

Announcement of proposed new Feasibility Study by Tim Steer



The population of areas Bideford and Barnstaple has increased so much in the last 20 years. Barnstaple alone has proposed 4,163 houses to be built by 2031 and Bideford 4,129.

If each property houses a husband and wife, the combined numbers would be 16,584 then we add children to the equation and the numbers would be much higher. The average family have at least one car per household some as many as 5 in one street! During rush hour, the volume of traffic into Barnstaple has increased to the point that motorists are disgruntled and the fumes from the queues of traffic has a negative impact on us all; including wildlife. We cannot be carbon zero with queues of cars all going in one direction. A fresh feasibility study is needed and with the aid of our very own Bideford site coordinator, Lewis Andrews, we will look in depth at how to achieve this report and submit it to Department for Transport. I could think of no finer form of public transport than to reopen our Bideford to Barnstaple railway alongside the Tarka trail.