

# Dover Community Radio

Barry O'Brien



DCR [Dover Community Radio] was conceived some time ago drawing inspiration from the Radio Authority [precursor to OFCOM] initiative known as Access Radio which saw the introduction of new legislation for an additional tier of radio to sit between Commercial Radio and the BBC. The first UK Community Radio station, as it later became known, went to air in November 2005.

Although the concept of Community Radio is worldwide, it's principles remain constant in that it is 'not for profit', is staffed by volunteers, and provides, mostly, locally produced content, including news, as well as offering training opportunities, at all levels, and an introduction to broadcasting.

DCR has volunteers whose experience includes work with Radio Caroline, as well as Internet Radio and Commercial Radio stations, some previously based in this part of Kent; we also have volunteers who had no previous experience of broadcasting prior to joining DCR.

Having broadcast online for some years, during which time there have been a fair few 'challenges', OFCOM has now offered DCR an opportunity to move to FM by mid-2022.

A previous 28 day FM trial saw volunteers

literally overwhelmed by the positive response and reaction from the area, although the first application for a full time licence highlighted potential issues with the strength of some French radio signals. Fortunately, technical help since received has offered a solution to that problem and test transmissions should now begin, spring, 2021.

Meanwhile DCR continues to grow the online output which will, of course, continue in parallel with the transfer to FM.

DCR offers an opportunity of a voice for East Kent and the Dover district and a platform for the community to talk with each other, to share information and promote events. Community Radio can help build a stronger Community, in OFCOM's words: "rather than 'talk at' its community the station should become a part of it". It can prove a tricky role to fill relying as it does on input and interaction from what might otherwise be a passive listener who has an opportunity not only to influence the station's output but to also take an active part in that output.

DCR is 100% staffed by volunteers and always welcomes more. It takes a lot of people to keep a radio station on air and not only presenters: it needs a lot more besides. DCR needs news-gatherers, sound engineers, people who know their way around a computer, trainers, fund raisers, designers, editors and plenty more besides; all contact can be made via e-mail to [studio@dcrfm.co.uk](mailto:studio@dcrfm.co.uk)

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