

TEIGNBRIDGE NEWS

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August 2018

First phase of the renewal of Newton Abbot town centre nears completion

Glass canopy and colourful new look unveiled



An exciting stage of regeneration in Newton Abbot town centre has been unveiled as a new glass canopy and colourful render welcome visitors to Market Walk shopping centre.

In September 2017, Teignbridge's Full Council approved a major investment package for Market Walk shopping centre. Councillors unanimously supported the £2million upgrade scheme to modernise the shopping centre and create an open and spacious place to visit and shop.

Work on Market Walk has seen the removal of the existing concrete entrance structure at Courtenay Street while existing shop fronts have been transformed with a range of colours and materials for added distinction. The work has transformed the look and feel of Market Walk shopping centre, making it brighter and lighter for an enhanced shopping experience that will attract locals and visitors to the heart of the town.

To allow more natural light in and create an open feeling, a glass roof runs from Courtenay Street to Market Street alongside glass roofs for shops facing onto Market Square.

Following a competitive tender process Teignbridge awarded the building contract to Classic Builders, a private construction company with offices in Exeter, Plymouth and Cornwall.

During the work all shops in Market Walk remained open for business along with public access to the market and Market Square. Even with such a large scale of work disruption was kept to a minimum and much of the work took place out of hours to ensure public safety.

Cllr Jeremy Christophers, Teignbridge District Council's Leader, said:

"There is no doubt that, across the country, the high-street is rapidly changing. The investment from Teignbridge District Council in the heart of Newton Abbot aims to address a national decline in traditional town centre trade. We are looking to support traders and work alongside private investors to retain Newton Abbot's trading position. The project for the new glazed walkway and colour render is on schedule and I am sure it will be well received by the public. It represents the start of an exciting future for the re-energizing of this shopping centre."

Children's play scheme celebrates 'Good' Ofsted rating



Children and staff at Newton Abbot Leisure Centre celebrate their 'Good' Ofsted rating

The Ofsted report commented that 'children are happy and settle quickly. They benefit from enjoyable activities and experiences to complement their learning in school.' 'Children behave very well and respond positively to staff's consistent messages and good example.'

Key findings are:

- Children are happy and settle quickly. They benefit from enjoyable activities and experiences to complement their learning in school. They develop good independence, such as changing their clothes for swimming and taking responsibility for their belongings.
- Children behave very well and respond positively to staff's consistent messages and good example. For instance, children show care and concern for others, use good manners and help willingly.
- Staff encourage children to develop healthy lifestyles. Children join in the physical activities with enthusiasm, and learn about healthy eating, such as through enjoyable games and discussions.
- The management team and staff evaluate the quality of the provision successfully to maintain good standards of care and to make improvements. This includes providing more creative activities for children who do not wish to join in the planned events.

The Holiday Club is open every school holiday for children aged 3 to 13 years, with fun and educational activities at an affordable rate for their parents. Everyday children participate in a wide range of activities, which include swimming, bouncy castle, sports, arts and crafts and lots more. The activities are child led and confirmed with the children on the morning of the session, ensuring everyone has an enjoyable, active day.

You don't have to be a member of the leisure centre to take part in any of the summer activities available, everyone is welcome to come along and have fun in a safe, supervised atmosphere. Find out more at <http://teignbridgeleisure.co.uk/juniors> There are plenty of positives to be taken from the report and Teignbridge is now taking steps to action the improvements recommended and aim for an outstanding result from Ofsted.

Cllr Phil Bullivant, Teignbridge District Council's Executive Portfolio Holder for Recreation and Leisure, said:

"Providing a safe and stimulating environment for our children is one of our key objectives.

"Receiving recognition from Ofsted that the services we provide are rated as 'Good' demonstrates that we are reaching our goals. We are committed to going further and enhancing our services so that we are recognised as 'Outstanding' and this is one of our key objectives for the coming months.

"Our staff work hard to meet parent's expectations and help provide the support that they need. This enables the children to enjoy a stimulating environment and the parents to have the freedom to take part in active leisure activities within our centres."

New areas of the Exe Estuary protected for wildlife

Two new areas to protect wildlife on the Exe Estuary are being put in place this week.

Known as wildlife refuges, the areas are marked out with yellow 'special mark' buoys which have "WR" in black letters printed on them. People are being asked to avoid the areas, all year round at Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve (NNR) and between 15 September to 31 December at Exmouth Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

At Exmouth LNR, the wildlife refuge protects important feeding areas during low season for a short period of time. The Imperial Recreation Ground slipway can still be used to access the foreshore during this time, although dog walkers are being asked to turn left at the end of the slipway, to avoid the refuge.

At Dawlish Warren NNR, the wildlife refuge protects important wildlife feeding and resting areas all year round. Both refuges will be monitored to understand the effects on wildlife.

These key areas for wildlife were approved by the partnership of three councils surrounding the estuary, known as the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee (SEDHREC) in October 2017.

Chair of the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee (SEDHREC), and Teignbridge District Council's Executive Member for Planning and Housing, Cllr Humphrey Clemens said:

"The refuges are needed because as our population grows, more people are visiting the Exe Estuary to enjoy all it has to offer. We need to balance these competing demands to preserve this beautiful place for generations to come and fulfil our legal obligations.

"The Exe Estuary is key to the survival of wintering waders and wildfowl. Recognised internationally for its conservation role, this Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is also a Ramsar site - a global designation putting it in the same league as the Okavango Delta in Botswana and the Florida Everglades.

"The mild climate and the vast food sources of the Exe mudflats attract tens of thousands of wetland birds, including Avocet, Curlew, Godwit, Dunlin and Brent Geese. On their long migratory journeys from as far away as arctic Siberia, these birds face many challenges and are exhausted when they arrive. Please help us protect them by avoiding the wildlife refuges, as the birds may not survive if they are regularly disturbed."



SEDHREC officers on the new patrol boat.

A new patrol boat has been launched in the Exe Estuary to help protect wildlife and ensure water users stay safe.

The 5.75-metre-long patrol boat has been funded by the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee (SEDHREC) - a partnership of Teignbridge, Exeter and East Devon Councils set up to help protect internationally important conservation sites on the Exe Estuary, Dawlish Warren and East Devon's Pebblebed Heaths. Bought from a local business, the £27,000 boat was paid for with money from developers of new housing across the 3 council areas.

Working in close partnership with the Harbour Authority, the patrol boat will be piloted on the estuary by SEDHREC's Habitat Mitigation Officers to make sure the Estuary is a safe place for everyone to enjoy. Sama Euridge and Amelia Davies will give advice to users to help them be aware of updated codes of conduct and two new wildlife refuges in the Exe Estuary, effective from 15 September 2018. These important areas for wildlife were approved by SEDHREC in October 2017.

Chair of SEDHREC, and Teignbridge District Council's Executive Member for Planning and Housing, Cllr Humphrey Clemens said:

"The new boat will play a key role in our educational and outreach programme for the Exe Estuary and will help people to understand where and when the new refuges apply.

"The boat has been named Branta Isca, after Branta, the "family" of birds which includes the iconic Exe species, the Dark Bellied Brent Goose and Isca, the Roman name for Exeter. "The Exe has a variety of habitats which together provide one of the most important sites for waterfowl in Europe. The protection of these designated sites for nature is a legal obligation."

Your Conservative Team

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