

Notes from the Town Team Meeting – 27th October 2015

Present: Helen Nathanson, Frances Northrop, Bob Tildesley, Mirella Ferraz, Lindsay Garner, Mike Craddock, Peter Rees, Councillors Ben Piper, Jacqi Hodgson and Robert Vint

Apologies: Councillor Rosie Adams, District Councillor John Green, Richard O’Connell, Ian Franklin, Wendy Reid, Cathy Aubertin

The purpose of the meeting was to finalise the information we will take to the Neighbourhood Plan Workshop on 28th November in the Civic Hall. A Task Group had already met to pull out the relevant information from local consultations and projects so the Town Team went through the notes from that meeting.

The following was discussed:

We need to include the information from the NP Workshop at KEVICC because the perception of young people is crucial. Some of the relevant points raised in that workshop are that the young people want: more events at the Castle; a better Museum; protection for listed buildings; better tourism support to promote the town; and a Totnes Culture Day and Festivals.

The six points of culture identified by the Task Group were discussed and finessed and another was added. The final list is:

1. The culture of the Market Town
2. A culture of Arts, which includes performance art, artists, galleries, cinema, theatre and live music
3. A culture of learning – language schools, adult education, variety of primary and secondary education
4. The culture of our heritage, which includes the natural environment such as the River
5. Food culture – markets, cafes and food shops, local producers, organic and unusual produce
6. Independence and diversity – a perceived “quirkiness”, alternative therapy, Transition
7. A culture of community and belonging

Other questions to be asked around this:

There is a lot going on around the town but we don’t communicate this efficiently and not everyone knows what is happening. We will ask people how they know what is going on in Totnes and where they publicise their own events.

Do we need to address the problems with music and live music events in the centre of town and the use of our current spaces for their intended purposes e.g. Civic Hall?

Is the town diverse? What do we mean by independent and quirky? Are we progressive?

How do we include car parks? They allow access to cultural activity and are therefore linked even though they are not culture or heritage. Our present transport links work against cultural activities.

Utilising the section on How to Carry out a Cultural Audit from Creativity in Community, we then listed all the built and open space assets in the town which are used for cultural purposes. These will also form part of the display for the Workshop.

Built Assets

Guildhall	Civic Hall	St Mary's Church	St Mary's Church Hall
St John's Church	St John's Church Hall	Methodist Church	Birdwood House
Bogan House	Museum	Castle	Butterwalk
Rugby Club	Pavilions	Tennis Club	Totnes Boating
Rowing Club	Bowls Club	Library	Mansion
Follaton House	Follaton Village Hall	Bridgetown Community Hall	South Devon Arts Centre
Bells Community Bookshop	Pubs, Cafes and Private Venues	TA Centre	Scout Hut
Town Mill	School Halls	Masonic Hall	REconomy Centre
Ariel Centre			

The Sports Clubs are well-used and affordable meetings spaces are in high demand, such as Birdwood and Church Halls. It was felt that the remainder of the assets are under-used.

Open Space Assets

Rotherfold	The Lamb	Civic Square	St Mary's Churchyard
Castle	Leechwell	Shady Garden	Mansion Courtyard
United Free Church	Seven Stars	The Plains	Dartmouth Inn Square
Vire Island	Steamer Quay	Baltic Wharf	Longmarsh/Riverside
KEVICC	Borough Park	ATMOS	Parkers Way Play Area
Chicken Run	Heath's Garden	Museum Garden	Ramparts Walk
Colwill Wood	Follaton Arboretum	Allotments	

There is a demand for allotments in the centre of town, the Lamb garden is well-used and the skate park users would like to expand. However, on the whole the open spaces are under-used or not well-known.

In support of this information we will have as many photos as possible of assets and spaces and see if we can use David Martin's diagram of the High St.

This information will be presented to the town at the workshop on Saturday 28th November. The Workshop is from 10am-12.30pm and all are invited.

Thank you to all for attending. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 12th January at 5.30pm** in the Guildhall.