

Hatherleigh

PROFILE OF ASSOCIATIONAL LIFE

Completed: August 2022



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What is a PAL?

A Profile of Associational Life, or PAL, provides a snapshot of what the social fabric in a place-based community looks and feels like. Communities operate in networks of public buildings and spaces, formal and statutory organisations, informal community-based societies and clubs, workplaces, reciprocity, mutual obligation, trust and the social cohesion that comes from history of a place and how the people who live there do things together. PALs map out what is available in a community and collects stories and feelings from people who live or work there.

PLEASE NOTE: PALs cannot cover absolutely everything about a community. Community information changes rapidly and some information may be out of date. If you are involved with a community organisation and would like to take the information in this PAL and keep it updated on your website/noticeboard etc then please feel free to do so!

Would you like to make any comments or queries, about this PAL? Contact: insights@devoncf.com

PALs are compiled by the DCF Community Insight Team whose job it is to develop networks and connections to better support people in Devon.

To find out more about the work of DCF, visit: www.devoncf.com

Community
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Team

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INTRODUCTION

Hatherleigh is a small market town in West Devon. It is one of the smallest towns in Devon with a recorded population of 1729. The name is thought to derive from the Saxon settlement Haegporn Leah meaning Hawthorn Glade. First recorded in 981, when it was confirmed as part of the endowment of Tavistock Abbey. It was granted a license by Henry III in 1220 to hold a market.

The George Hotel, a 15th Century building of historic importance, possibly originated as a courthouse of the Abbots of Tavistock. There are 60 listed buildings in Hatherleigh and several of the town's thatched and cob houses are 15th century. The oldest building is its parish church retains some Norman elements.

The Tuesday market dates from 1693 and continues to be a big part of the social fabric and community in Hatherleigh today. Everyone comes out for Market Day and older generations of farmers regularly meet, it's social occasion and an opportunity to share knowledge. There are plants, preserves, clothes, vegetables, meat and bric-a-brac on offer, currently on the temporary site at the Community Centre, whilst a large development takes place on the old Cattle Market site.

The town hosts an arts festival in July and a carnival in November, featuring two flaming tar barrel runs. Locals tell stories about being able to run through the streets with them. There are some incredible carnival photographs of decorated floats and carnival queens on show on the History Society website which date back to the 1920's.

Neighbouring areas include: Aish Barton, Ash, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Broadwoodkelly, Exbourne, Folly Gate, Highampton, Honeychurch, Iddesleigh, Ingleigh Green, Inwardleigh, Jacobstowe, Lydacott, Meeth, Monkokehampton, Northlew, Oak Cross, Odham, Sampford, Sheepwash and Whiddon.



INTRODUCTION CONT.

In 2001 Devon was hit tragically by Foot and Mouth disease. The outbreak caused a crisis in British agriculture and tourism with the epizootic seeing millions of cows and sheep killed in an eventually successful attempt to halt it. The cull was a huge blow for livestock in Hatherleigh and for the farming community in the area. Most recently the Covid 19 Pandemic and Avian Flu have also taken its toll on farming here.

Hatherleigh has a Community Plan. It states that the "vision for Hatherleigh is to encourage a more sustainable future for our town. This means increasing awareness of local needs and where possible supporting projects, services and facilities that create a positive benefit for the people who live, work and visit here now and for future generations."

It has an information center, a fire station and a skate park. The town is 7 miles from Okehampton which is in the north of Dartmoor National Park. There are Roman remains on the outskirts of the town which were found on a Roman Tiley site on Hatherleigh Moor and the River Lew winds its way through the middle of the town.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Hatherleigh Carnival is an annual community event that has been happening for many years, there are photographs of it dating back to the 1920s. Friends of Hatherleigh Carnival are a group for those who wish to help out with the running of the event. They are always looking for volunteers to get involved.

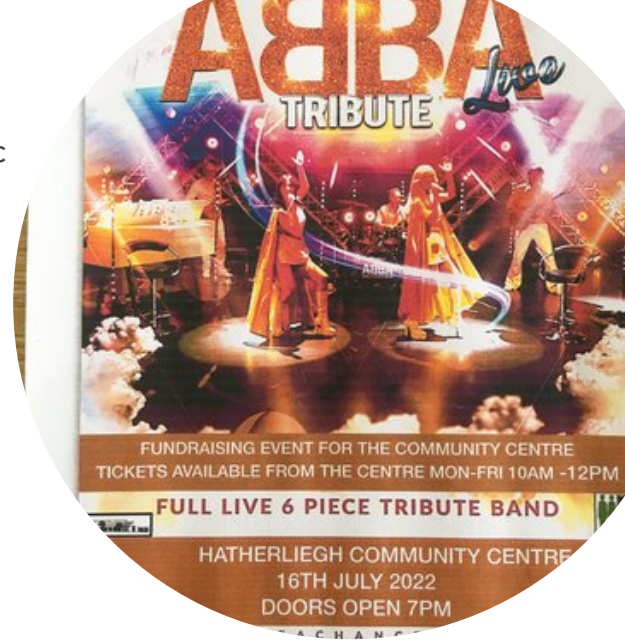
Hatherleigh Festival is an annual music and arts festival that happens in July. It offers live music, a market, workshops and activities as well as access to Bell Ringing and exhibitions in the town.

The Alchemy Room is a craft workshop space. It can also be hired for individual use and meetings. The summer programme in 2022 includes Ice Dying, Bundle-dyed silk crafts, Batik Silk and Fabric Printing.



COMMUNITY EVENTS CONT.

The Community Centre hosts all sorts of events including music and theatre. There is an events page on the website which is regularly updated.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Hatherleigh's IMD ranking is relatively low which means that compared to other parts of West Devon it faces higher levels of deprivation. In 2019 the LSOA ranking was amongst the 40% most deprived neighborhoods in the country, although this ranking showed some improvement between 2015 and 2019.

At the time of the Census the average age of residents was 43.2 years. 36.5% of women were described as Economically Inactive compared with 24.8% of men. 30.8% of people were registered as economically inactive, this is lower than the average in West Devon as a whole. At the same time as this 15.7% of adults were retired, 3.4% were students, 4.6% were looking after family (of which 8.4% were women and 0.7% were men) 5.1% of people were long term sick or disabled.

Hatherleigh has been highly dependent on Agricultural Industry which has been impacted by Epizootic, Epidemic and Avian Flu diseases in recent years. Working aged poverty was recorded as higher than in other parts of West Devon (12%) at the time of the 2011 Census.



DEMOGRAPHICS CONT.

Historically, Hatherleigh has experienced a steady rate of growth appropriate to its size and role as a small rural market town. Between 2001 and 2007, it grew steadily at an average rate of seven homes per year (approximately 1% per year). Today Hatherleigh is well underway with a large housing development which will bring over 100 affordable houses for local people to live in. This year according to Zoopla the average 'sold' price for a property over the last 12 months was £252,232.

29.8% of the population were in full time employment and a further 14.7% were in part time employment, which is lower than the West Devon average. 24.3% of women were in part time employment compared to 4.7% of men at the time. 24% of employees described themselves as Skilled Trades People, followed by 9.3% Professionals, 11.9% Managers and Directors, followed by 10.4% in Caring, Leisure and Service Occupations.

According to the Crime Rate website, as of 2022 crime in Hatherleigh is 31% lower than the South West and 70% lower than the England, Wales & Northern Ireland overall figure. The overall crime rate in Hatherleigh in 2021 was 45 crimes per 1,000 people. This compares favorably to Devon's overall crime rate, coming in 16% lower than the Devon rate of 52 per 1,000 residents.

Facts & Figures: Hatherleigh

IMD ranking: 2295 out of 12382

Working age poverty: 12%

No qualifications: 23.3%

Social housing: 11%

Lone parents: 18%

Ethnic diversity: 3.5%

Unemployed men: 5%

Unemployed women: 3.6%

PUBLIC SERVICES & TRANSPORT

5A bus goes to Exeter - Cridton – Okehampton every couple of hours throughout the day between 8am and 8pm Exeter bound and 6.45am and 5.30pm Okehampton bound. You can find a timetable [here](#).

75A Barnstaple - Great Torrington - Great Torrington Stagecoach South West.

75B Barnstaple - Great Torrington - Great Torrington Stagecoach South West.

630 Hatherleigh - Northlew - Okehampton MD Coaches.

631 Northlew - Sheepwash - Exbourne - Okehampton MD Coaches.

Route 27 of the Tarka Trail, which is known as the Devon Coast to Coast cycle route, goes right through Hatherleigh. It runs from Ilfracombe to Plymouth. The town council have listed detailed information about trails and cycle paths on their website [here](#).



The Okehampton train station reopened last year and will bring benefits to the community. Okehampton is accessible by bus.

There is a Fire Station in the town. It is based on Bridge Street, EX20 3JA.

The Defibrillator is available outside the Cooperative Shop on the High Street.

There are public toilets next to the Old School building.

Free parking on market days in the car park behind the Coop on Tuesdays.



TOWN COUNCIL



The Town council have an up-to-date comprehensive website. They have a Community Plan which was written in 2013 and includes extracts from consultations measuring the needs and vision of local people and many of the opportunities have already been followed up. You can find a summary of the notes from recent meetings printed in the Parish Pump. The toddler park has recently been updated and Island Park

is soon to have new equipment. They are supporting in the redevelopment of the Cattle Market site which is bringing new housing to the town.

Town Councillors

The Mayor of Hatherleigh

COMMUNICATION

Hatherleigh Area Visitor Information Centre has been

run by a few key local people for many years. It provides a central place for information, advertising and communication for both local people and visitors.

There is a gallery space in the window which is now being used to showcase local art. When we visited there was a retired man running the service for the day. He talked about how local volunteers to man the IC but said how it can be tricky to get the younger people involved to volunteer their time.

Hatherleigh Building Community has a Facebook page which provides up to date communication for the town.

Hatherleigh Parish Pump News is a monthly Hatherleigh based publication delivered to 1400 homes in the area. It is available in print for a donation of 50p – funds raised through sale of the magazine are then given to various community groups throughout the year.





The Post Office is on the main High- Street and provides local people with a regular service from Monday to Saturday. Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9 – 3.30; Wed 9 – 1 & Sat 9 – 12.30.

There are various notice boards around the town. One at the Community Centre, one at the coop, another 2 near the square and one inside each church.

Hatherleigh Methodist Church has a Rural Support Worker – a listening ear and signposting
07801 755 732 / Andy.jerrard@tiscali.co.uk

EDUCATION

Hatherleigh Pre-School

Hatherleigh Community Primary School – Platinum Jubilee mosaics were created by each class to commemorate seven different aspects of the Queen's life during the last 70 years. They are celebrations are being displayed in the school permanently.

The nearest college is Okehampton College.

Devon Mobile Libraries visits Hatherleigh regularly.

Made Well CIC offers apprenticeships, AQA unit Awards, Internships, confidence building and work opportunities.





ENVIRONMENT



Hatherleigh Town Council is responsible for two recreation areas in town; Island Park and the toddler play park within the grounds of the Community Centre. There are other children's play areas on the Littlewood and Claremont estate but these are looked after by the associated management groups of these housing estates. Island Park consists of a play park, skate plaza, picnic area, and riverside seating area, it has recently been upgraded. The Island Playpark is soon to be updated.

Allotments are situated at the Made Well Cafe on the A386 north of town. These allotments are on private land but an agreement with the Town Council has secured their availability on a lease. There are currently 13 plots and are all full at the moment.

Hatherleigh Environmental Forum is a new group serving Hatherleigh and surrounding villages in Devon. The Forum is a meeting place for those interested in taking action to support wildlife, the environment, farming practice and human lifestyles to address Climate Crisis. The Forum is self-regulating and non-commercial.

Meeth Quarry Nature Reserve is managed by Devon Wildlife Trust. 150 hectares of rolling landscape, deep water filled lakes and beautiful views.
EX20 3ER



ENVIRONMENT CONT.

Helping Local Wildlife North Devon Biosphere are running a campaign called '[Pledge for Nature](#)' to help the decline of Devon's iconic species.

There are cycle hoops located outside the Primary School in South St, outside the Co-op store in Bridge St, and in Millennium Corner at the junction of Bridge st/High St.

[Conservation Communities DWT](#) is happening in West Devon and partners with Hatherleigh Moor Management Committee.

There are various trail walks around the town including walks to Belvadere and Hatherleigh Moor. Hatherleigh is near to [Dartmoor National Park](#) and Meeth Quarry. The River Lew passes through the town. The town is in a conservation area and have a flood prevention plan. The Town council plan mentions an aim to maintain garden sizes. There is a community Orchard in Hatherleigh in development.

[Devon Biodiversity Record Centre](#) have made calls for sightings of Glow-Worms from Torrington to Hatherleigh.

There is a clothes and shoe recycling bank at the Centre provided by [Planet Aid Uk](#).

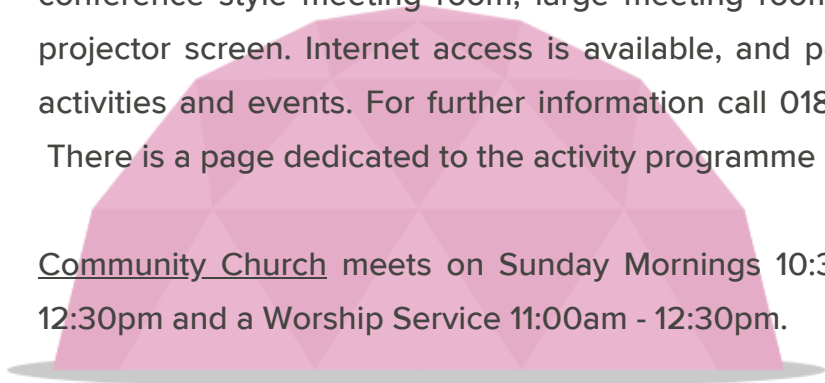
[North Devon Permaculture](#)

COMMUNITY HUBS

[Hatherleigh Community Centre](#) is a hireable community space. It has a capacity of 400, plus a small conference style meeting room, large meeting room for 30 and theatre style room for 45 with projector screen. Internet access is available, and people use the building for private functions, activities and events. For further information call 01837 810239 or email centre@hatherleigh.org. There is a page dedicated to the activity programme at the [community centre](#).

[Community Church](#) meets on Sunday Mornings 10:30am - 12:30pm with coffee From 10:30am-12:30pm and a Worship Service 11:00am - 12:30pm.

[Hatherleigh Methodist Church](#) runs a coffee morning weekly at the Old School raising funds for different community projects on a weekly basis, 9am to 12pm on Tuesdays, this is the same day as market day.



COMMUNITY HUBS CONT.

Made Well CIC has a café and Farm shop and is a visitor center. It is open every day from 9.00am until 3.00pm selling tea and coffee, soups, light snacks and homemade cakes. The farm shop has a regular supply of seasonal goods and retail products. Stocking plants, herbs and home and garden items. The café is a popular and enjoyable choice of place for people to work and is a social hub.

There is a weekly coffee morning at the Old Schools building near to the town square. It is the same day as market day and is very popular with the older adults in the community, some using mobility scooters to attend. They raise funds for the community, such as the Community Defibrillator Fund.



COMMUNITY GROUPS

Arts, culture and heritage

Hatherleigh pottery is run by Jane Payne, who has owned the pottery since 2003, she produces mainly practical domestic stoneware – mugs, jugs, bowls, plates, dishes. A welcoming space and attraction for visitors. Jane has also produced commemorative plates for notable events in the town.

Hatherleigh History is a digital archive for the ongoing research regarding the town's history, it allows everyone access to records, documents and photos. In addition to paper documents, it also holds a number of recorded oral histories which they hope to transcribe.

Salar Gallery Established in 1991, Salar Gallery is an art gallery which provides an exhibition space for artists and craftspeople, mainly from Devon. The gallery celebrates the landscape, animals and rural subjects of the West Country through the work of artists, potters, photographers, glass-makers and writers in the area. They are a member of the Fine Art Trade Guild and Visit Dartmoor.





Arts, culture and heritage cont.

The Hatherleigh Silver Band has heritage dating back to 1827 and the town is very proud of this. The band has Cornets, Horns, Trombones included in it.

The Bells Restoration project has a go fund me page which is up and running for the town. In recent years people have been trying to raise funds for the Church Bells Restoration project. They need to raise a substantial amount to remove and recast the bells, if the work is not done then the bells will have to stop ringing. Locals are doing sponsored Abseils, running or running or holding coffee morning fundraisers to achieve funds.

Hatherleigh Moor nearby is archeologically important as a Roman Tilery site. It has been noted that fragments of tile recovered from the Roman forts at North Tawton, Bury Barton and Okehampton (possibly among others), all appear to have originated at the Hatherleigh Moor Tilery.

The Information Center hosts a small exhibition of local art work.



Care and Support

There are various home care providers near Hatherleigh.

Hatherleigh Care Village is on the outskirts of town. It is based on Holsworthy Road, Hawthorn Park, Hatherleigh, North Devon EX20 3GZ and is run by Evolve Care.

The town also has two residential homes for people with disabilities. All provide local employment opportunities, and the larger one also provides sheltered accommodation.

Hatherleigh Nursing Home recognise the values, beliefs and identity of each person. Striving to be a true continuation of home and creating a place where everyone feels safe and never alone.

Community support and development

Hatherleigh Community Plan states 'we want to create a vibrant town where the majority of adults have local employment opportunities and where all ages are catered for with regards to housing, leisure, healthcare and education'.

Building community - An exciting project which aims to help create a healthy community - Hatherleigh Spaces.

Crime and safety

Patrols regularly take place in the area by Devon and Cornwall Police.

The most common crimes in Hatherleigh are violence and sexual offences, with 46 offences during 2021, giving a crime rate of 25. This is 30% higher than 2020's figure of 32 offences and a difference of 7.58 from 2020's crime rate of 17. Hatherleigh's least common crime is other crime, with 1 offence recorded in 2021, the same as 2020's figure of 1 crime.

In May 2021, Hatherleigh had 2 drug crimes reported and a crime rate of 1.1 per 1,000 inhabitants. These figures were collated by the Crime Rate website.

Disadvantaged/ low income/ benefits

Citizens Advice Bureau Torrridge, North, Mid and West Devon - Okehampton - EX20 1AR, tel 0808 27 87 999.

Okehampton Food Bank covers a large area delivering to Okehampton and its villages as well as far away as Winkleigh, Chagford and Hatherleigh.



Food

Cooperative Food, 24 Bridge St – 7am to 10pm most days of the week.

Hatherleigh Community Market is every Tuesday at 9am – 1pm at the Community Center. It has all sorts of local produce on sale including meat, vegetables, preserves and much more.

The Harvest Workers Co-op were at the weekly Hatherleigh Market and spoke enthusiastically about how they aim to minimize waste, use green energy and support local growers of vegetables, who encourage biodiversity for the future.



Health and wellbeing and mental health

Hatherleigh Medical Centre

There are Social Prescribers working out of the medical centre in Hatherleigh. They cover a larger area than just Hatherleigh but offer a clinic either face to face or over the phone. When we spoke with one of the prescribers who works in the area they said that issues facing local people in this area include mobility, transport links and recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic. The type of groups that get most referrals are social care support, care direct, befriending services, community groups and activities. Some of the referrals come from more rural areas outside of the town, referrals tend to come about through health and social care settings and partnership working.

A consultation in 2013 showed that local people would benefit from a Dental Practice.

Hobby and skill share

Hatherleigh Players

Hatherleigh Book Club

The Bellringers are an important part of the community. They practice at St. John the Baptist Church, Hatherleigh, each Thursday at 7.30-9pm. Secretary/Ringing Master Rebecca Harrison 07850 418285.

Hatherleigh Art Group – for more information contact Sally 01837 810377 or Alan 810024.





Housing and homelessness

Hatherleigh Market quarter is currently being redeveloped. There will be a brand new market and over 100 new build houses on the site. The redevelopment of this site was bittersweet for the community. Some people recognised the need for more affordable housing, but many members of the community were protective of preserving the Market. The local Mayor spoke to us when we visited. She said 'the re-development of the cattle market site had been a contentious issue but people are embracing the inevitable change that is happening. The new build will bring positives in that the area will remain the towns modernised market space and we'll all be helping to ensure it retains its vibrancy'. See the [Town Council Website](#) for planning information.

There is a private housing estate on Vicks Meadow and a larger housing estate opposite the industrial estate off the A3072.



Learning disability

Made Well CIC offers support services for people with a learning disability, physical disability or mental health condition. It has a pottery, a cafe, animals, plants, a cycle path, a computer pod, a wood workshop, raised beds, a sensory garden,. It also has an innovative building called the Pebble which is hireable.

It runs daily sessions designed to enable people of all abilities to take part in activities that are purposeful, develop new skills and provide new experiences that help promote independence and enhance life skills. Working together helps develop practical and social skills, increases confidence, self-esteem and ultimately quality of life. It is situated at West Fishleigh Farm, EX20 3QA.



Sports and Leisure

There is a Skate Park in Hatherleigh, opposite the community center.

There is a well used Multi Use Games Area in the Town, near to the Community Centre. It is available as an all-weather activity area which is suitable for Netball, Football and tennis. Floodlights are there for dark winter evenings.

Hatherleigh Youth Cricket

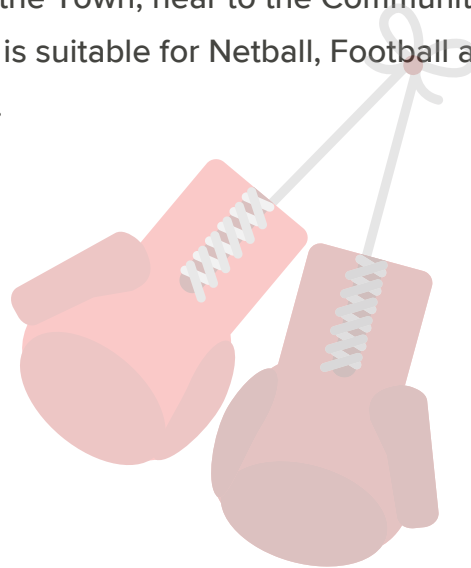
Hatherleigh Netball

Hatherleigh Running Club

Hatherleigh Bowling Club

Hatherleigh Cricket Club

Hatherleigh Town Football Club



West Devon Swords is a sports, fencing and historical swordplay group
Sports field

Sports and keep fit at the Community Centre include Adult Dance, Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi.

An annual half-marathon called the Ruby Run takes place usually in Hatherleigh, starting from each town in alternate years.



Volunteering

St Johns Church are always looking for volunteers.

Volunteers support with the community cafes at the Old Schools coffee mornings.

The Information Centre currently are looking for volunteers.

Volunteer opportunities are sometimes advertised on the Devon Connect website, search for Hatherleigh.

Nethercott House, Farms For City Children EX19 8SN. Helping to support children from urban environments experience the countryside and explore how food is produced. Opportunities for people to join an existing friendly group of garden volunteers in a beautiful Victorian walled kitchen garden. Experienced gardeners welcome or learn some growing skills alongside the gardener. Support in creating and maintaining a productive and inspiring environment for visiting children and teachers. There are an array of gardening activities requiring varying levels of physical activity – something for everyone! To find out more or arrange a phone call or a visit please email Adam on adam@farmsforcitychildren.org.

Youth and children

Hatherleigh Youth Football Club

Hatherleigh Youth Café

Hatherleigh brownies

Little Leaf Pregnancy

Hatherleigh PTFA

Hatherleigh youth football club

Hatherleigh Skate Park | Facebook

TURF/MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) Clubs £8 per hour, £12 per hour with floodlights Individual £4 per hour, £8 per hour with floodlights.

Hatherleigh Youth Café is a multi-church run project that operates in Old Schools every Thursday evening. From 7 until 9pm, for young people between the ages of 13 to 17 to drop-in and spend some time with friends, eat food and have fun.

War Horse Valley Country Farm Park is a tourist attraction located near Hatherleigh, North of Dartmoor in West Devon. It has a museum, animals & a tea room.



INDUSTRY & ROUTES TO EMPLOYMENT

Hatherleigh's identity is driven by its role as a small market town. 2011 Census data suggested that the main jobs include farming, tourism, livestock, horticulture, abattoir, auctions, accommodation, education, petrol station, hotel, builders, shop & café work, industrial work and care work. Market Street/ Bridge Street hosts a number of businesses, as does the Hatchmore Industrial estate.

2.4% of employees described themselves as Skilled Tradespeople, 13.7% Elementary Occupations, 10.4% Professionals, followed by 10.8% in Caring or Leisure Services. It is estimated that these businesses have created up to 400 jobs in both full-time and part-time positions.

The recent closure of a large agricultural business in Hatherleigh was a blow to the community says one of the local councilors, with the links to other businesses having a domino impact on other suppliers outside of the main business.

There are many self-employed skilled workers in the town. These include workers associated with the building trade and farming. Hatherleigh hosts farming equipment sales and repair businesses and three motor repair businesses. Hatherleigh's provision is also benefited by having a veterinary practice and the Doctors pharmacy. There was recently a recruitment drive for firefighters and Hatherleigh Nursing home employs many local people. There is also a small industrial area near to the site of the Cattle market.

Hatherleigh has been classed as a local center in the Core Strategy. This means that the town is seen as an important place for providing local shops, facilities, employment and activities for people living in the town and the smaller surrounding communities.



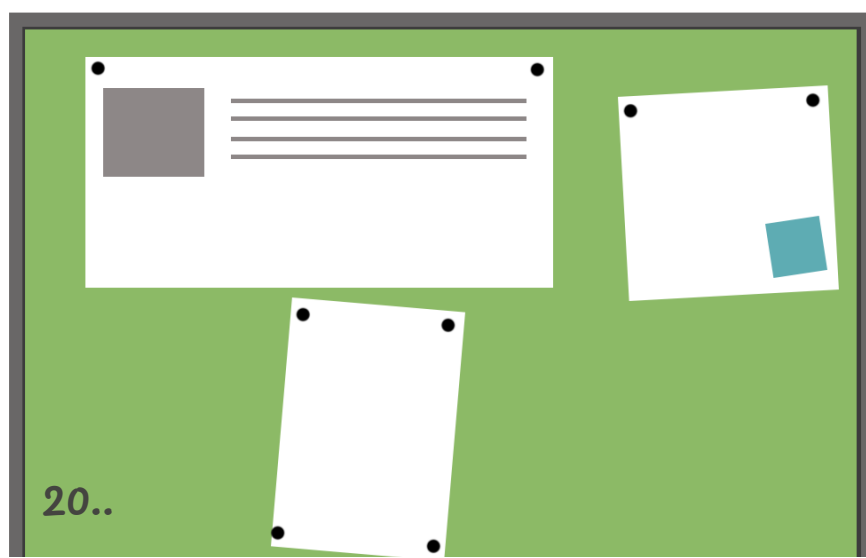
COMMUNITY COMMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Hatherleigh has a strong community identity as a market town, there is a feeling that ‘everyone knows everyone’ here. One person we spoke to said ‘it’s a ‘wonderful place to live, that people are so friendly!’ Locals come together on market day and for events. They water and tend to hanging baskets outside their houses and actively fundraise for local charities on a weekly basis.

There are strong heritage ties in the village - the carnival and the Silver Band are approximately 100 years old. The church bells have been ringing for hundreds of years and were last re-cast in 1929, they are extremely valuable to the town. The restoration project will be a huge undertaking. When visiting and speaking with local people we got the impression that although things have changed a lot over the years, certain traditions of traditional Hatherleigh life have continued to be celebrated.

Transport is one of the main challenges Hatherleigh faces with buses stopping early in the evening, there are limitations on both social and work opportunities for those who do not have their own transport (12.3% owned a car or van in 2011). Situated between Barnstaple and Okehampton buses go in both directions but the timetable is limited. Notably, both of these larger towns have train stations.

People talked about the hope that nearby Okehampton train station could open up links to Hatherleigh and how new signs are being developed to modernise the signage of the town. Island play park will soon undergo some work to bring it up to date. There seemed to be quite a few mobility scooters in use in the town which is on a hill, we saw 5 during our visit. One social prescriber said living at the top of the town can isolate people from activities. We saw one family using a European Micro Car to get around town!



COMMUNITY COMMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES CONT.

Crime figures in Hatherleigh are lower than in the South West by 31% and in 2021 forty five crimes were reported per 1000 people. We didn't see or hear anything about crime during our visit. Most people we spoke with said that it felt like a nice place to live. Although there have been some issues recorded with drugs and anti-social behavior, notably in May 2021 when two crimes were reported, numbers continue to be comparatively lower than the South West average.

Creating a Skate Park to give young people a place to go has been great for the town, the current Mayor was instrumental in the process and said of the project 'Where were all those youngsters beforehand?'

The sustainability of the market will play a key role in the town's future. Not just in trade but for well-being and social reasons. Without the market isolation is a real risk, generations of farmers have lived and worked in this area and livestock markets have been a part of the social fabric of them for hundreds of years. The Mayor and the councilors we spoke with mentioned the devastating toll that Foot and Mouth (2001), Covid 19 (2019) and now Avian Flu (2022) have all taken on this community. The new market will be different but there is a recognition that it will be about much 'more than just sales and purchasing'.

The town council is working positively toward self-sufficiency and a balance for all with the Community Plan. It did a household consultation in 2011 involving a local residents' survey, which was distributed to every household in the parish. Residents were invited to share their views about the whole range of community and development issues in the town. 216 surveys were returned which provided very useful insight for the ongoing plan which was published in 2013. They looked at how much new housing development is needed for the town balanced against other issues, such as availability of jobs and the ability of the local infrastructure to support a growing community.

The decision to use the old cattle market site for a new housing development over 100 homes split the town. Some described it as 'the end of an era', whilst others admitted change and redevelopment was needed. Ultimately there was optimism for the project with a hint of melancholy that the old ways had been lost to the demolition of the old.

