback
- Promotional strategies via social media

**Councillor discussion points included:**

- Awareness and engagement at Buckland Hub
- Veterans support and RBL collaboration
- One to one and out-of-hours service provision
- Co-ordination with CAB and churches
- Hidden poverty and service promotion
- NATC support through awareness, media exposure, and meeting spaces

The Chair thanked the representatives and offered support for further outreach continued collaboration.

30. **HOT TOPICS**

Members proposed future discussion topics and potential guests:

- Newton Abbot Fire Service – Invite a representative.
- Transport – Stagecoach and other local transport representatives.

31. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday 25th February 2026. Members requested the Principal Administrator look at an additional date in the Autumn.

Meeting closed at 20:20

CHAIRPERSON..... Date.....