



## Bat Viewing Platform Opens to Visitors

June 2017

People in Braunton can now get closer to nature with the installation of a new bat viewing platform at the Beacon, where greater horseshoe bats can be seen flying past on their way from their roost.

Funding was awarded through the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project, North Devon Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund and the Tarka Country Trust Community Wildlife Fund supported by Marsdens. At the official opening held on the 10 May the Parish Council Chair, Cllr Derrick Spear said 'The funding provided has allowed us to create a fabulous viewing platform which allows the people of Braunton to get closer to nature. It also helps to enhance what we have on offer at the Beacon Nature Area on West Hill.'

The viewing platform complements the two new Discovery Pen 'bat trails' that have been created in Braunton. The trails tell people the story of the greater horseshoe bats and the local area narrated by local Bat Expert Samantha Pickering.



*Photo R-L - Cllr Derrick Spear (Parish Council Chair), students from Southmead Primary School and Braunton Academy and Dave Edgcombe (North Devon AONB).*

Dave Edgcombe, North Devon AONB, said 'The Discovery Pens will be available to borrow from the Braunton Countryside Centre and will take you on a tour of the village, encompassing a visit to the viewing platform, which is located on West Hill.

Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project Manager Ruth Testa said: 'We hope that by providing space for people to see these bats up close in their natural environment it will inspire them to take action to protect them. Funding for the project has been provided by both the National Lottery and the Disney Conservation Fund, and without them we would not be able to help community projects like this one'.



*Pictured left: - The Parish Council Chair, Cllr Derrick Spear officially opening the new GHB viewing platform.*





## BRAUNTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

*Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Braunton Parish Neighbourhood Plan. The Steering Group have concluded the first round of Community Engagement.*

*We are currently collating and assessing the contributions before we feedback these results to the public.*

*Stay tuned for more announcements in the near future.*

## Braunton Parish Council



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*Hours: 9am -12 noon, Monday to Friday*

Tracey Lovell, Clerk to the Council  
Angela Corner, Senior Council Officer  
Jane Fewings, Admin Assistant

## *Parish Council Chairman Re-elected for Third term*

At the Annual Council Meeting on 8 May 2017, Councillor Derrick Spear was re-elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the third consecutive year.



**Congratulations to Cllr Liz Wood on being successfully elected to serve on the Parish Council.**

## **Meetings Calendar 2017**

Full Council Meetings are held in the Council Chamber at the Parish Hall on the second Monday of each month and additional meetings, to primarily consider planning applications, are held on the fourth Monday of each month.

**7pm 12 June 2017**

**7pm 26 June 2017**

**7pm 10 July 2017**

**7pm 24 July 2017**