

Bideford rail link
From campaign to project

Westward Ho!

Ladies Club

Tim Steer

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
Market Towns			
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
Coastal Towns			
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 Initial Business Case



We successfully applied to GWR's Community and Customer Investment Fund for an Initial Business Case.

The NDRDA

- 1st 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.

The Strategic Outline Business Case

- Now, fully commissioned study for TWO SOBC are taking place.
- 5 case Business Case
 1. Strategic Case
 2. Economic Case
 3. Commercial Case
 4. Financial Case
 5. Management Case

The TWO SOBCs

1. Commissioned study to upgrade the North Devon (Tarka), line for 2 faster services per hour.

2. Commissioned study to extend the North Devon (Tarka), line to Bideford.

*** Please note there is no speculated costs or proposed route.**

200 years of railways

- GWR is now celebrating 200 years of British railways.
- I am now the Friends Of Barnstaple Railway Station – chair

Support to the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance continues to grow.

Thank you Westward Ho! Ladies Club



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