

**MINUTES OF THE PEOPLE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 30 MARCH 2015 AT THE GUILDHALL, TOTNES**

Present: Councillors Whitty (Chair), Boswell, Cohen, Greenway, Hodgson, Vint and Westacott

Apologies: Councillors Finn and Gorman

In attendance: Tatiana Cant (Deputy Town Clerk), Steve Peacock (Totnes Times) and 4 members of the public

No	Subject	Comments
1	To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council.	Apologies were accepted from Cllr Finn.
	<i>The Committee adjourned for the following item:</i>	
2	Public Engagement Time: A period of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions engage the committee regarding the work of the Committee or other items that affect Totnes.	<p>i. Liz Waterson (Street Pastor) (LW) and Mark Hatch (Manager of Homeless Shelter) (MH) described their concerns regarding late night opening of the Co-op and Morrisons which makes it easier to access high strength alcohol. A small minority of street drinkers need to drink increasingly stronger alcohol to satisfy their addiction and this can result in anti-social behaviour. Laughing gas is also on sale in one of the shops and there is evidence of this being used by youngsters and this encourages people to become users. Protection needs to be provided for young people and service users.</p> <p>ii. Ben Piper from the Totnes Events Collective described the collaboration work which had taken place recently. The group had applied to become a Community Interest Company and employed a book keeper. Current funds included £650 from New Year's Eve and £2,000 from Locality funding. Bids had also been submitted to the Paige Adams Trust and Arts Council. It is hoped that the group will be able to create some local employment opportunities. The next event – May Minifesto - is planned for 3 May in the Civic Hall and Market Square. This will focus on traditional May celebrations and involve local musicians. A further event to take place later in the summer will have input from the Chamber of Commerce.</p>
	<i>The Committee reconvened to consider the following items:</i>	
3	To deal with any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting	The minutes of the meeting of 26 January were agreed as accurate.
4	To consider an approach for addressing behavior resulting from high strength alcohol	<p>Information provided at 2.i above. Members expressed their gratitude to LW and MH for their work which has led to real benefits on the streets.</p> <p>RECOMMEND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To write to Sarah Wollaston MP to ask her to support a move to increase alcohol unit price. b. The Deputy Clerk to set up a meeting with the SHDC Licensing Officer, representatives from the two main supermarkets, police, councillors, LW and MH to discuss the issue and explore possible options.

4a	To consider and hear an update on the Homeless situation in Totnes	Information provided at 2.ii above.
5	To receive an update on events planned by the Totnes Events Collective	Item raised and discussion recorded above. RECOMMEND Totnes Town Council support the group's proposal for a 'Minifesto' event and to set up a Community Interest Company.
6	To consider updates on youth issues – Family Lives, Youth Café	It was agreed that a youth café would provide a safe environment for young people to spend time together and to hold a variety of activities which could help improve skills and provide work experience. A number of venues were suggested but no suitable locations were identified. It was agreed that a pilot scheme would be the best approach. RECOMMEND Support the project work of Caring Town Totnes in relation to the initiative for a youth café to be incorporated in their work and to liaise with them to carry this forward.
7	To discuss proposal to re-establish the River Dart Non-Beneficiaries Users Group	Information was awaited from an ex-member of the group. Further discussion to take place to consider ways of encouraging use of the Dart. Item to be included on next agenda.
8	To review the implementation of the Community Engagement policy	The Action Plan from the July Full Council was reviewed and the actions not completed were noted. It was agreed to revisit the previous work relating to noticeboards. Input into the Annual Report to be provided as appropriate. RECOMMEND Community Engagement work on the Action Plan to be carried forward by the People Committee in the next Council.
9	To ratify amended Link Councillor document	The amended document was agreed by the Committee and should form part of the induction for new councillors. RECOMMEND Terms of Reference for Link Councillors be adopted and the term 'lead councillor' be replaced by 'link councillor' in the Standing Orders.
10	To discuss a process for using Participatory Budgeting	As no firm proposals had been put forward the issue to be held in abeyance and to be taken forward, if agreed, by the next Council.
11	To receive any update on Open Space	Work on open space will fall within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. This will be an important issue for the town as SHDC is not taking on responsibility for management of open space relating to new developments. The SHDC Green Infrastructure document has now been completed. Detailed plans are being developed for the Shady Garden and work will proceed when funds have been secured. Planning is also underway to improve the Rotherfold, Civic Square and the area in front of the Mansion.
12	To receive any update on Borough Park	SHDC has announced that they are accepting bids from not-for-profit organisations to run the leisure centres in the area. This would not include the Totnes Pavilions and it is possible that this

		facility could be taken on by the community. This is under serious consideration by Tadpool.
13	To receive any update on the Mansion and Caring Town Totnes	A full report will be provided for the next Full Council meeting. The Annual Town Meeting will include discussion of plans for the Mansion site. A Caring Town Totnes event on April 16 th at the Methodist Church will focus on this matter and all councillors are invited.
14	To discuss the possibility of adopting a kiosk / phone box	Three kiosks were identified and it was agreed that adopting a kiosk for community use was a possibility. Deputy Clerk to research more fully to find out if the Totnes kiosks were eligible. Item to be referred to Operations Committee.
15	To receive an update on the First World War Working Group	A small tree planting event is planned for 25 April behind the Mansion to mark Anzac Day. JH to liaise with DCC on the implications and permissions regarding the planting.
16	To discuss policies list and agree which policies should be reviewed by the committee.	This committee would be responsible for reviewing the Community Engagement Policy. Additional policies for review to be agreed at the next meeting.
17	Dates and location of future meetings	To be decided after the election.

END

MAYOR