



REPORT TO TTEF JULY 2026

We have a lot of things going on at present so here is a short update. BGS has allotment and orchard sites on the Tarka Trail, which are well looked after. In September 2025 we hosted an apple juicing event at the Pollyfield Centre, Bideford. This was so successful that there is one planned for 2026.

Sunday 27th September 10.00am – 5.00pm. Come along and join in a very interesting day!!!

BIDEFORD FAIR

Saturday 8th August is the fair in Victoria Park, Bideford from 10.00am. We shall have a stall there celebrating what is going on in the area relevant to Climate Change. Come and visit us or join us at our gazebo.

The Peter Christie Copse

This is a small plot of land near the skate park in Kingsley Road, Bideford. Several trees have been planted there in the last 4 years and this spring we planted 25m² of wildflowers, which are doing well. We shall soon have a proper lease from Torridge District Council to help us to do more here.

New education curriculum

At 2 education conferences in March we learned that there are changes to the National Curriculum regarding Nature. In future all subjects will be taught in a way which will reflect the way human activity affects other people and the natural world. In addition there is to be a new GCSE in Natural Science. These changes will be quite fundamental to the way children think about life on this planet. Cambridge Examination Board is already offering teachers training in SUSTAINABILITY.

We can celebrate that in Northern Devon some schools are already taking part in these programmes, funded by government. Also at North Devon College there is a group of young people known as Earth Scholars who when they work on design projects for development they look for sustainability and how the materials used will affect the planet in 50 years time. **Let us celebrate what is already happening and encourage all of the schools in the area to take part.**

Citizens Science on Taw and Torridge.

The Champions of the Taw and Torridge continue to test water quality monthly and Surfers Against Sewage have also launched a national scheme with funding to do more testing of water quality.

The UNESCO North Devon Biosphere continues to install more “smart” water testing devices on our rivers and beaches.

The Repair Cafe

The Repair Cafe continues to operate on the 2nd Saturday of the month at Bideford Library. The wonderful volunteers there are prepared to look at anything which can become useful again rather than being thrown away. If you know of any one who has an item worthy of repair please encourage them to come along. Entry is free but a donation is welcomed when success has been achieved to make something more sustainable.

Ford Woods Nature Reserve

Bideford Sustainability, Bideford Town Council and The Unesco ND Biosphere are working as a steering group to plan the management of this ancient woodland on the edge of Bideford. We are also working to reform the Friends of Ford Woods to give the local people a voice in the management of the ancient woodland, with some very fine trees.

People's Emergency Briefing

After this film was shown all over North Devon in May/June, BSG hosted a feedback meeting at which we celebrated that there are up to 40 groups in Northern Devon working together to raise awareness about Climate Change and are doing a lot of things with a number of different projects.

When we came to discuss what else could be done there was a wide conversation about community energy production, the generation of energy by the people for the people. We have discovered that there is already work going on in the TTEF area. 361 Energy has formed a partner community society, 361 Community Renewables. On 2nd July we met Jon Gething, chair of 361 Community Renewables and Peter Jollands, chair of Littleham Parish Council. They are working with Great British Energy on possible projects already identified in the area. Partners in the new group are BSG, XR, Earth Action, Unesco ND Biosphere and St Mary's Church, Bideford. We are hoping to include more local authorities because that is the way Great British Energy will assist with funding projects.

There are many other organisations who have been working on matters of community energy for many years. They include; Community Energy England, Centre for Sustainable Energy, Energy Local, The Co-op and many others. They have similar aims and share information together. Great progress is being made.

If any one has an energy project in mind, which could be owned by the people instead of just investors please let us know.

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