

# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance



***#Reconnection2040***



# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

**To secure a new rail link between Bideford and Barnstaple and upgrade of the North Devon (Tarka) Line between Exeter and Barnstaple, championing their transformational benefits for communities and businesses and advocating to decision-makers the economic, social and environmental case for developing and investing in the project.**

## **Inaugural event on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – in Bideford, Torridge, Devon.**

Minute of the **Bideford Town Council** Decarbonisation and Environment Committee meeting on 8 February 2022:

29. ACE RAILWAY – ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING SUPPORT

RECOMMENDED that: £3,000.00 is provided from the Climate Change budget to support the Environmental aspect of the Economic Report and the benefits to the decarbonisation of Bideford. (approved at Town Council meeting on 3 March 2022).

Minute of the **North Devon District Council** Strategy and Resources Committee on 4 April 2022:

127. Reinstatement of Bideford to Barnstaple Rail Link. RESOLVED that motion to support the re-instatement of Bideford to Barnstaple rail link for passenger and other services, as proposed by ACE Rail be supported and the Council agrees:

(a) That the inclusion of this policy aim within the revised joint local plan be referred to the Joint Planning Policy Committee for consideration;

(b) To work with partners and organisations to explore this idea and where necessary to lobby those who may contribute to making this happen including Great British Railways, Devon County Council, Peninsula Transport, and the Government.

Minute of the **Torridge District Council** meeting on 13 June 2022:

Minute 12a Written Notice of Motion. That TDC, following on from the presentation made at the last Full council meeting, do support the extension of the railway line from Barnstaple to Bideford and that this aspiration is embedded in the new Joint Local Plan. Extension of the railway line from Barnstaple to Bideford also be embedded in the Economic Development Business Plan.

Minute of the **Joint Planning Policy Committee of North Devon and Torridge District Councils** on 15 July 2022:

16. Reinstatement of Bideford to Barnstaple Rail Link. RESOLVED that the Bideford to Barnstaple rail link is considered as part of the People and Place project (the revised joint Local Plan).

Minute of the **Bideford Town Council** meeting on Thursday 7 December 2023:

98. NOTICE OF MOTION. That this Council joins the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance as a founding member. Bideford Town Council recognises the importance of multiple transport links to the rest of the country and aims to see Bideford reconnected to the national rail network for the benefit of the local economy and community as soon as practically possible. This Council therefore Resolves (extract)

a. To join the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance as a founding member.

b. To call on other public bodies, voluntary and business stakeholders and others to take an active role in the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance.

c. Support ACE Rail 'Reconnection 2040' to see Bideford fully reconnected to the national rail network by 2040.

Minute of the **Torridge District Council** meeting on Monday 11 December 2023:

214. Draft Strategic Plan 2024-29. Under the 'Local Economy' theme, 'Actions by us and in partnership' now includes:

"Investigate with the relevant partner organisations (North Devon Council, DCC, ACE Rail and Network Rail) the appetite to jointly commission and fund a study to evaluate the economic and environmental benefits and impacts of re-establishing the rail link."

Draft Minute of the **Barnstaple Town Council** meeting on 22 January 2024:

107. The Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance is promoting a rail link between Bideford and Barnstaple. This council believes that such a link contributes to a sustainable transport strategy for the northern Devon area.

This Council therefore RESOLVES (extract):

1) To join the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance as a founding Member

2) To call on other public bodies, voluntary and business stakeholders and others to support sustainable transport options for northern Devon and to take an active role in the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

3) To support an integrated sustainable transport strategy for northern Devon, including proposals to see Bideford fully reconnected to the national rail network, by 2040.

Draft Minute of the **Torridge District Council** meeting on 22 January 2024:

231. Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan 2024/25. Resolved: That the revised Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan priorities for 2024 – 2025 intervention themes for delivery be approved.

Economic Development Manager's report: Proposed increases / changes for 2024 / 2025 –

E31: Feasibility studies (3) including "Bideford railway study (to work alongside other key stakeholders)" - £105,000 revenue.

# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

To secure a new rail link between Bideford and Barnstaple and upgrade of the North Devon (Tarka) Line between Exeter and Barnstaple, championing their transformational benefits for communities and businesses and advocating to decision-makers the economic, social and environmental case for developing and investing in the project.

Inaugural event on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – in Bideford, Torrridge, Devon.



**railfuture**

campaigning for a bigger, better railway

Devon's 19 Market and 10 Coastal towns – the top 17

	Pop'n 2021 *	Station	Usage 2022/23
M - Newton Abbot	75,051	Y	1,155,346
M - Barnstaple	57,004	Y	536,940
C - Exmouth	50,248	Y	898,376
<b>M - Bideford-Northam</b>	<b>42,987</b>		<b>(tbc)</b>
M - Tiverton	39,676	Y	524,190
M - Ivybridge	38,707	Y	100,900
M - Cullompton	30,651	(Y)	tbc
M - Tavistock	30,439	(Y)	tbc
M - Okehampton	29,544	Y	228,272
M - Totnes	27,847	Y	687,394
C - Sidmouth	22,042		
M - Crediton	21,990	Y	133,176
C - Teignmouth	20,491	Y	691,384
C - Kingsbridge	20,216		
M - Honiton	18,648	Y	288,228
C - Dawlish	18,399	Y	510,574
M - Axminster	18,281	Y	366,450

\* Pop'n 2021 = Devon CC Communities profile  
Y = existing station  
(Y) = stations funded for further project development  
tbc = towns with planned stations undergoing project development  
(tbc) = Greater Bideford not yet funded for further project development

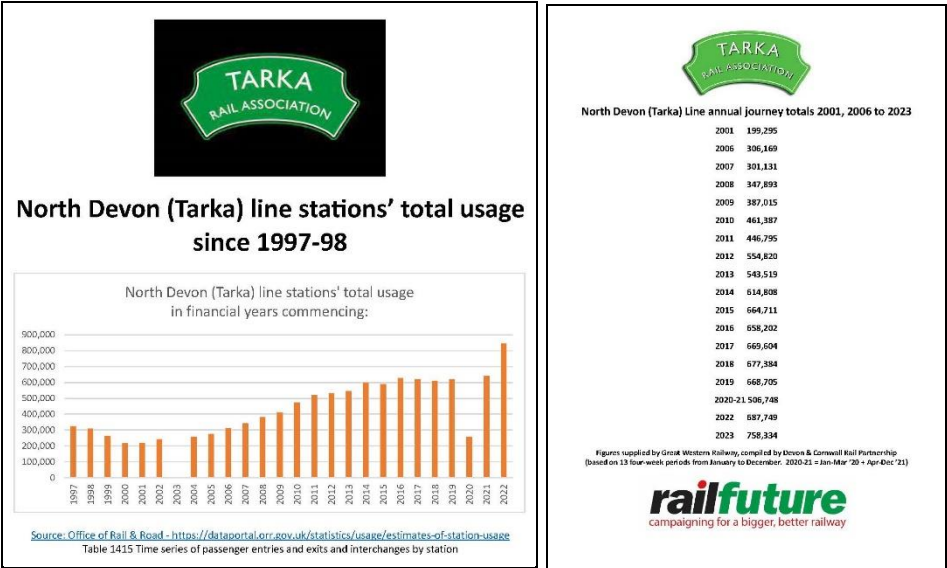
**Greater Bideford (Appledore, Bideford, Northam, Westwatd Ho!)**  
Devon's 3<sup>rd</sup>– largest Market Town, but without a passenger rail link since 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1965



# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

To secure a new rail link between Bideford and Barnstaple and upgrade of the North Devon (Tarka) Line between Exeter and Barnstaple, championing their transformational benefits for communities and businesses and advocating to decision-makers the economic, social and environmental case for developing and investing in the project.

Inaugural event on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – in Bideford, Torridge, Devon.




# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

To secure a new rail link between Bideford and Barnstaple and upgrade of the North Devon (Tarka) Line between Exeter and Barnstaple, championing their transformational benefits for communities and businesses and advocating to decision-makers the economic, social and environmental case for developing and investing in the project.


**Inaugural event on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – in Bideford, Torridge, Devon.**

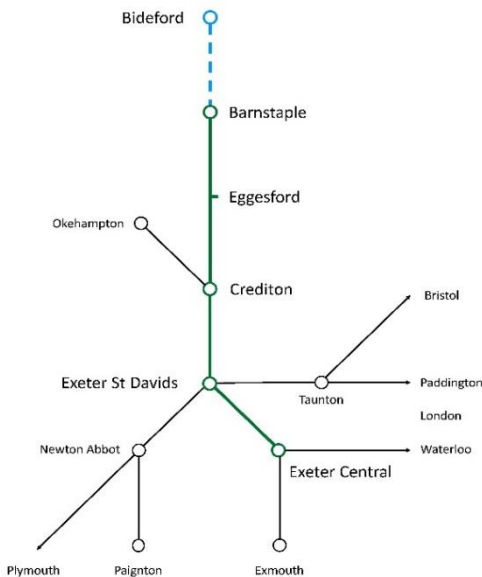
Sponsored by Bideford and Barnstaple Town Councils, Tarka Rail Association and Railfuture



ACE Rail: Reconnecting Bideford to the rail network


Find out more, then register your support:

[www.railfuture.org.uk/Bideford](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/Bideford)



The diagram illustrates the rail network. A dashed blue line connects Bideford to Barnstaple. A solid green line runs from Barnstaple through Eggesford and Crediton to Exeter St Davids. From Exeter St Davids, the network branches out: one line goes west through Newton Abbot to Plymouth and Paignton; another goes south to Exeter Central and Exmouth; and a third goes east through Taunton to Bristol, Paddington, London, and Waterloo.

Modernising the Tarka Line - fit for the 21st Century



*Campaigning for a bigger better railway*

## #Reconnection2040

# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance



**To secure a new rail link between Bideford and Barnstaple and upgrade of the North Devon (Tarka) Line between Exeter and Barnstaple, championing their transformational benefits for communities and businesses and advocating to decision-makers the economic, social and environmental case for developing and investing in the project.**

**Participants invited to inaugural event on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 in Bideford, Torridge, Devon  
Sponsored by Bideford and Barnstaple Town Councils, Tarka Rail Association and Railfuture**

Barnstaple Town Council - Mayor of Barnstaple – Cllr Louisa York

Barnstaple Town Council - Town Clerk – Rob Ward

Bideford Town Council - Mayor of Bideford – Cllr Jamie McKenzie

Bideford Town Council - Town Clerk – Paul Swan

Devon County Council - Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport – Cllr Andrea Davis

Devon County Council - Deputy Director for Planning – Jamie Hulland

Great Western Railway - Managing Director – Mark Hopwood CBE

Great Western Railway - Business Development Portfolio Director – Tom Pierpoint

Great Western Railway - Head of Strategic Service Development – Matt Barnes

Great Western Railway - Regional Growth Manager (West) – David Whiteway

Harland & Wolff - General Manager, Appledore – Tom Hart

MP for Torridge & West Devon – Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Cox KC

MP for North Devon – Selaine Saxby

MP for Central Devon – Rt Hon Mel Stride

MP for North Cornwall – Scott Mann

Network Rail - Western Route Director – Marcus Jones

Network Rail - Western Route Business Manager – Victoria Storey

Network Rail - Devon and Cornwall Director – Chris Fuoco

Network Rail - Industry Programme Director – Bogdan Lupu

Network Rail - Restoring Your Railway Programme Director – Mike Smith

Northam Town Council - Mayor of Northam – Cllr Peter Hames

Northam Town Council - Town Clerk – Jane Mills

North Devon District Council - Chair of North Devon DC – Cllr Julie Hunt

North Devon District Council - Leader of North Devon DC – Cllr Ian Roome

North Devon District Council - Chief Executive – Ken Miles

North Devon District Council - Head of Place Property & Regeneration – Sarah Jane Mackenzie-Shapland

Petroc College - Vice Principal Finance, Resources & Regional Affairs – Bill Blythe

Railfuture - Policy Director and Devon & Cornwall liaison – Ian Brown CBE

Railfuture - Infrastructure & Networks Director – Roger Blake

South West Business Council - Tim Jones – Chairman

South West Business Council - Paul Coles – Chief Executive; also newly-appointed Chair of Torridge Place Board

Tarka Rail Association - Chair – Mike Day

Tarka Rail Association - co-Vice Chair and ACE Rail project campaign lead – Tim Steer

Tarka Rail Association - co-Vice Chair – David Northey

Tarka Rail Association - Vice-President – Peter West OBE

Torridge District Council - Chair of Torridge DC – Cllr Doug Bushby

Torridge District Council - Leader of Torridge DC – Cllr Ken James

Torridge District Council - Chief Executive – Steve Hearse

Torridge District Council - Head of Communities & Place – Sean Kearney

Lewis Clarke - South West region reporter, Reach

Paul Crockett - Managing Director, The Voice FM