

Overview and Scrutiny – Outside Organisation Update from the Council's appointed representatives

Councillor Colin Parker

Organisation: Newton Abbot Community Interest Company

The Council's representatives are invited to report on any meetings of the appointed outside organisation, the role the organisation(s) they represent plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, their impact and results, and advising on partnership discussions which are open and in the public domain. Feedback is scheduled across a full year cycle once per annum for most organisations and twice where meetings are more frequent (greater than 5).

Purpose of the Organisation:	<p>Formed in 2008 to deliver projects and priorities identified in the Newton Abbot and District Community Plan which was published that same year. Although the CIC activities have evolved over time, their commitment to supporting the local community remains steadfast.</p> <p>The CIC is a not-for-profit organisation led by 6 volunteer directors registered with Companies House. It is led by six volunteer directors and supported by a small staff team, currently equivalent to 2.3 full-time posts. Our project work depends on grant funding, with current activities supported by a range of sources including the National Lottery, Newton Abbot Town Council, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Over the past 15 years, the CIC has secured more than £1.2 million in grants for Newton Abbot.</p> <p>Since its creation, the CIC's remit has adapted in response to local needs. Today, their work is focused on managing two community centres: The Buckland Centre and The Courtenay Centre.</p>
Attendance requirements/ meetings attended:	<p>Previously Cllr Linda Goodman Bradbury; now Cllr Colin Parker</p> <p>As and when required. At least every three months</p>
Feedback:	<p>The CIC is regarded by the vast majority in the area it covers as irreplaceable should it not be able to operate for any reason.</p>

<p>Examples of where the brief above has been followed:</p>	<p>Please see comments in Additional information section.</p> <p>It is believed that all the projects and the enablement of various organisations/help groups and activities using the centres being run by the CIC truly are an indispensable for the community.</p> <p>Without the above additional pressure would be placed on other organisations.</p>
<p>Additional information relevant to Overview & Scrutiny including the value that TDC brings to this organisation and/or why this organisation needs TDC:</p>	<p>THE BUCKLAND CENTRE:</p> <p>The Buckland Centre provides a wide range of community activities for local residents. At the core of this work are two key projects: the Buckland Hub and The Base Youth Club.</p> <p>Buckland Hub Project:</p> <p>The Buckland Hub offers advice and support to residents of the Buckland Ward. Delivered in partnership between Buckland Support and the CIC, the project funds a Coordinator who works directly with individuals and households.</p> <p>The Hub runs a weekly drop-in at The Buckland Centre, where residents can access advice from organisations such as Teignbridge Citizens Advice, Teign Housing, the Police, local councillors and the MP's office.</p> <p>Alongside the drop-in, the Hub offers several weekly groups, including a health and wellbeing support group, a seated exercise class and a toddler group.</p> <p>Over its nine-year programme, the National Lottery will invest more than £500,000 in the Buckland community through the Hub Project; as of February 2026, we are halfway through this period.</p> <p>The Base Youth Club:</p> <p>The Base provides a weekly youth club for primary-aged children in the local community. Designed to be affordable and accessible, the Club is run by a small team of three part-time CIC staff.</p> <p>Children attending The Base enjoy free food and a range of activities including craft, cookery and sports.</p> <p>Other Activities at The Buckland Centre:</p> <p>In addition to these two projects, The Buckland Centre hosts a variety of local groups and activities, including fitness classes, social groups and wellbeing sessions.</p> <p>Income from room hire is reinvested into the running costs of the building. These costs are increased due to the age and condition of the building, and the level of community use. The CIC has secured significant funds over the last 10 years to improve the.</p>

THE COURTENAY CENTRE:

The CIC manages The Courtenay Centre on behalf of Newton Abbot Community Centres CIO. The Centre offers a broad programme of community activities, including a community café, community fridge and community garden.

The CIC also delivers several groups at the Centre, including a toddler group, a parent support group and an after-school club for young people aged 11+. Rooms are hired by a wide range of organisations offering arts, fitness, education and children's activities.

In recent years, the CIC has secured more than £150,000 in grants to improve the Centre, which welcomes over 35,000 visitors through the door each year.

Other CIC Activities:

- Maintaining the open space beneath Penn Inn roundabout and the garden at The Courtenay Centre.
- Operating the Newton Abbot Community Fridge, where volunteers collect surplus food from local supermarkets and make it freely available to the community.
- Managing the Tunnels of Love project, transforming the Penn Inn subways with community-created art to make them safer, cleaner and more welcoming. Further subway improvements are planned for 2026.
- Supporting Ukrainian guests and refugees through activities hosted at The Courtenay Centre.
- Delivering the Collective Crew After School Club (formerly Newton Abbot Youth Council), providing a fun, safe and inclusive space for young people aged 11–16.
- The CIC loves to ask residents what they think. They have conducted consultation in Houghton Barton, asking residents what they think about their community. This work has led to plans for a new Health & Wellbeing Centre which we hope will be delivered one day for this community.
- They have supported Newton Abbot Town Council with the preparation of the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Plan, and the updated Newton Abbot & District Community Plan.
- Responding to local needs and opportunities as they arise.

Challenges:

- The CIC relies on grant funding to deliver its projects. As funding becomes increasingly competitive, this creates uncertainty around the sustainability of future activities.
- Recruiting volunteer Directors who can commit the necessary time to support the CIC's work remains a challenge.
- The absence of a lease for The Buckland Centre prevents the CIC from securing substantial grants to further improve the building. The age and condition of the building continue to present challenges.

We would welcome a long-term commitment to an affordable rent that reflects both the condition of the building and the challenges of delivering services in a deprived community. We remain committed to working with partners to secure the future of The Buckland Centre.

	<p>The CIC recognises that our work for the Newton Abbot community is only possible thanks to the support of our funders, residents, volunteers, ward councillors, partner agencies, local authorities and our amazing staff team. More information regarding our activities can be found on our website at www.newtonabbotcic.org.uk.</p>
<p>Does the Council incur an annual fee to enable the Council to have a representative on this organisation. How much is the fee and does it represent value for money for the Council.</p>	<p>No Annual fee. TDC own the centres that the CIC operate from and rent is paid for the use of the centres.</p>