**MINUTES OF THE PEOPLE COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2018 AT THE GUILDHALL OFFICES TOTNES**

Present: Councillors A Simms (Chair), B Piper, K Sermon, J Sweett and T Whitty.

In Attendance: Sara Halliday (Administrator), Sgt T Perrin (Devon & Cornwall Police), and Lindy Strong and Bonita Curtis (Marketplace Ministries).

Apologies: Cllr M Parker.

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| **No** | **Subject** | **Comments** |
| 1 | To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council. | Apologies were received from Cllr Parker. |
|  | *The Committee will adjourn for the following item:* |
|  | Public Engagement: A period of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Committee or other items that affect Totnes. | No members of the public were present at the meeting. |
|  | *The Committee will reconvene to consider the following items:* |
| 2 | To formally confirm Cllr Marianne Parker’s membership of the People Committee. |  |
| 3 | To address any matters arising from 14th September 2017. | Item 3 – The review of OSSR&WB Policy will now sit with the Totnes Neighbourhood Plan Task and Finish Group. Item 4 – Agreed by Full Council.Item 6 – to be discussed at item 5 today.Item 7 – Agreed by Full Council.  |
| 4 | To discuss drug abuse issues in Totnes, including:* Drug related incidents at the Totnes Christmas market
* An update on Operation APPLEROSE
* An update from Marketplace Ministries
* Safeguarding Young People
* Safe Drug Rooms
 | Sgt Perrin reported that the Police did not see any marked increase in drugs related events during the Christmas markets. Any incidents were in line with normal levels.Sgt Perrin gave an update on Operation APPLEROSE, which is tackling drug dealing, street use and anti-social behavior in Totnes. Op APPLEROSE is about getting people off the streets and off drugs and uses a mix of enforcement and engagement involving a number of agencies (the Police, SHDC and Marketplace Ministries). There are ongoing prosecutions for dealing, and those found in possession may face prosecution or may escape charges if they engage with the rehabilitation programme offered by RISE. Cllrs expressed concern about the number of needles issued to users and the related problems that this causes when they are abandoned in public places.Marketplace Ministries (MPM) have been involved in working with addicts and getting RISE back into Totnes. In April 2017 MPM were focused on feeding the homeless and getting a support team to extend the advice that they can give individuals. In 2018 MPM are introducing a housing support package to address the root cause of someone’s homelessness, and that when they are housed they get advice on how to keep the house (life skills such as financial, personal care, and home management) as various therapies to help mental health, and meaningful occupation opportunities. MPM’s aim is to develop a community village to offer single unit accommodation for people who were clean of drugs. The recent opening of the MPM Funhouse soft play area will help generate funding for other MPM activities.Cllr Sweet raised the issue of misuse of prescription drugs by young people and Cllr Piper commented on the difficulty in tracing internet purchases. Sgt Perrin said that whilst prescription drug taking amongst young people was still happening, it is no higher than last year and the police receive few calls about it.Cllr Sermon introduced the idea of a safe drug room being established in Totnes to take users off the streets. Whilst there are examples in a number of European countries, no such space has yet set up in the UK. Concerns were expressed that were Totnes to set up such a room it could attract more users and begging issues into the town. |
| 5 | To consider amendments to the Buskers Badge policy. | To RECOMMEND to Full Council that the revised policy (attached) is approved. Main changes are no amplification to be permitted, badges issued for 3 months and photo ID to be carried by the busker. |
| 6 | To consider the role of Totnes Town Council in the application for a night landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance at Borough Park. | Cllr Whitty expressed concern about a misconception in Totnes that TTC is not supportive of the air ambulance night landing site application and the bad publicity that this could attract. It was acknowledged that TTC staffs have liaised with SHDC in getting the answer to some questions asked by DAAT, as well as agreeing for a £3K grant from the Paige Adams Trust. To RECOMMEND to Full Council that TTC is supportive of Totnes Rotary Club completing the application for a night landing site at Borough Park and will aid as appropriate.  |
| 7 | To consider a proposal for a Community Officer role in Totnes.  | In the absence of Cllr Parker it was agreed to defer this item until the February meeting. |
| 8 | To discuss how the Town Council can support the 2018 Christmas Markets in Totnes. | It was suggested that Redhouse Events should hold quarterly meetings with the Totnes Chamber of Commerce, SHDC Cllr John Green and the TTC Link Councillors for business to discuss the 2018 markets – Cllr Sweett will speak with Redhouse Events. |
| 9 | To discuss the closure of the public toilets in Totnes. | The closure of the public toilets had been discussed at the January Full Council meeting. After the discussions with Sgt Perrin, the People Committee RECOMMEND to Full Council that: TTC and SHDC work with the Police Designing Out Crime officer to install safe and secure sharps bins in the public toilets in Totnes and reduce the surfaces and other areas used to aid drug preparation; that TTC supports the introduction of ‘pay on entry’ for use of the toilets; and recognises that access to public toilets is a vital part of tourism in the town. It is acknowledged that a small minority are responsible for causing the problem, but this has a huge impact on local residents and visitors alike. |
| 10 | To consider the requirement of an Arts Link Councillor. | Cllr Piper introduced the idea of establishing an Arts Link Councillor position. With the arts being an economic driver in the town, having a link councillor could help in signposting artists to various organisations. To RECOMMEND to Full Council that an Arts Link Councillor position is established.  |
| 11 | To note the recruitment of new members to the Devon Countryside Access Forum. | Noted. |
| 12 | To note the letter from the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner about the Neighbourhood Policing Review. | Noted. To RECOMMEND to Full Council that TTC writes in support of the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership letter, stressing that the proposed reduction in PCSOs will be a dangerous and detrimental move in the ability of the Police to both prevent and solve crime. This will also undermine the confidence and feeling of security that the community has in the excellent service the police provide for the town. |
| 13 | To note the Torbay and South Devon NHS Health and Care Insights newsletter for October 2017. | Noted. |
| 14 | To note the Devon Community Resilience Forum December 2017 newsletter. | Noted. |
| 15 | To note the date of the next meeting – Thursday 8th February 2018 at 10.00am.  | Noted. |

END

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CHAIR

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**BUSKERS’ CODE OF PRACTICE**

1. Music or voice shall not be at a level or be so loud, that it can be heard at a distance of 50 metres. No amplification or microphones - mains or generator powered - are permitted. Busking must not be intrusive or a nuisance in nearby premises (commercial or residential), or affect the use of the public telephones. If asked by a shop trader to stop busking in front of their premises, entertainers should do so.

2. Entertainment is restricted to a maximum of one hour in any one place (pitch) and shall not be repeated in that place or within 50 metres of it within 2 hours. Note: particularly noisy entertainment (e.g. bagpipes, drums) will be restricted to a maximum of 30 minutes in any one place.

3. Entertainers shall not obstruct the highway, pavement or entrances to shops. Entertainers are also responsible for ensuring that the highway, pavement or entrances to shops is not obstructed by people gathering to listen or watch the performance. Note: 'obstruct' includes causing people to walk on a road rather than the pavement. Entertainers should not behave in any way that obstructs the highway or is anti-social.

4. Entertainers shall not make use of public seats.

5. Pitches chosen shall satisfy the above criteria and must not be within 50 metres of another authorised busker.

6. No sign shall be displayed inviting payment (except where a collection for charity has been authorised by the Council or the Charity Commissioners).

7. Totnes Town Council does not condone anyone busking in the town to be using or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

8. The Totnes Buskers' Badge will be issued for three months to all entertainers who agree to comply with this code. Phone ID should be carried by the individual holding the Badge and they may be asked to produce it by a Police Officer or Council Officer. Every support will be given to buskers displaying the Badge. However, entertainers must stop performing immediately when requested to do so by a Police Officer or Council Officer. Totnes Town Council supports the police in their policing of the town, and in dealing with any buskers who are behaving in an antisocial manner.

Note: The Police and the Council will not normally institute legal action where the code is observed. However, breaches may make a person liable to prosecution. In addition, other persons may institute action under the same laws where breaches have occurred notwithstanding the code.