

Teign Estuary Transition: review and draft business plan 2011/2012

Vision

To help communities around the Teign Estuary explore collaborative ways to move towards a low energy, sustainable future.

Background

A group of individuals living in Teignmouth, Shaldon and Bishopsteignton began working to form Teign Estuary Transition (TET) during autumn 2009.

In 2009/2010 the group:

- Established a Core Group
- Appointed a treasurer
- Created a bank account
- Created a website <http://teigntransition.org.uk/>
- Set up a mailing list for members
- Wrote a constitution and Business Plan
- Attended training events and the Transition Conference

Aims and objectives

TET's purpose is to increase local resilience to the twin challenges of diminishing oil and gas supplies known as 'peak oil', and climate change. Aims and objectives are outlined in the Constitution.

Achievements in 2010

Focused on topics seen as key to increasing resilience within the local communities of the Teign Estuary area, including:

1. Awareness-raising

Public film-screenings –

- *Age of Stupid*
- *Power of Community*
- *Grow Your Own*

And three funded through a "Making it Happen" grant -

- *Avatar*
- *Crude Impact*
- *Money as Debt*

2. Food supplies

- "Eat for Devon" local food challenge August 2010 working with local traders and farmers' market
- Established a food sub-group
- Organised shared suppers in the Oystercatcher Café.
- Created a community garden in the walled garden of Eastcliff Park

- Created a gardening sub-group
4. Energy
 - Ran events for Earth Hour in March 2010 and 2011
 - Ran Energyshare bid for funding to support community sites in Teignmouth and Shaldon by simple improvements to lighting
 5. Transport
 - Attended meetings regarding the proposed cycle track to Newton Abbot
 6. Planning
 - Analysed planning proposals, working with councillors, planning staff and Transition Newton Abbot

Communications strategy

1. All activities by the Group are routinely publicised via:
 - website <http://teigntransition.org.uk/>
 - mailing list
 - posters displayed in venues across the area
 - press releases in Teignmouth News, Teignmouth Post and Herald Express
2. Hand-outs have been created to give generic information and to cover specific events.
3. Display boards have been made for the Community Garden and for general activities.

Two-year plan

During 2011/2012 the Group intends to continue work to meet its aims and objectives as summarised below.

Throughout the period and on an ongoing basis the group will work to:

1. Identify, link with and support existing local groups as and where these exist and are already working within the scope of TET
2. Help create and support activities of new groups set up to encourage activities within the key areas identified above
3. Explore opportunities for training and education, both of members of the Group and the wider community

4. Communicate the Transition message and publicising events via a range of methods to encourage as wide awareness and involvement as possible across the area
5. Work towards reassuring members of the community by listening to concerns raised over the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change and by offering a positive vision for an alternative more resilient future
6. Investigate ways of collecting and sharing local skills and expertise covering the key topics identified above
7. Works towards creating and help to implement an Energy Descent Action Plan (EDAP) as outlined in the Transition Handbook [Hopkins, 2008]
8. Establish / maintain links with other transition groups, both within Devon e.g. Newton Abbot, Exmouth, Totnes, Bovey Tracey, and elsewhere as seems appropriate, both to develop our own skills and share expertise
9. Maintain sight of the overarching Transition philosophy, working toward meeting the Criteria for becoming a Transition Initiative as stated in the Transition Handbook [Hopkins, 2008].
10. Plan the first AGM to be held within 18 months of the group's forming
11. Investigate whether to become An Unincorporated Not-For-Profit Association, or other similar body.

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Reference

Hopkins, R. (2008) *The transition handbook: from oil dependency to local resilience*. Totnes, Devon; Green Books.