



THE NEWSLETTER OF HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Charitable groups awarded funds after 'Dragons' Den' style event

Charity representatives in East Devon had the chance to take part in a unique bidding process for funds in front of a panel of "dragons". There was a buzzing atmosphere at the third annual Honiton Dragons' Den. Held at the Beehive on Wednesday 26th October, there were over 40 people from Honiton based community groups.

The event was organised by Honiton Together, a collaborative community development programme run by a partnership consisting of Honiton Town Council, East Devon District Council, Devon County Council and Action East Devon.

The Dragons' Den is a unique opportunity; it invites groups whose projects meet needs in Honiton to bid for funding in front of an audience. The audience listened to all the pitches, and then each person voted for up to 4 projects. The event is not just about winning funding; in the main the audience consisted of people involved in each of the groups pitching. This makes it a great opportunity to hear about the dedication and success of the other groups, and to meet each other in the break time.

The judging panel consisted of Honiton Town Councillor Anne Mountjoy, Devon County Councillor Sara Randall-Johnson, Jamie Buckley of East Devon District council and Dave Slocombe of Devon County Council.

Honiton Town Council set aside funds from their budget and Devon County Councillors Paul Diviani and Sara Randall-Johnson have used some of their Council locality budget and with funds already available Honiton Together ensured that over £4,000 was available.

This year six groups entered the competition. The winners were Honiton Youth Group. Asking for £500 for a 'painting sleep-over', an idea generated by the young people of the Young musicians set out to impress Dragons Den youth group. The three young people pitching included Connor, a severely disabled young man whose confidence has grown enormously since they won funding for a ramp at the last Dragons Den. The ramp means he has now gained the independence of coming and going from the youth club as he pleases.

In close second place were Honiton Community Action Trust. Three members of the Trust gave a moving pitch about individuals and families suffering from addiction, whether to drugs, alcohol, food or gambling. The Olive Grove won £750 towards their start-up costs, which will help them provide a free service to those most in need of their support.

In third place were Honiton Brass Band. Their lovely pitch included three young people playing their trumpets in harmony, before the adults explained they wanted £750 to support the purchase of beginners' instruments. Honiton Brass Band provide free lessons for beginners who join them, and so the instruments will further reduce the cost for those wishing to join this long-standing group who perform around the county and make life-long friends in the process.

November 2016



The other three groups were also all awarded funding, as all groups received support from the audience and there was just enough funding in the pot. Hands on Horticulture, who provide unusual daycare facilities in the form of gardening and outdoor crafts, won £750 for an outdoor compost loo and to widen a caravan door for wheelchair users. Honiton Community Church won £720 for tables for a new building they are taking on near Streamers Meadow, Honiton. This basic facility will mean they can run everything from lunches to game afternoons to arts and crafts sessions. Branching Out, a vegetable growing project for people with Learning Disabilities based at Bicton College, won £530 towards waterproofs (to be kept on-site, to enable users to keep working once bad weather sets in).

Councillor Paul Diviani said: "I'm pleased to have supported the event again this year. You can see the hard work that the charities put into their projects and this event is a great opportunity to hear about their work and how they will use the funds."

Councillor Sara Randall-Johnson, Devon County Councillor for Honiton St Michael's, said: "This event has proven to be extremely valuable for charitable organisations in the area over the past couple of years, and it's a great way for them to raise their profile locally."

Councillor Anne Mountjoy of Honiton Town Council added "The Town Council were keen to ensure the work put in by Honiton Together continued by not only taking part but providing funds to this very worthy initiative. The Dragon's Den event has not only financially supported many local and worthwhile charitable projects but it also given local organisations the platform on which to raise their profiles and an opportunity to learn through sharing and networking."

Honiton Neighbourhood Plan

Have your say on the future of Honiton

Honiton has seen a lot of housing growth in the last 30 years or so, without the community having a say. The Government has made it possible for local people to take action and make a difference to their area by making a Neighbourhood Plan. The Honiton Neighbourhood Plan will be a document which says how local people want Honiton to be developed over the next 15 to 20 years from now.

A Steering Group has been set up consisting of six community members and three Town Councillors. The Steering Group will produce the Neighbourhood Plan based on what the local community says that it wants for Honiton in the future.

To find out what the local community wants for Honiton, the Steering Group will be sending out a guestionnaire in the next few weeks.

Look out for the guestionnaire and have your say!



Electoral Review of East Devon District Council

Who undertakes the electoral review

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England which is an independent body.

What is an electoral review?

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements of the whole of the local Authority (East Devon District Council). These are:

- The total number of councillors to be elected to the council: council size
- The names, number and boundaries of wards
- The number of councillors to be elected from each ward

Electoral review process

Council size: the Commission will come to a conclusion on council size after hearing the Council's (and/or Councillor's) views.

Ward boundaries: the Commission will re-draw ward boundaries so that they meet the statutory criteria:

- electors as others across the district
- That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government

Proposed timetable

w/c 15 August 2016 **Council size** Council and/or council groups' submission on council size.

up to 5th December 2016 Public consultation on new ward boundaries

7 February - 3rd April 2017 Draft recommendations on public consultation

June 2017 Publication of final recommendations

July 2017 Parliamentary scrutiny

2019 Implementation

How to have your say - your views will make a difference

An electoral review is a consultative process. You, and your community, can influence the outcome. The Commission is only able to consider evidence that is made to them in writing. The best evidence includes the reasons why you agree with the proposals or why you disagree with them.

There are several ways in which you can keep up to date with the progress of the review and to have your say:

Find out more at: www.lgbce.org.uk or www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Email your views to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Write to: Review Officer (East Devon), LGBCE, 14th Floor, Millbank Tower, London, SW1 4QP

Follow on Twitter at: @lgbce

To deliver electoral equality where each district councillor represents roughly the same number of