

# **AGENDA FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2020 – HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM**

MEETING LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/96243628033?pwd=WEViZGVoRDdTQlZVOUk0TkNYeEQxZz09>

MEETING ID: 962 4362 8033 PASSCODE: 873453

## You are hereby **SUMMONED** to attend the **Town Matters Committee**, which is to be held using remote meeting service Zoom on **Monday 16th November 2020** at **7.00pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business:

**Committee Members**: Councillors B Piper (Chair), V Trow (Deputy Chair), G Allen, P Allford, A Galvin, R Hendriksen, D Matthews, P Paine, S Skinner and L Webberley.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council.

*The Committee will adjourn for the following items:*

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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.

*The Committee will convene to consider the following items:*

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

To update on any matters arising from the minutes of 21st September 2020. (Note: already agreed through Full Council.) Document enclosed.

### **SHARED SPACE AND EMERGENCY COVID-19 MEASURES**

To review contacts between the Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, concerned traders and members of the public in regard to pursuing the ‘Shared Space’ objectives which are widely supported for the town. Document enclosed.

### **CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

To note any update from the Climate Change Working Group on 27th October 2020 (standing item). Verbal update from Cllr Allen.

### **CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY BILL**

To consider signing the Climate and Ecological Emergency Alliance’s campaign for a Climate and Ecological Emergency Private Members Bill. Document attached and see https://www.ceebill.uk/

### **ADOPTION OF PHONE BOXES**

To consider the ideas received for the re-purposing the proposed adoption of the phone boxes at Swallowfields, Plymouth Road and Whiteley Avenue (Follaton). Document attached.

### **RURAL MARKET TOWN GROUPING**

To consider whether the Town Council should join the Rural Services Network’s rural/market town group (no cost until April 2021, then £130 per annum). Document enclosed.

### **BEGGING AND ROUGH SLEEPING**

To consider the impact of begging, addicts and rough sleepers on businesses in the town and promotion of the ‘Giving Back’ scheme. Document enclosed.

### **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2021**

To consider if there are any public footpaths within Totnes which could benefit from an application for grant funding.

### **TOTNES PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

To note a summary of minutes from recent Totnes Partnership meetings. Documents enclosed.

### **KEEPING YOUNG TOTNES SAFE UPDATE**

To note the minutes of the Keeping Young Totnes Safe meeting held 29th September 2020. Document enclosed.

### **FAIRTRADE UPDATE**

To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade Annual General Meeting on 30th September 2020 and a letter sent to the local MP. Documents enclosed.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – **Monday 22nd February 2021 at 5.30pm (please note the change in start time).**

Sara Halliday

Committee and Cemetery Administrator

### **USE OF SOUND RECORDINGS AT COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The open proceedings of this Meeting will be audio and video recorded. If members of the public make are presentation, they will be deemed to have consented to being recorded. By entering the Council Chamber or Zoom meeting, attendees are also consenting to being recorded.

Televised, vision and sound recordings or live broadcastings by members of the press or public at Councillor Committee debates are permitted and anyone wishing to do so is asked to inform the Chairman of the respective Committee of their intention to record proceedings.

**ITEM 2 – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**



# **MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2020 – HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM**

## Present: Councillors B Piper (Chair), G Allen, P Allford (left the meeting at 7.55pm), R Hendriksen, D Matthews, P Paine, S Skinner, V Trow and L Webberley.

## Apologies: None.

Not Present: Councillor A Galvin.

## In Attendance: Councillors J Hodgson and E Price, three members of the public and S Halliday (Committee and Cemetery Administrator).

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council.**

No apologies had been received.

*The Committee will adjourn for the following items:*

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public introduced the idea of setting up an urban farming initiative in Totnes to help people’s emotional and financial situation through food growing as a co-operative. The produce would be shared amongst the growers with any surplus donated to the food bank or sold to local shops. They proposed that the Town Council sets up a voluntary programme with various local groups such as Incredible Edible and Totnes Allotments. The Committee **AGREED** that this idea should be passed to the Climate Change Working Group to investigate.

Two members of the public spoke about the clamp down by South Hams District Council towards campervans parking overnight in Longmarsh car park [note: the signage clearly says no overnight parking]. They explained how the presence of campervans helps deter anti-social behaviour and keep the area free of drugs. They requested that a dedicated traveller area is required in Totnes for those who choose to live in vans, and disputed the idea that rubbish and human waste is left by van owners. Cllr Hodgson said the matter of a site is a shared South Hams District Council and Devon County Council issue and a meeting is planned in the future to discuss this requirement.

*The Committee reconvened.*

### **2. SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL RECYCLING SYSTEM**

### **To receive an update from a South Hams District Council Officer about the new recycling system that will be introduced in 2021.**

### A presentation on the new recycling system being introduced in Spring 2021 was given by a South Hams District Councillor Senior Specialist (Waste). The new system will bring the South Hams into line with other areas of Devon, thereby making it easier for people to understand requirements in the different districts of the county. Most houses in Totnes will see collection days change from Thursday/Friday to Monday/Tuesday - letters are being sent out to households. It will introduce more kerbside recycling, including weekly collections of a food caddy and recycling to include a wider range of plastics, glass and clothing, and continued weekly alternate collection of household waste and garden waste (black and brown bins). The attached link gives more information about where the recycling goes for processing [https://www.southhams.gov.uk/WhereDoesRecyclingGo](about:blank)

### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **To update on any matters arising from the minutes of 27th July 2020.**

The minutes of the meeting have been agreed by Full Council on 7th September 2020.

Item 3 – Resolved by Full Council and the Town Council’s comment was formally submitted as part of the consultation process on 16th September 2020.

Item 4 – The Devon Local Council Association advice is for council meetings to remain being conducted remotely where members of the public can participate.

### **4. ARTS WORKING GROUP**

### **To note any update from the Arts Working Group on 17th September 2020.**

Noted. Cllr Piper gave an update on the last Arts Working Group, including ideas for a Halloween events, a ‘Window Wonderland’, Christmas – lights switch on, and markets.

Cllr Allford left the meeting at 7.55pm (retained fire fighter call out).

### **5. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

### **To note any update from the Climate Change Working Group on 15th September 2020.**

Noted. Cllr Allen gave an update that the action plan was discussed and ideas shared with councils from across the county and beyond. There is a requirement for a dedicated web page to work through the actions in the plan and record progress. It was **AGREED** that the Climate Emergency Working Group would set out the website requirements, what information or pages need to be included and share this with Council officers so that the requirement can be discussed as part of the new own Council’s website development.

### **6. LICENSING POLICY CONSULTATION**

### **To consider the draft Licensing Policy which is being consulted on by South Hams District Council, and to make any recommendation to Full Council in how to respond before the consultation deadline of 15th October 2020.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that Totnes Town Council welcomes the strengthening of safeguards, particularly concerning the protection of young people, and the Council supports the strengthening of measures that protect residents from the anti-social behaviour problems that some licensing applications might potentially attract.

### **7. SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

### **To consider how to respond to the South Hams District Council Playing Pitch Strategy and the specific questions about the use of Borough Park and longer term aspirations.**

It was **AGREED** to seek a meeting (Council attendees to be confirmed) with KEVICC before the next Committee to understand their plans for the Elmhirst site and how it could be utilised by sports groups in the town. It was **AGREED** to bring this item back to the next meeting.

### **8. STEAMER QUAY CARAVAN SITE LONG LEASE**

### **To consider whether the Town Council would support a request to South Hams District Council for a long lease for the Steamer Quay Caravan Site.**

### To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Town Council writes to South Hams District Council and the Caravan Club (copied to the Steamer Quay Caravan Site) to encourage them to negotiate a long lease with South Hams District Council which would attract investment and all year round use, which the Town Council is supportive of.

### **9. STEAMER QUAY AND LONGMARSH CAR PARK ISSUES**

### **To consider the problems of overnight camping in the Steamer Quay and Longmarsh car parks and the resultant issues of rubbish and human waste.**

The Committee was reminded that the town’s boundary ends in Longmarsh car park, not in the park land area. A number of ideas were discussed, including composting toilets. It was **AGREED** to approach Berry Pomeroy Parish Council about the issues of rubbish and human waste in Longmarsh to prevent a public health issue developing, to see if there is a common concern to take the issue jointly to South Hams District Council.

### **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

### **To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 16th November 2020 at 7.00pm.**

### Noted.

### **ITEM 3 – SHARED SPACE AND EMERGENCY COVID-19 MEASURES**

Devon County Council has now given the approval for planters to be installed along Fore Street and High Street as part of shared space measures which has long been a common goal for traders, residents and the Town Council to slow the speed of vehicles in the town.

With emergency measures for Covid-19 likely to be in place for some months yet, Cllr Piper, District Councillor Sweett, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Clerk have met to discuss forming a new group of representatives to work together on the introduction of the shared space initiatives. The Future Totnes Forum has been formed in the new Standing Orders and the first meeting will be to consider draft terms of reference/membership which should be fed back through Committee to Full Council. Cllrs Hodgson and Luker, the Town Clerk and the Green Travel Co-ordinator have been appointed as the liaison with Devon County Council on this project.

It is hoped that a new group will bring a fresh ideas to work together on the issue of making the main shopping street in the town an attractive and safe space for residents and visitors alike. Fore Street and High Street needs to balance the needs of those less confident to go out under social distancing guidelines, be accessible to all, whilst enabling the normal functions of access and deliveries to residents and traders living and working on these streets.

Timeline to follow.

### **ITEM 5 – CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY BILL**

From the Climate and Ecological Emergency Alliance website:

On the 12th August we launched the campaign for the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) bill. This is a Private Members’ Bill, and taking it through parliament will be a hard-fought process but it has been done before with major climate legislation. This is an alliance bill that has been written by scientists, lawyers and activists; it is gathering support from a broad range of campaign groups, businesses, charities and individuals. The bill has the potential to become the most significant move forward since the Climate Change Act 2008.

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill calls for:

* the UK to make and enact a serious plan. This means dealing with our real fair share of emissions so that we don’t go over critical global rises in temperature
* our entire carbon footprint be taken into account (in the UK and overseas)
* the protection and conservation of nature here and overseas along supply chains, recognising the damage we cause through the goods we consume
* those in power not to depend on technology to save the day, which is used as an excuse to carry on polluting as usual
* ordinary people to have a real say on the way forward in a citizens’ assembly with bite

Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

**Executive summary**

This document acts as a summary of the key aims and themes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (‘the Bill’).

It has been prepared by the CEE Bill Alliance, which is a team of scientists, academics, lawyers and campaigners working together—and guided by current science—to call for urgent, far-reaching and necessary actions from the UK Government to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

The full text of the Bill may be found here, online - [here](about:blank) - alongside our accompanying [briefing note](about:blank). To contact the CEE Bill Alliance, email [info@ceebill.uk](about:blank) and visit [ceebill.uk](about:blank) for further information.

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**Aims**

***What will the CEE Bill do?***

The Bill will set an emergency path for the UK to follow. It will see the creation of a Citizens’ Assembly that will put forward recommendations, contributing to the work of both the UK Government and UK Parliament in delivering an essential climate and ecological emergency strategy. This objectives of the Bill are to:

1. **Ensure that the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperatures to 1.5°C by:**

* taking account of the UK’s entire greenhouse gas footprint domestically and internationally, necessitating real action on emissions reductions
* circumscribing reliance on speculative future carbon capture technologies

1. **Actively conserve the natural world by:**

* protecting and restoring the UK’s ecosystems, with a focus on biodiversity, soils and natural carbon sinks
* mitigating the damage to nature caused by supply chains, domestically and internationally
* accounting for the UK’s ecological footprint

In order to meet the bill’s objectives, a (temporary) emergency Citizens’ Assembly will help the UK Government and UK Parliament decide the measures to include in the strategy. The Assembly will empower MPs to take the necessary decisions, and also allow people to have a real say in the pathway of a fair and just transition to a zero carbon society, enriched by a thriving, natural world.

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**Context**

***What is the climate emergency and why does it matter?***

In 2015, the historic [Paris Agreement](about:blank) was signed, holding world governments to keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C. As a [report](about:blank) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018 showed, just that extra [half a degree](about:blank) of heating could:

*‘...expose tens of millions more people worldwide to life-threatening heat waves, water shortages and coastal flooding. Half a degree may mean the difference between a world with coral reefs and Arctic summer sea ice and a world without them.’*

Alarmingly, we are not even on track to limit temperature increases to 2°C. According to the UN, current policies will  lead to [around 3°C of warming](about:blank) by the end of the century - but it could easily be [4°C or more](about:blank). These levels of global heating would open us up to [unacceptable risks](about:blank),  including the loss of the [Amazon rainforest](about:blank), [simultaneous failures](about:blank) of staple crops and multimeter [sea level rise](about:blank). [Many scientists](about:blank) believe 4°C would be [‘](about:blank)incompatible with any reasonable characterisation of an organised, equitable and civilised global community’.

There is still time to prevent these catastrophic levels of heating, but only if we are prepared to take unprecedented action now.

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***What is the ecological emergency and why does it matter****?*

There has been a massive erosion of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services, such as pollination, food, water resources, flood prevention and decomposition, all essential to civilization and human wellbeing. This ‘[biological annihilation](about:blank)’ underlines the crisis for humanity. Indeed, the consequences of human activity outstripping its planetary boundaries have resulted in what scientists now define as the arrival of the [sixth mass extinction](about:blank). The scientific evidence is irrefutable as [scientists have warned of looming ecological collapse](about:blank) if policy-makers fail to take emergency action.

Whilst this is the global perspective, the [State of Nature report, 2019](about:blank) on the UK’s biodiversity states:

* 41% of all UK’s species have declined since the 70s (hedgehogs have declined by 95%)
* 26% of the UK's mammals are at a very real risk of becoming extinct
* A thirdof the wild bees and hoverfly species have sustained losses, likely due to pesticides, habitat loss and climate change
* 97% of the UK’s wildflower meadows have been lost in the last century

Why ecological collapse matters is captured in the single reality that our biodiversity is [the steward of our life support systems](about:blank).

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***Isn’t the UK already taking steps to address the crises? Why is 2050 too late?***

According to the UN IPCC’s 2018 [report](about:blank), ‘rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society’ are needed if we are to stand a chance at limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

If global emissions of carbon dioxide are halved by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050, it gives us a roughly 50:50 chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C, according to the IPCC. The Climate Change Committee (CCC), which advises the UK Government, has taken this recommendation and applied 2050 as an appropriate net zero target for greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. However, any serious consideration of equity, as enshrined in the Paris agreement, shows that the UK needs to reduce emissions faster, by at [least a factor of two](about:blank).

In May last year, MPs passed a [motion](about:blank) declaring a climate emergency. This, along with the [Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order](about:blank), seemingly calls for urgent action, yet this took place  over a year ago.

Since then, the CCC’s 2020 Government [progress report](about:blank) has said that “policy implementation has not yet met the required ambition”. Hence, we are not even on track for the current 2050 Net zero target.

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**A new approach**

***How the Bill could be groundbreaking***

This section demonstrates how the Bill responds to the present governmental status quo in order to drive for a more rigorous and ambitious approach.

***Global fairness***

* *What’s new in the bill?* The bill enshrines in law,  specific conditions for the UK related to equity in relation to the principle of “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities” (CBDR-RC) in accordance with the [Paris Agreement](about:blank). Through the Bill’s ‘objectives’ for  new targets in climate mitigation and ecological repair, the UK will reduce its fair and real share of emissions through direct decarbonisation based on the accounting of the UK’s total carbon footprint. The UK must also implement measures to mitigate the impact of its ecological footprint, both in the UK and as a consequence of its outsourced supply chains.  The Bill’s ‘strategy’ to meet its objectives, is set within a framework of stipulations and a specific timeframe, effectively  hastening the UK's path to net zero emissions along with implementing robust  measures to protect and restore the natural world.
* *Why*? The principle of CBDR-RC, enshrined in the Paris Agreement, acknowledges the fact that whilst all nations have a common responsibility to combat  global heating, there is a distinction of those fully industrialised countries that have a historical responsibility for global  greenhouse gas emissions. These countries are in an advantaged, socially-economic position to respond with greater capacity to the climate emergency. However, [the CBDR-RC](about:blank) remains ambiguous as  an international environmental legal principle, which means that the UK’s Paris Agreement commitments to  global fairness are but pledges and not legal requirements. The CEE bill will enshrine in law the UK’s pledges on global fairness and in so doing, demonstrate the UK’s position as the standard-bearer on climate and ecological global fairness.

***Consumption emissions***

* *What’s new in the Bill?* The strategy will include the UK’s full greenhouse gas footprint, comprising emissions from the production and distribution of all goods and services consumed in the UK (whether these are produced in the UK, or produced abroad and imported into the UK) as well as emissions from UK citizens’ international travel-i.e. international aviation, passenger shipping and land-based transport. This approach, also referred to as consumption-based emissions accounting, allocates emissions to consumers and hence to the material beneficiaries of consumption (rather than the financial beneficiaries of production). As such, it reflects more accurately the emissions that underpin our quality of life and standard of living which are closely linked to consumption and only indirectly linked to production: were this system to be replicated as a standard emissions-based accounting globally then it would redress the inequity of the Minority World net consuming countries’ not accounting for their fair share of global emissions and significantly larger carbon footprint.
* *Why?*  Currently, the UK counts only its territorial emissions through the CCC’s 5-yearly budgets and hence omits  nearly half (46%) of its actual greenhouse gas footprint associated with the outsourced production and distribution of the goods and services of  UK imports.

***Natural climate solutions***

* *What’s new in the Bill?* Natural climate solutions (NCS) — ie. the capture and storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by flora and the earth — are listed as the only method for removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere that can be used in all categories identified in the strategy to meet the objectives of the bill. However, the application of carbon sequestration via NCS will be subject to stringent standards and evaluation of carbon sink quality to ensure that no form of greenwashing occurs including the practice of land grabs abroad to offset the UK’s carbon emissions. NCS include the conservation and restoration of soils, forests, peat bogs, and coastal ecosystems; the Bill calls for active management of these natural systems to optimise their carbon dioxide uptake and maintain their equilibrium.
* *Why?* The Bill’s focus on NCS has a dual purpose: to optimise the natural carbon sink capacity: this occurs through the natural carbon cycle which includes the dynamic uptake of carbon dioxide by plants during photosynthesis and via the substantial soil carbon pool that  when protected from human-induced- degradation, acts as a [net sink of greenhouse gases through carbon storage.](about:blank) Secondly, terrestrial carbon sinks are  fertile ground for biodiversity and the Bill sets out to ensure these ecosystems are optimised. The CCC Net Zero report does include certain aspects of NCS, such as afforestation, land-management practices and peatland restoration, as part of its strategy, but these are included alongside methods of carbon dioxide removal via negative emissions technologies

***Negative emissions technologies***

* *What’s new in the Bill?* The Bill does not allow for the use of unproven negative emissions technologies (NETs)-i.e. technologies of carbon dioxide capture such as direct air capture (a chemical process that extracts carbon dioxide out of the air), hybrid technologies, such as bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, burying of biochar in soils and geoengineering approaches, such as ocean iron fertilization or enhanced weathering- to meet the objectives of the Bill in regard to negative emissions related to [the energy systems](about:blank)- the largest contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions. The bill does contain caveats whereby NETs ***may be proposed*** for offsetting some critical sectors such as in compensating for currently unavoidable emissions from agricultural and the cement and steel industries and to  compensate for the UK’s historical carbon debt and in the case of global  overshooting 1.5C. However, such considerations would be contingent on the following condition: that their deployment would cause no critical impacts to any ecosystem on proof of independent assessment based on rigorous scientific evidence that  their  environmental safety and effectiveness were guaranteed.
* *Why?* Current CCC plans for a pathway to net zero set at 2050 require NETs to account for ‘33 to 45 MtCO2e of additional emission savings’ ([CCC Net Zero](about:blank), 2019). However, that same report says these technologies are speculative and ‘have very low levels of technology readiness, very high costs, and significant barriers to social acceptability’. Unlike the current CCC approach, the use of NETs in the Bill is strictly circumscribed to sectors where currently, emissions cannot be completely eliminated by direct emissions cuts and the capacity of natural carbon sinks. Furthermore, NETs may only be used where their deployment does not lead to critical impacts  on biodiverse habitats, natural and human-modified ecosystems and their soils, food production or water availability and that would cause any other deleterious ecological or social impacts. The bill calls for the interpretation of ‘critical impacts’ to be determined by independent expert bodies. By stringently restricting the use of NETs  to meet the Bill’s objectives, the Bill prioritises proven mechanisms to reduce net emissions rather than allowing the arbitrary and prospective use of speculative technologies that may never become practical or safe.

***Abundance and health of ecosystems***

* *What’s new in the Bill?* The Bill calls for restoring the variety, abundance and health of the UK’s biodiversity and its ecosystems-both natural and human-modified - and the enhancement of the ecosystem services they generate.
* *Why?* The CCC lists biodiversity enhancement as a benefit of the land use and agriculture measures (hedgerow planting, peat restoration etc.) required to achieve net zero - but nothing on the active expansion and enrichment of biodiversity, nor a comprehensive set of metrics to ensure best practice. In contrast, the Bill calls for the active restoration of ecosystems, and the minimisation of the adverse impacts of domestic consumption and production for the intrinsic benefits afforded by biodiversity, not just as a side benefit of land use allocation in relation to farming and the active management of carbon sinks- which are nature’s mechanism of storing carbon. The call for robust and benchmarked standards to calculate ecosystemic  health is a core demand in the Bill.

***Protecting ecological systems damaged by supply chains***

* *What’s new in the Bill?* The Bill introduces measures to account for the UK’s impact of its ecological footprint through its consumption demands.Those companies and individuals whose commercial activities come under the jurisdiction of UK law should be held accountable for the mitigation and remediation of any ecologically harmful supply system. Alternative, ecologically-sustainable and socially-ethical supply chains should be sourced where it is not possible to oblige all international commercial actors to detoxify any one supply chain.
* *Why?* It is critical that the impact on ecosystems and biodiversity is considered in terms of the full life cycle of consumption. This includes raw material extraction in the form of mining; land appropriation and the intensive utilisation of water and energy; the processes of manufacturing and distribution that require excessive energy use and the perpetuation of pollution and waste. A landmark [report](about:blank) commissioned by WWF and RSPB, revealed that for seven commodities alone, more than 40% of the UK’s overseas land footprint (nearly 6 million hectares) is in countries at high or very high risk of deforestation, weak governance and poor labour standards.This is not a current consideration of the CCC. Where the Bill takes a ‘full picture’ approach to emissions, it takes the same approach with the protection of ecosystems and overseas habitats, recognising the impact that the UK creates through the full cycle of its (often outsourced) supply chains.

***A Citizens’ Assembly to determine a just transition***

* *What’s new in the Bill?* An emergency citizens’ assembly (CA) will be convened to help both the UK Government and Parliament create and review the strategy to achieve the bill’s objectives. The CA will empower MPs to take bold decisions and allow people to have a real say in the pathway of, not only a fair and just transition to a zero carbon society but of one leading to a thriving natural world.
* *Why?* Fundamental societal changes are required if we are to tackle the climate and ecological crisis, head on. In order to prevent a ‘yellow vest’ effect, it is essential that citizens are involved in decisions that will significantly change their lifestyles. Citizens’ Assemblies are a tried and tested route to engaging citizens in the democratic process. CAs empower politicians to arrive at recommendations that will address very difficult decisions -decisions that will have a profound impact on society. Whilst six-cross-party select committees did commission the Climate Assembly, UK, (CA,UK), the CA,UK’s remit fell well short of the scale and scope required to address the climate and ecological emergency: recommendations were advisory only, members were tasked with identifying a pathway to the UK’s 2050 net zero emissions target with no mandate to question the target itself, and the assembly was not called upon to consider adaptation or biodiversity.
* The CEE bill’s integration of an emergency CA means that the assembly members will be tasked to fully contribute to the [recommendations](about:blank) for and the review of, the bill’s ‘strategy’ to meet the ‘objectives’, alongside both government and parliament. In this, the most exceptional of times- this dual-edged crisis facing humanity-the engagement of CA in collaborating in emergency policy-making will allow the government and parliament the public mandate to implement the necessary fundamental societal changes.

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**Looking ahead**

The Bill sets both a blueprint and a benchmark to drive ambitions ahead of COP26. In the light of the UK co-hosting the UN Climate Change Conference ([COP26](about:blank)) in November 2021—and the imperative for a robust and profound green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic—the UK Government must become the standard-bearer for serious climate and ecological action on the international stage. Indeed, it has a responsibility to lead by example by addressing the climate and ecological crisis with groundbreaking policies to avert the deepening of our planetary emergency. .

*"The urgency and scale of the response required to tackle the emergency facing life on Earth is in this Bill. Those who are vulnerable are already suffering, the Bill provides a route for these communities to define the actions needed to protect them and all that they cherish. The Bill defines the path needed to avoid the catastrophe outlined by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres in 2018. Based on the accepted science of the IPCC, it is farsighted, aiming to protect those at risk now and in the future".*

**Kumi Naidoo**

(former Executive Director, Greenpeace International and Secretary General, Amnesty International;

chair, Africans Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity)

### **ITEM 6 – ADOPTION OF PHONE BOXES**

In September 2019 the Town Matters Committee recommended to Full Council that TTC adopts the phone boxes in Swallowfields and on Plymouth Road that were due to be decommissioned. This summer TTC has received notification that the phone box in Whitley Avenue will also be taken out of use.

The minutes record:

The terms of the adoption were confirmed (no resale, no running of a business). To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that a short item should be put in the Totnes Times inviting ideas from members of the public for future uses for the telephone boxes.

[Note – an article was submitted to the Totnes Times but never published, and a post was placed on the TTC Facebook page.]

**January 2020** – Town Matters considered the suggestions received. In response items posted on the Totnes Town Council website and Facebook page, the following ideas have been received from the public:

* Plymouth Road – leave empty for people to shelter in the rain.
* Swallowfields – wildlife information centre (Devon Wildlife Trust have been contacted about this, but no reply has been received].
* Defibrillators (3 suggestions).
* Book swap/share (4 suggestions).
* Water filling station (2 suggestions)
* First Aid Kits and bags of grit.
* Free helpline for those with no phone or internet.
* Clothing exchange.
* A box for the elderly to sit down and rest.
* Feeding and changing space for mum and baby.
* Veg box – food left over from restaurants and cafes placed in the phone boxes for those in need.
* Essentials for the homeless (food, tins, clothing).
* Vivariums/plant growing space which greens the phone box.
* Tiny disco (like in Kingsbridge – see below).
* Small coffee stand. [Note to Cllrs – the adopted phone boxes cannot be used to run a business.]

The minutes record:

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that an item is put in the next ‘Totnes Matters’:

·         Looking for sponsorship of a defibrillator for the phone box on the Plymouth Road. Sponsorship would need to cover initial and ongoing maintenance costs.

·         Inviting ideas from local charities as to how they could use the phone box at Swallowfields to make money.

Note: no suggestions for use have been received.

### **ITEM 7 – RURAL MARKET TOWN GROUPING**

Email from Rural Services Network to the Town Clerk:

We have for over 20 years been a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association representing Rural Services. We work on a membership basis and have a grouping of over 120 Rural Principal Councils across England, a grouping of some 200 rural non local government organisations (RSP), and a Rural Health and Care Alliance with some 69 health organisations. We also work with the Rural Housing Alliance and we founded both and work with a National Rural Crime Network and separate Research Community Interest Company, Rural England. Over the past eight months we have been establishing, incrementally, a Rural/Market Towns Group and it is in relation to that we are now writing..

We are the sole organisation arguing the Rural Services case which we feel constitutes the operational spine for all people living and working across the 80 percent of England that is categorised as rural. There can be a tendency in England, as it is the most industrialised of the Home Nations, not to have any special focus on England’s rural areas and we feel that is dangerous. Rural areas have their own special problems and they do require continuing monitoring and sometimes consideration. We established therefore this Network to ensure rural areas have a joined up voice across services and we issue an E mail national Rural Bulletin every week. We feel English Rural Market Towns act as the rural service hubs and a cross national Grouping of them is really important for rural areas as a whole.

***We feel the phrase Rural Market Centre Towns has current relevance and importance across England. It is a term that collectively identifies a series of rurally based Towns and sometimes Parishes that have evolved in a historic way across the Country and it allows those Towns who still on a day to day basis continue to inter react with their surrounding rural area to argue their important collective case. We attach a leaflet setting out our proposals and a list of the local councils working with us already. The RMTG will have its own entity and voice but will also be an operating part of the RSN.***

Our approach to Market Towns has been a careful one. In establishing a group we have deliberately not started by writing to every market town in every area or County. English rural does not come in one guise. In character it varies quite markedly from area to area and  its market towns are no exception to that because they have tended to evolve in a way that is representative of their particular area. If we are to successfully represent market towns we need to argue the consensus national case and to have a core membership that represents the character of all the market towns of England. It would not for example help establishing a core argument if many of the market towns came from the Lakes and none came from ex mining towns or if all the towns were in an equivalent population banding.. Our process in initial group formation has started by sending out some special 200 invites carefully ensuring we represent every geography and form of rural Market Town across England. We have also had regard to populations of towns. Our success rate has been somewhat more than anticipated maybe with one in every 2 or so coming on board so the initiative is progressing well nationally.  We are now ready to go forward with this Phase 2 and our approach is again one of carefully selecting specific types of market town.

Currently we have formed a Group of 92 Local  Council  members. We are looking to double that. We do not have current representation from the South Hams area on this particular grouping at this time.  We notice from your website you have a strong very community role and it would assist if you would join to represent your form of rurality.  Every market place and its surrounding rural area varies a little in the way it has evolved its relationship and consequently operates.  We would again emphasise we need to achieve an accurate cross section from across the whole of England to claim we are arguing the consensus Rural Market Town case.

***We appreciate the work and difficulties that local Councils have as a result of the COVID crisis.  The towns deserve every congratulation for doing all they have done and continue to do for their communities and the people who live in them, during these dreadful times.***

***We are however also aware of the economic consequences that are already occurring and that further and yet more threatening situations are inevitable.  It is really vital that at this time Market Towns across England establish and present their particular collective view and case. It is really important this is a cross national view and as said we want all areas involved in it. This group is uniquely equipped as the vehicle to take matters forward .***

This is however not a membership packed full of obligations. We plan to make being a member a reasonably easy task and member authorities can do as much or as little as they are able to at any one time.

We feel:-

* The COVID situation has proved that people in rural areas can become very isolated very quickly. The last material consideration of any overall focus on Rural Towns and Areas by Government was twenty years ago  in the year 2000. We are pressing the Government for action for social and economic reasons.
* The Lockdown situation proved the obvious - that broadband is now as essential as Electricity and Fuel. We will continue to press the rural case very hard. All rural areas and rural towns need to have reliable and fast broadband connection otherwise the consequences will be severe.  It is over simplistic for Government and the industry to say all towns and larger villages now have good broadband and mobile phone coverage – there are rural centres let alone areas that clearly still do not.
* Stronger sustainable transport Links to Market Towns from surrounding locations are absolutely key for rural areas as the rural population average age is increasing at a faster rate than with the population in other areas of the country and services to Market Towns are the lifeline for many people.
* We feel the government underplays the potential of the rural economy in a rapidly changing era. Specific focus on rural towns and rural areas could be potentially a win- win situation both for rurally based residents and the national economy.  We want to see rural England receiving specific thought and attention through a Rural Strategy rather than just being rolled up into overall national consideration, which as we all know is too often is urban centric.

***There is a small subscription ( £130 p.a.) involved for clearly there is a need for the group to have operating continuity. Whilst we hope the fee is a reasonably affordable one we appreciate at this time however that any new outlay may not be particularly appetising given the unforeseen expenditure that the COVID based work has occasioned councils. We are therefore offering the opportunity of a period of free membership .***

The larger the Grouping the more respect it will undoubtedly receive through the coming choppy waters. Please could your Council therefore please consider the following:-

* We are happy for Totnes T.C. to come into Rural Market Towns Group from now until Thursday 1st of April 2021 without charge. That will provide you many months of free membership.
* The Council will however consider before 1st April 2021 whether it wishes to continue (or not) its membership on a paid basis referred for the 21/22 financial year based on its assessment of the value of membership in 2020 and notify us of its decision towards the Spring in 2021.

Can you please let us know by the 30thof September 2020 whether or not the Town Council are prepared to proceed on such a basis**.  Please come back whatever the decision. We do need to know where the Council stands on this one**. We do however need support at this time and we do think it is in your Parishes’ overall interest to be involved so that a strong collective voice can emerge on a cross national basis at this critical time.

### **ITEM 8 - BEGGING AND ROUGH SLEEPING**

The Town Council has recently received a number of emails from business and residents on the High Street about the behaviour and problems caused by rough sleepers and addicts, which have been replied to and passed on to the local police and South Hams District Council environmental health and housing teams for action as appropriate. Some extracts from the correspondence is below:

*Resident: Our family live above Annie’s shop at No 54 High St and I’m writing now to reinforce that the situation is becoming intolerable with increasing numbers of men gathering in the evenings in this part of the town. The word must have got out that Totnes is a soft touch.*

*In the 13 years we’ve owned the house the problem around rough sleepers in the High Street has become much worse - especially for those of us living or running a business under the Butterwalk.*

*In the mornings it’s often obvious that people have urinated on our doors.  Last week at 7.45pm my wife came across a man in the act and told him in no uncertain manner that it was completely unacceptable - as if he needs    to be told!   We have also had spells of having our morning milk deliveries stolen.*

*Yesterday morning 2nd November, Annies entrance was completely full of sleeping bags, sleeping mats, coffee cups, roll ups etc. It looked awful and deters potential customers.  It’s now midday and I have just cleared three armfuls of ’stuff’ out of the entranceway.*

*We try hard to keep the frontage of No 54 in good condition and attractive and In July I cleaned and repainted the pillars and much of the shop and house front.  Being out there working meant I could quietly see how much the good folk of Totnes give to the beggars - and it’s a lot!  No wonder the ‘pitches’ near Happy Apple are so sought after with aggressive shouting whenever a new beggar appears and tries to set up.*

*These young men obviously have serious problems and need the right sort of help - it is not uncommon to see Ben semi-conscious after using drugs as people of all ages pass by. There really needs to be a concerted effort to find a solution both for the rough sleepers and for the residents and businesses who are having to clear up their unsociable mess.  What can be done?*

*Business: I’m writing to ask what the Town Council can do about the fast-increasing incidence of beggars/drinkers/drug takers in the town streets? This has been a problem since I opened the gallery in 2008, and it is getting increasingly worse.*

*The police can’t do much about it unless there is an affray or clear drinking in the street etc but they have come here many times, most recently when three guys got stoned one afternoon and ended up throwing their bedding around. This resulted in three days of trying to clear up the mass of feathers all over the road, on day three with me helping the local street sweeper. I regularly make my first job each morning clearing away debris, cigarette ends and drug wraps, and having to wash down the street. I often come by around 8 in the morning and have to move the guy sleeping in the doorway. I gather from my landlord he doesn’t always sleep here, but turns up around 6 am to stake his place.*

*Only last night my landlady had to shout at a chap blatantly standing peeing into the doorway. Some of these men are aggressive, many have a drug problem. Their existence here is made easier by the many well intentioned people of Totnes who on a daily basis give these men money and food, and as long as this pertains we will not resolve this matter.*

***Feeding the habit*** *is what basically happens, because food and cash enable these men  to stay and get their next drug fix. I’ve watched in for nearly 13 years. There really does need to be a council-led initiative to educate residents not to foster these habits, which in some cases have resulted and I have no doubt will result, in death.*

*Unless the Council gets on board this is going to get worse and worse. Rents and rates are high and quite frankly I think not warranted as long as the street gets more and more filthy.*

*I am not without sympathy for these people but I have seen first hand for many years, the result of* ***enabling*** *people to stay in the street. There really is no incentive to get clean. I think it’s time our Council took action on this matter, which I have raised with councillors on several occasions.*

*I would appreciate it if this could be raised with the Council in whatever way you think best.*

Officer Note: the situation outside the High Street business resulted in the police being called on 4th November, and the police have made a request to South Hams District Council for a community protection notice(CPN) to be served. A CPN can be issued when the conduct is:

* having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality
* persistent or continuing in nature, and
* unreasonable.

It is suggested that the Council may wish to consider how to re-energise the ‘Giving Back’ campaign which sees donations going to the Connection Hub to help those in the town with their various problems and discourages on street begging.

### **ITEM 9 - PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2021**

The Town Council has received notification from Devon County Council for the annual round of bidding for Parish Paths Partnership grants for the maintenance or repair of public rights of way. See the guidance below:

Guidance notes for the P3 Survey and Annual Finance Forms

The P3 finance forms i.e. Summary of Expenditure, P3 Annual Grant Form and Summary of Works Completed together with the annual survey need to be returned by **Monday,15th February 2021** in order for your parish to receive a grant.

***Please note that the P3 Expenditure, Summary of works, Annual Grant form and P3 Comment sheet have been emailed to both the parish/town clerk and the co-ordinator this year. Please liaise within your community as to who will submit the requested information by 15th February 2021. The annual survey form has only been sent to the P3 co-ordinator.***

The Bid funding form (P3 Annual Grant Form) comprises of two elements. Firstly, a routine maintenance grant based on the mileage of rights of way in your parish, this is designed to cover work such as basic repairs to stiles, gates and signposts, strimmer maintenance, small areas of vegetation clearance, and volunteer’s expenses.

The second element needs to be completed if you have planned works that will not be covered by the basic grant. The type of work we would envisage in this section would include replacing small bridges, replacing stiles with gates, or organising your own vegetation cutting.

We will make every effort to fund as many of your works as possible, obviously our funds are limited so please ensure you list your bids in order of priority. In the meantime if you have any questions or need help please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **ITEM 10 - TOTNES PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**Summary of recent Totnes Town Partnership Meetings** attended by representatives of the Totnes Caring, Food in the Community, the Connection Hub, Citizens Advice, Street Pastors, Bob the Bus, Transition Town, South Hams District Council Councillors and Officers, TTC Councillors and officer.

15th September 2020

**Totnes Caring** - Some services have reduced since the early months of lockdown as clients are out and about more now, less housebound. However, some services have grown e.g. the numbers of hot lunch deliveries are higher than last week, it has replaced lunch club and runs 7 days a week (lunch club was 5 pw). Home help requests have increased – initially people were nervous about letting someone into their homes, but it seems to have stabilised as a service now. A table of weekly assistance is attached.

**Citizens Advice -** actively setting up hubs in Totnes which will be Covid safe and by appointment only – no drop in services. Would very much like the partnership to share publicity when these are open. Fuel voucher scheme will be by referral only (from the relevant agencies) but please publicise availability.

**Street Pastors** - encountering a lot of alcohol related issues, and concerned that Morrisons have appealed against the 24hr selling of alcohol. Have been made aware of a food delivery scam: an elderly couple were taken advantage of by someone charging to do their shopping for them.

**Connection Hub** - foodbank referrals can be made online, now operating a clothes bank also by referrals.Homelessness: recently supported someone in a really bad place – can be quite trying as some clients can be unpleasant and have had to ban two people recently. We know from partners that there are people on the street asking for things – please share that clothes, food, showers and food as well as support are available at the Hub and make referrals when required. Food bankvolunteer numbers are OK at the moment but if demand for the food bank rises will need to recruit more volunteers.

**Food in the Community** - the last 6 months have been hard, although they received a grant allowing them to buy food to distribute, currently reviewing what comes next, in the process of moving to School Farm.

13th October 2020

**Totnes Caring** - Numbers for shopping help have gone down a bit, this might be due to Morrison’s having improved their online shopping and deliveries. Hot meals are very popular, and there has been an increase in requests for transport to health appointments, but still getting cancellations for home help services. We’re now running a zoom singing group for dementia clients and their carers, with a professional musician leading. Starting to plan for Christmas dinner deliveries, but maybe not on Christmas Day.

**Citizens Advice** - the video booth has been set up now at the Hub, people can book a session through the advice line. Fuel vouchers by referral for people on low incomes and in particular those whose income has been affected by Covid – people can have up to 3 vouchers for pre-payment meters and the scheme is open until 23rd November.

**Street Pastors** - only out once a month at the moment, next on Halloween. The Hub is looking forward to sharing space with the weekly CAB offer on Wednesdays. SASHA (support for domestic abuse) is offering a safe refuge.

**Transition Town Totnes** - have been approached to share an invite to families on low incomes on their experiences through the Covid lockdown and ongoing crisis. Incredible Edible sessions have returned, although numbers of participants have dropped, largely we think due to age profiles of regulars and a cautious approach to being engaged in public activities. The REconomy Centre has become more and more in demand with people now moving away from working at home. TTT has supported an upskilling of young people at the REconomy centre.

27th October 2020

**Totnes Caring** - will be sharing an outreach worker with Citizens Advice through the lottery grant that Caring Town holds. Stats are now fairly constant.

**Citizens Advice** – looking at establishing another video booth at St Johns in Bridgetown, talking to a number of groups to ensure accessibility to wider community. Café in United Church soon to be reopened (nb this was before lockdown announced).

**Street Pastors** - will be out again on Halloween night with the Jamming station.

**Connection Hub** - has supported 14 families (19 adults and 31 children) and 10 individuals with the Food Bank. There have been 51 visits to the Hub. Supported three homeless people into accommodation who had previously resisted. Food bank is well stocked, including ready made meals. So far there have been no referrals to the Clothes Bank

**Food in the Community** – increase in enquiries for food, anticipate more as the Furlough scheme is due to end at the weekend, possibly more redundancies likely. Working with KEVICC - 35 pupils are eligible and are looking at starting a breakfast club. FiC is a member of Food Aid Network who have flagged up policy changes. Local Authorities have been allocated extra Hardship Funds, in Devon £2m. Some of this has been set aside to support families and FiC would like to explore hardship fund for families

**Half-Term Assistance** - organisations are helping with free food for school children including the Zero Waste shop, FiC were utilising food box deliveries for anyone struggling. Lamorna bakery were doing a ‘pay it forward’ pizza scheme – anyone buying a pizza can pay for another to be delivered or collected by someone in need.

**KEVICC** - working closely with public health teams, view is that the school bubbles seem to work with one COVID case in Yr 11.

**Bridgetown Community Hall** – planning to open a community wellbeing café on Nov 18th to chat to people who feel isolated. *Note: plans on hold due to lock down.*

Discussion on Totnes organisation holding a fund – who would administrate and make decisions? South Hams haven’t been clear as to what they’ll spend the Fund on. In addition, there are organisations and companies in town prepared to contribute donations to a hardship fund. General feeling most organisations won’t have the capacity to administer such funds. Perhaps donations could go to support work at the Connection Hub or FiC.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TOTNES CARING WEEKLY NUMBERS | Week beginning | | | | | |
|  | 21/09/20 | 28/09/20 | 05/10/20 | 12/10/20 | | 19/10/20 |
| Approximately 476 clients and carers being supported each week currently | 476 | 476 | 476 | 476 | | 476 |
| Active volunteers at this time. | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | | 111 |
| Shops  for clients | 30 | 28 | 25 | 36 | | 25 |
| Hot lunch deliveries. | 135 | 150 | 147 | 142 | | 141 |
| Prescription deliveries | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | | 4 |
| Clients transported by volunteers to health appointments at surgeries, hospitals etc | 20 | 15 | 16 | 23 | | 23 |
| Clients transported to visit family members in care home or other social welfare visit. | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | | 1 |
| Clients receiving visits from a Totnes Caring  home help at least once a week. | 91 | 89 | 89 | 89 | | 92 |
| Total home help hours in week | 152 | 171 | 173 | 165 | | 155 |
| Home visits by home help cordinator to clients | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | | 0 |
| Clients receiving one or more befriending phone call  at least once each week(some are daily). | 65 | 64 | 61 | 58 | | 58 |
| ‘Checking in’ phone calls  from Totnes Caring staff to clients. | 20 | 35 | 21 | 19 | | 24 |
| Clients assisted with hospital discharge by wellbeing staff, including lots of family liaison including:- | 3 | 13 | 3 | 10 | | 4 |
| interventions/ discussions | 7 | 19 | 5 | 13 | | 9 |
| Zoom support session for  a group of carers led by Totnes Caring’s dementia services coordinator | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | | 1 |
| Zoom singing group for clients with dementia and their carers |  |  | 1 | 0 | | 1 |
| Calls to particularly vulnerable clients | 16 | 11 | 11 | 10 | | 16 |
| Home visits to vulnerable clients, | 11 | 10 | 10 | 7 | | 19 |
| Arrangements to supply cash to a client | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 |
| Hearing aid batteries and other medical equipment delivered, | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | 1 |
| Clients assisted with AA application | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | | 1 |
| Clients assisted with blue badge applications | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | | 1 |
| Clients assisted with council tax relief | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 0 |
| Housing application completed for client. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Volunteers now involved in support, sourcing and regular delivery of materials to Totnes Caring art group clients and to other clients outside the group. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | |
| volunteer delivering books to clients. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Clients received delivery of home-made cakes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Volunteers helped at the Leatside Saturday flu clinic | 9 | NA | NA | NA | NA | |
| Telephone data- calls received/ calls made | 271/188 | 280/161 | 256/192 | 279/277 | 241/137 | |

### **ITEM 10 - KEEPING YOUNG TOTNES SAFE UPDATE**

**Caring Town Totnes -Keeping Young Totnes Safe**

**Draft minutes of 29th September 2020 via Zoom**

**Present:**

Carole Whitty( CW) Chair Caring Town Totnes, Emily Price (EP) Totnes Town Council,, Kerry McCabe (KMc) Youth Can make A difference forum and TRAYE, Martin Randall (MR) Practice Manager Leatside Surgery, Lindsey Braga ( LB) Safeguarding Lead Totnes Progressive School, Clare Allford (CA) TTC, Liz Waterson ( LW) Totnes Street Pastors, Rhoda Martin ( RM) TCDS , John Birch (JB) SHDC, Simon Roberts ( SR) Space, Kirsty Matthews (KM) VP KEVICC , Jacqui Hodgson ( JH) Totnes Town Council, Jo Sweet (JS) TTC, Ian Bentlett (IB) Rotary Youth lead, Lesley Nel ( LN) Fund Raiser for TTC, Janet Ronson (JR) Caring Town Totnes.

**Apologies:**

Anna Lodge. Chukemeka Maxwell

**Welcome to all and Updates from participants.**

CW - welcomed us all to the zoom call and explained the purpose of the Keeping Young Totnes Safe group, ie: Networking, Problem Solving and Sharing Concerns that affect our young people.

JS –asked about the availability of contraception advice and expressed her concern that it is possible to get the morning after pill from a supermarket pharmacy without any consultation and is being used as regular contraception. If advice is not as easily attainable as before then unwanted teenage pregnancies may be a consequence

MR - Explained how the Family Planning Services are operated in Totnes. There was only a short period of time when these services were unavailable at Leatside and that was at the height of the lockdown. Since then all services have been fully functional as the staff at Leatside totally appreciate the impact of a reduced contraception service. It is noted that this service runs at a financial loss to the Practice but is regarded as a vital service to the community and is thus subsidised by them. The suggestions put forward by MR are to ; 1) update the Leatside Facebook pages with information on the availability of contraception that young people can refer to , 2) That young people should always talk to someone at Leatside if they have any questions, concerns, worries or general enquiries. There are Practice Nurses , Midwives, and the Doctors available to listen and give advice anonymously in a confidential and genuinely caring manner.

The Castle Street clinic in Torquay is operational and has in fact, never closed. If young people prefer to go there rather than Totnes that is perfectly understandable.

School Nurses have not operated under the NHS for quite a few years now. They are under the wing of Virgin Health Care and therefore private. Unfortunately, they no longer have a link with the Drs surgeries. A regrettable situation.

KM - informed us that the School Nurses are not working in schools at the moment. They have been instructed to work from home. Therefore, the best source of information and advice on contraception and sexual health is the Drs surgery .

SR - explained that they have staff at Rushbrook in the Youth Club, trained to help and support young people with these issues and they can provide condoms. Rushbrook would like to be linked to the updated Leatside Surgery Facebook pages that deal with contraception for young people. It seems eminently sensible to provide a joined- up approach across Totnes for young people to access.

MR - explained that Castle Circus in Torquay is the best place for STDs to be treated as they have testing facilities / laboratories on site.

CW – It is important to get as much reliable, factually accurate information out to young people as possible

IB - in a previous role , found that signposting was not always as good as it could be and reiterated that the more accurate information that we can share , the better the outcomes for young people.

**Updates.**

LW - explained that the Street Pastors are out 1x per month . Usually they are out 3 Fridays out of 4 but the age range of the SPs means that there are not so many who are able or feel safe to do a shift on the streets at the moment. The police were called last Friday, 30th September as a group of15/16 year olds appeared to attack a 60 year old and his daughter. The Street Pastors remained with the victims until the police arrived. The Pastors do not know the outcome or any further details as they left the scene when the police arrived.

There is huge concern amongst the Street Pastors about the proposed increase in licensing hours for Morrison’s. It is felt that the easy availability of alcohol does fuel anti-social behaviour and aggression. LW is happy to write again to oppose **Morrison’s application**.

JB - Told of the Hearing to be held at Plymouth Magistrates Court on 9, 10 & 12 February 2021 *( later revised to April/May)* to appeal the decision to allow Morrison’s to extend their licensing hours. SHDC have appointed a barrister who will lead their case . JB welcomed all evidence from those in Totnes and surrounding area that will strengthen the SHDC case to have these increased licensing hours, overturned.

JH - explained that TTC have a meeting with the police to help marshal their forces against Morrison’s . They have a meeting with Tim Perrin. The events in the town square last Saturday will be used in evidence to support the case that alcohol is too easily available as it is and definitely no extensions should be allowed.

LW – noted that the 10:00 pm curfew is causing a rush to the off- licences, which means the fact the Morrison’s is open till 11 is causing concern that extra alcohol can be easily obtained from the supermarket. SPs noticed that those who had drunk too much were not observing social distancing

CA - will contact the Fire and Rescue Service in the town to establish if they have any concerns or evidence that could be used by SHDC on 9, 10 or 12 February hearing.

MR - expressed that Leatside has no specific evidence but would Very Strongly support a curtailment of the easy availability of alcohol on Public Health grounds and for many good reasons: not least the health impact of sustained alcohol use, the rise in aggressive behaviour alcohol can cause and the unsafe decisions people make whilst under the influence of alcohol.

CW - will ask KEVICC and TOPS to further support the SHDC appeal.

LB - was then asked about the **return to School** for her pupils at TOPS. She explained that all seemed to be going well with initial teething problems quickly ironed out , pupils and staff comfortable and productive.

The issue of the Elmhirst site was then raised. TOPS have reported on several occasions their concerns that it has become a party venue for some young people in Totnes. These concerns have been raised with the police. Teenagers appear to be partying there , using alcohol and possibly drugs. KEVICC are hugely concerned about this situation too and are very keen to regain control of the site from ATMOS when their lease expires in January 2021.

SR- reported that the **Youth Workers based at Rushbrook** are doing Outreach work in the Skate Park and at the Elmhirst site. Their aim is to get the young people to return to Rushbrook and not congregate in unsafe spaces.

JH - There are considerable efforts being put in the prevent young people congregating on the Elmhirst site including boarding up the buildings and imposing parking restrictions.

KMc - gave a update on the **Youth can Make a Difference Forum** which has now merged with the TRAYE. This gives the opportunity to expand the forum into the outlying villages as well as Totnes, these include Harbertonford, Staverton and Marldon.

The young people from the Youth Forum brought the situation with the Elmhirst site to her attention during a recent meeting. They are concerned about the **safety of young people using/misusing , the site**. This is particularly pertinent after the tragedy that occurred on the old Dairy Crest site. The young people cite the case from a few years ago in which another young person had fallen within the Diary Crest building. They are puzzled as to why, after this earlier incident that lessons were not learnt. They are mystified as to why it has not been made more secure. The young people had also expressed concerns about the safety of young people on the Elmhirst site and the Skate park.

*Later update from KM: "The keys have been handed back to KEVICC now and I think the only thing left to do is that TCDS need to collect some equipment they've left in the building which is being done on Monday.*

*The fencing is already up, and it will be boarded up in the next couple of weeks - waiting for the contractor to confirm a date.  Patrols are happening at the weekend and they do move people on when they find them there."*

EP - explained that the old Dairy Crest site, also leased by ATMOS, (as was Elmhirst) was the subject of big plans that never came to fruition. However, this site is now in the process of being taken over by a larger development company . Plans are being considered for its redevelopment with possibly a supermarket and factory units proposed.

JS - said that the site should now be raised to the ground, cleared away and made safe. The present key holder is very keen to secure the site to prevent further injury or loss of life. She also went on to explain a current social media trend for Urban Exploring. This is when people with cameras enter boarded up , unused buildings and film themselves inside “exploring” these , often, unsafe places. These films are either live streamed or later placed on the internet. It may be this new trend that is contributing to the lure of empty, unused, unsafe buildings.

CW - felt that as it was young people themselves that had raised this deep concern that **they must be heard. That perhaps someone from TTC could give them a chance to air their concerns.**

EP - suggested that Kerry could gather these young voices together so that they can address the next TTC meeting virtually , to express their worries. That there is a time slot before the meeting begins , for any concerns to be raised. This would be an excellent use of that time.

JH - proposed that TTC seek Enforcement Officers to patrol these unsafe buildings to make them more secure.

KM - expressed the deep concerns that KEVICC have over these dangerous buildings, especially the Dairy Crest site after this summer’s fatality. KEVICC are very aware of the party-venue reputation that Elmhirst developed after lockdown and are actively trying to secure that site . They are in touch with DCC over this matter. Although they do not have responsibility for the Elmhirst site until January 2021 they are acutely aware of the problems and are even hiring private security to patrol Main School to ensure such activity does not spill over onto the school property. They are working hard to bring Elmhirst back under their control so it can be properly utilised once more.

SR - explained **how Rushbrook was working to bring back onto its site many of the young people** who become very used to doing their own thing, when lockdown prevented youth work on the site. That Rushbrook has a duel remit of youth work and work with vulnerable adults. It is the **Outreach work** that is a current priority.

They are however hamstrung by Govt imposed , COVID related, numbers. They are used to having 30/35 on site at any one time. This has been cut to 15. They are also understaffed but are endeavouring to fill vacancies. Rushbrook have been using its social media posts/ information pages to highlight the dangers of benzodiazepine and promote stay safe messaging.

CW - has contact details of parents who may be receptive to relaying such messages to others if required.

LW - raised the use of **Vire Island** again as a place used to take/ share/ deal drugs. The Street Pastors did also warn a group of young people who were on Steamer Quay about the dangers of smoking cannabis whilst near deep water and the need to stay safe.

KM - updated the group on the progress of some young people who had been taken into Care during lockdown due to the safeguarding issues their family homes, presented. They are now doing very well. A **real success story where intervention has produced a positive result**. They are settled and are thriving in their new environments. The school year has started well with students quickly settling to their new geographical areas within the school, the new timeframes that each bubble has to operate under and the new restrictions COVID regulations have imposed on them. KEVICC have further concerns regarding the skate park and the lack of progress with its redevelopment, also with its use as a place to take/ buy/ deal , drugs. They have spoken with the police and with parents on this issue.

JS - concurred that there is still a **safety issue with the skate park.** That maintenance was urgently needed to clear rubbish, clean areas and make it a more pleasant place to be. That a litter clearing day needs to be organised. She also explained that it is the Rugby Club who are holding up proceedings with the planning and redevelopment of the Skate Park. JS left the meeting.

LW - stated that even another waste bin situated in the Skate Park would help. LW will write to try to get another bin on site.

CW - enquired about the drive that Leatside had begun to reduce prescription drug misuse.

MR - shared with us that they are all cautiously optimistic about the success of this programme. There has been a month on month decrease in take-up of benzodiazepine for that last 4 months. He explained how difficult, and traumatic it could be for patients coming off such medication, how many become abusive and quite aggressive with the Drs when such a reduction is implemented. In many ways, virtual appointments help the medical profession here as they are not in the same room being shouted by a patient who may be resistant to a reduced/ alternative prescription. However, we are aware that such drugs are still available on the dark web. However, Leatside is doing its bit to reduce the circulation of such drugs.

JH - returned to LW’s concerns about drug taking on Vire Island. She is worried that young people will see drug related misuse as being normal in this area. She is raising this at TTC meeting.

CW - stated that she is very keen to get a police presence back into KYTS so that they can hear these concerns from people actually working on the ground, seeing these issues on a daily basis and trying to do something positive to protect our young people. She will contact them again and try to organise their return.

IB- reported that the Rotary have a supply of laptops which will be  refurbished and provided free to families who may be challenged in providing their children with suitable educational equipment .  Contact Ian on 07432412731. Also (although not state in the meeting)  if anyone has redundant laptops Rotary will be pleased to pick them up to see if they are suitable for refurbishment . All data is professionally removed before being distributed  to families

JH - shared with us , as a final, last, positive thought....that we could re- engage and reinvigorate our engagement with our young people over the Climate Crisis/ Emergency.

**The date of the next meeting will be 10th November at 11:00. CW will forward a meeting link closer to this date.**

### **ITEM 11 - FAIRTRADE UPDATE**

Totnes Supporting Fairtrade

AGM Minutes 5.30 p.m. September 30th 2020 on Zoom

Present: Chairman: David Horsburgh , Wendy Hartley, Carolyn Stilwell, Ann Arscott , Pruw Boswel Harper, Lionel Harper, Colin Luker

Chairman’s report

(Sent previously by David.)

David reported on all our activities and how hard hit fairtrade producers have been by Covid..

Treasurer’s report

A successful Quiz night raised £268

Grants received from SHDC Jo Sweett £100

SHDC Joseph Rose £250

DCC Jacqi Hodgson £250

The amount in the bank to date is £932.98

Elections

Chair : David Horsburgh

Treasurer : Lionel Harper

Minutes sec: Carolyn Stilwell

NEXT AGM Wednesday 29th September 2021 5.30 p.m.

4 Cistern Street,

Totnes,

Devon TQ9 5SP.

Mr A Mangnall,

MP for Totnes,

House of Commons,

London SW1A 0AA

8th November 2020.

Dear Mr Mangnall,

**Re: Totnes Supporting Fairtrade**

Thank you for your recent letter (dated 12th August 2020). I appreciate your sentiments, & noted that you “….wish to see a world where all workers are paid enough to escape poverty, & where they do not have to work in unsafe conditions.”

Totnes Supporting Fairtrade would appreciate your further support over two other issues –

1. The effects of a No-Deal Brexit; &
2. The effects of Covid 19 on Fairtrade Producers

Firstly, the effects of a No-Deal Brexit.

* 1. In Sept 1028 – over two years ago – Fairtrade Organisation warned of disaster of pulling out of current EU Agreements with Fairtrade producers.
  2. It could increase the cost of trade with developing nations.
  3. Increased tariffs could be pushed down to producers, leading to lower prices & lower wages.
  4. We could see many companies stepping back from Fairtrade agreements - & you are aware of the recent action by Nestle over KitKat

Although UK has said it will “rollover” existing deals, it is not clear to us if this has been done. If not, will this be possible in the time left?

Secondly, while Developed Nations have – quite rightly – been in many cases trying to support their populations in the face of the Pandemic, what of Developing Countries?

1. The Fairtrade Organisation has been relaxed the rules so that –
   1. Premiums can be used for PPE, soaps & sanitisers.
   2. In one case, Banana Producers have contributed towards a testing centre being set up by a local university.
   3. In Pakistan, producers of sports balls have used cotton reserves to make face masks for local people.
   4. Coffee Co-ops in Peru have been providing food supplies to the most vulnerable in their communities.
2. And what support have developed countries offered?
   1. Former Presidents & Prime Ministers, together with Save The Children & OXFAM, have met success by persuading the G20 Summit to suspend Debt Servicing Repayments until the end of 2020 – although this is also required for 2021, too.
   2. But - much to the concern of Fairtrade Supporters – the US blocked the IMF from issuing billions from the Special Drawing Rights (the IMF’s Global Reserve Asset) to developing countries, Instead, Health Ministers argued about the World Health Organisation, & presumably its membership.

Given your stated commitment to Fairtrade, we would value your support, & request that you raise these issues with the appropriate Government Department(s), & with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Fairtrade.

Yours faithfully,

David C. Horsburgh,

Chair,

Totnes Supporting Fairtrade