

# Bideford rail link From campaign to project



Presentation by  
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# In the beginning

1855 The railway was extended to Bideford.





# *The Beeching Axe*

1965 Bideford loses all passenger services.



# Early campaign work

- Campaigner Roger Joanes.
- Booked the line for rail charter tours.
- Over 800 passengers on last train 1982.



The 'Last train to Torrington' calls at Bideford. 6.11.82. Photo: Roger Joanes.



# How the ACE Rail campaign started

- March 2021
- The Bideford loco nameplate returns to stay!
- Mayor Ratcliff says the railway must return.





# The figures

- Bideford deprivation shockingly high!
- Torridge based students expect lower grades.
- Transport options officially rated poor.

Devon County Council's Local Transport Plan 3, 2011-26  
the 28 market (19) and coastal (9) towns in Devon

	Pop'n 2020	Station	Usage 2019/20
<b>Market Towns</b>			
Ashburton/Buckfastleigh	6867		
Axminster	6896	Y	377,688
Barnstaple	32,948	Y	424,822
Bideford	31,014		tbc
Cullompton	8495	Y	tbc
Crediton	8322	Y	66,606
Great Torrington	6053		
Holsworthy	3312		
Honiton	11,499	Y	330,582
Ivybridge	11,820	Y	55,204
Kingsteignton	11,551		
Moretonhamsptead	1388		
Newton Abbot	2787	Y	1,203,100
Okehampton	8831	Y	6,434
Ottery St Mary	5764		
South Molton	5892		
Tavistock	12,627	Y	tbc
Tiverton	20,829	Y	510,386
Totnes	8924	Y	725,038
<b>Coastal Towns</b>			
Dartmouth	4906		
Dawlish	13,493	Y	519,582
Exmouth	35,825	Y	896,248
Ilfracombe	10,960		
Kingsbridge	6123		
Lynton/Lynmouth	2039		
Seaton	8882		
Sidmouth	13,121		
Teignmouth	15,688	Y	690,972

# Delivering presentations





# The supporting motions

- Bideford Town Council, Barnstaple Town Council, Northam Town Council, Crediton Town Council.
- Torridge District Council, North Devon Council.
- Bishops Tawton Parish Council, Chittlehampton Parish Council, Eggesford Parish Council, Fremington Parish Council, Tawstock Parish Council.



# *The awards and publicity*





# The NDRDA

- 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- The Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance.
- Bideford Town Council becomes the founding member.
- Inaugural event held in Bideford organised by Railfuture.
- The ACE Rail campaign work is absorbed.





# The new government

- Mandate to to double housing growth in Torridge / North Devon.
- Opportunity to redress transport infrastructure deficit in northern Devon
- Old Government Restoring your railways programme cancelled.
- Infrastructure delivery system now reset and controlled by National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority.

# Where next and my resignation

- NDRDA aims are inclusion in DCC's Local Transport Plan and revised Devon Metro.
- GWR show reinstatement to Bideford on network map.
- Strategic Outline Business Cases being drafted for North Devon line services upgrade and extension to Bideford.
- Resignation from Tarka Rail Association as campaign lead.



# Thank you Rotary Club!



Bi-Modal active travel and rail systems in Devon that already exist!  
Maybe the studies will give our communities something similar.