



## AGENDA FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020 – HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM

MEETING LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/96374443764?pwd=dEtUSlcvbERkbUpLSC9iUkVhRGVldz09>

MEETING ID: 963 7444 3764      PASSCODE: 408644

You are hereby **SUMMONED** to attend the **Town Matters Committee**, which is to be held using remote meeting service Zoom on **Monday 27th July 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, R Hendriksen, D Matthews, P Paine, S Skinner and L Webberley.

1. **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:*

2. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

To update on any matters arising from the minutes of 20th March 2020. (Note: already agreed through Full Council.) Document enclosed.

3. **SCHOOL CONSULTATION – BIDWELL BROOK**

To consider the public consultation about pupil numbers at Bidwell Brook School (proposal to increase capacity from 110-140 day places for those aged 3-19 from September 2021) and a possible new special needs school in Devon. Document enclosed.

4. **ACCESSIBILITY OF VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS**

To consider the accessibility of Council meetings held virtually under the Covid-19 emergency legislation.

5. HISTORY OF FOLLATON HOUSE

To consider a request from a member of the public that a sign should be placed at Follaton House acknowledging its historic link to slavery. Document enclosed.

6. TOTNES SUPPORTING FAIRTRADE

To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Document enclosed.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 7.00pm.**



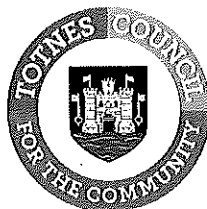
Sara Halliday

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 a 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

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES**

Present: Councillors B Piper (Chair), P Paine, S Skinner, V Trow and L Webberley.

Apologies: Councillors G Allen, R Hendriksen and D Matthews.

In Attendance: Sara Halliday (Committee and Cemetery Administrator).

No	Subject	Comments
1	To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council.	It was resolved to accept the apologies.
	<i>The Committee will adjourn for the following items:</i>	
	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.	There were no members of the public present.
	<i>The Committee will convene to consider the following items:</i>	
2	To update on any matters arising from the minutes of 20th January 2020. (Note: already agreed through Full Council.)	<p>Item 5 – Complete. The Community Engagement Plan was emailed to Councillors on 6<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>Item 7 – The ‘Equality Framework for Local Government’ workshop was organised for 19<sup>th</sup> March but is now postponed until further notice.</p> <p>Item 8 – Resolved by Full Council. The petition has been signed, and the Clerk sent a letter on 19<sup>th</sup> February to the Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth.</p> <p>Item 9 – Resolved by Full Council. All officers have read the advice on the signs of dementia.</p> <p>Item 10 – Resolved by Full Council. The ‘Information for Hirers’ document for the Civic Hall has been updated to encourage hirers to use Fairtrade products at events.</p> <p>Item 11 – Resolved by Full Council. Articles have been drafted for inclusion in the next ‘Totnes Matters’ insert.</p>
3	To note any update from the Arts Working Group on 5th March 2020 (standing item).	<p>Cllr Piper updated on ideas for future events such as an open-air cinema on Vire Island, and the purchase of head microphones for the Civic Hall to increase the range of equipment available for prospective hirers.</p> <p>It was <b>AGREED</b> that the officer would circulate the note of the working group meeting.</p>
4	To note any update from the Climate Change Working Group (standing item).	There was discussion about the requirement for this Working Group and possibly combining some of its more strategic outputs with that of the regular

		<p>Saturday morning climate meetings in order to minimise duplication.</p> <p>It was <b>AGREED</b> that the idea of the existing community climate change group becoming an advisory body to the Council should be discussed at the next Working Group and when Standing Orders are reviewed by Full Council.</p>
5	To note any update from the Community Engagement Working Group (standing item).	It was <b>AGREED</b> that Cllr Webberley will organise a Doodle poll for a meeting date once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.
6	To note any update on the homelessness.	The Caring Town meeting note was welcomed, as was evidence of the joined up working between various organisations. The Committee were pleased to learn that South Hams District Council has secured outreach funding for homelessness assistance but is disappointed that is still no temporary housing provision available in Totnes.
7	To note updates from the Traffic and Transport, and Environment and Sustainability Link Councillors.	It is hoped that the Green Travel Co-ordinator role can go out for recruitment soon.
8	To consider the condition of the River Footpath between the railway bridge and the town bridge.	<p>Cllr Trow updated on the erosion of the path at several sections between Bulliver Bridge and the Town Bridge, which has been highlighted to the Footpaths/Rights of Way officers at Devon County Council and South Hams District Council.</p> <p>The potential of installing a board walk to provide access for all was discussed, with the Parish Paths Partnership being a potential source of grant funding. Staverton Parish Council will be contacted about the design, construction methods, and costs of their recently installed board walk to get ideas.</p> <p>Cllr Webberley left the meeting at 8pm.</p>
9	To note the latest statistics from the Connection Hub for November/ December 2019 and January 2020.	Noted.
10	To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade meeting on 20th February 2020.	Noted.
11	To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – <b>Monday 18th May 2020 at 7.00pm in the Guildhall.</b>	Noted. This date will be kept under review given the current Covid-19 restrictions in place and measures taken to restrict the spread of the virus by the Council Offices and in holding Council meetings.

**CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO PROVISION AT:  
BIDWELL BROOK SCHOOL, DARTINGTON, TOTNES  
PATHFIELD SCHOOL, BARNSTAPLE  
AND CONSULTATION ON A NEW SPECIAL FREE SCHOOL**

**The closing date for responding to this consultation is  
5pm, 18 September 2020**

Devon County Council is consulting on changes to provision at the following Schools, which are foundation schools within the SENTient Co-operative Trust, and all have a Good Ofsted rating. The changes will meet demands for additional pupil places and in line with our Educational Infrastructure Plan and the Strategic Review of Special Needs Places.

**Statutory Consultation**

**The Proposals**

**Bidwell Brook School:** is proposing to increase capacity from 110 to 140 day places for boys and girls, aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties with effect from September 2021.

**Pathfield School:** is proposing to increase capacity from 137 to 186 day places and a change of category to include Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties for boys and girls, aged 3-19, with effect from Mid December 2020.

**Background:**

The Governing Bodies of the Schools have carefully considered what future provision should be in place to ensure ongoing sustainability against changing patterns of provision. The additional provision will ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet the demand for places for children with additional needs within their local area. Creating capacity within these schools will be to the prescribed standards and will ensure that the health, safety and welfare needs of the pupils are safeguarded.

**Cost and Planning**

Devon County Council has given approval to fund the additional provision, which will be subject to planning permission.

## **The Process:**

Under School Organisation regulations the decision maker for altering SEN provision is the Local Authority.

Devon County Council, as the decision maker, will carefully consider all you say, which will help us plan further for the future and we will keep you informed throughout the process at: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/>

Your views will inform any decisions for future provision, taking into account Devon County Council's statutory responsibility to provide places for all pupils in Devon.

If the decision is made to proceed further with the proposals, then the timetable for the remainder of the process (assuming agreement to each stage) is likely to be:

- **Consultation - 6 July - 18 September 2020**
- **Brief Notice issued & four-week period for responses - 1 - 30 October 2020**
- **Devon County Council makes decision - November 2020**
- **Implementation**            Mid December 2020 (Pathfield School)  
   Autumn 2021 (Bidwell Brook School)

## **Responding to this consultation:**

You can respond to the consultation by:

emailing: [schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk](mailto:schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk) or

writing to: Strategic Planning Children's Services, Room AB2, Lucombe House, Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD.

All responses will be placed on public file and will be available for public inspection.

Please note that all comments will be properly considered by the decision-makers, but we will not send individual responses to any specific points raised.

Consultation responses will be shared with the schools concerned unless you request otherwise.

The website <https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/> will be updated and all statutory requirements complied with.

**Closing date for responses is: 18 September 2020**

**PLEASE ALSO SEE BELOW CONSULTATION ON A NEW SEMH (SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH) SPECIAL SCHOOL PROPOSED**

**Future Special Needs Provision**

“Devon’s SEND Strategy 2017-2020 confirms a graduated response to ensure each student, where possible, is educated in their community in provision that meets their educational needs and aligns directly with Devon’s Education Infrastructure Plan, principally Local Schools for Local Children.”

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/archives/6396>

We would welcome your views on shaping future proposals and investment.

**New Special Free School**

Where a new school is required Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act places a duty on Local Authorities to seek proposals to establish an academy (free school, which is state funded direct from Central Government). In addition, the Government has approved over 500 free schools through an application process.

In Devon we have 9 established Special Schools located in North, South and East Devon and 2 Special Free Schools, a 70-place Autistic/Social Emotional and Mental Health provision in Tiverton which opened in September 2019, and a 120 place school for pupils with Communication and Interaction Needs with or without diagnosis of Autism, in Newton Abbot due to open in the autumn 2020.

A new Special Needs School is proposed as follows:

- In Devon the most common type of primary need is Social Emotional and Mental Health (just over one-fifth of the SEN cohort). A new Special Needs School is proposed to meet the growing demand for these places.
- Provision for 80-100 pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health/autistic spectrum needs is proposed.
- Proposed funding per place will be at the Special School level of £26,303. This includes place and top-up funding of which top-up funding follows the actual learners.
- The proposed location has yet to be identified but we are exploring sites located along the M5 corridor from Tiverton/Cullompton down towards Totnes. At the present time there is also potential focus on a site in Okehampton where there is a high demand for special needs provision.

A full specification will be available as the project progresses but if you have any views on this provision, the potential site, or are a proposer who would be interested in such provision, please use the contact form [here](#) or email: [schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk](mailto:schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk) by **18 September 2020**.





## ITEM 6 – Totnes Supporting Fairtrade

### Totnes Supporting Fairtrade

#### Minutes of Zoom Meeting Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**1.Present:** Chairman: David Horsburgh, Pruw Boswell Harper, Lionel Harper, Colin Luker, Ann Arscott, Wendy Hartley, Carolyn Stilwell

#### **2.Matters Arising**

##### **Stickers**

Colin will check that one given to the Town Council is displayed.

##### **Funding bids**

Jo Sweett gave us £100 from SHDC grant. Jacqi has ring fenced £250 for us, from County.

**David** will put in a request to Paige Adams fund. Colin to find out when the committee meets.

David asked Joseph Rose, who will give us £250.

**Cocoa farming.** Colin to send a summary of issues based on a very long report.

Information is a basis for writing a letter to M.P.

##### **Next Fairtrade fortnight**

Quiz is booked at The Bay Horse on second Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

**David** has contacted Delvine Chubb who will organise a fundraising Bingo evening when that is possible. We will help with refreshments. The venue is probably Meadowbrook or the Conservative Club.

We need to provide 20 -30 draw prizes. Pruw has some. Ann can get some from Oxfam.

##### **Support from churches and groups in the town**

**Pruw to ask Jacqi** to please ask Dartington and Staverton Parish Councils to agree a resolution supporting Fairtrade and to serve Fairtrade products at meetings.

Carolyn confirmed St John's Church, their community café and Toddler group all use fairtrade products, tea and coffee.

Colin – U3A use fairtrade products.

Wendy confirmed Towns women's Guild do. Carolyn will check if W.I do.

**Pruw** wrote an article for the Totnes Times about Totnes Supporting Fairtrade, the leaflets and stickers, to publicise the need for fairtrade and help keep it in people's minds and to let people know of Nestle's withdrawal from a fairtrade agreement to buy sugar and cocoa..

This is in today's Totnes Times with a photo of Pruw and David with stickers and leaflets by a fairtrade town sign

##### **3.Treasurers Report**

We have £402.28 in the bank.

##### **4. Letters to Asda and John Lewis**

**Carolyn** forwarded an email to everyone from **Traidcraft** asking us to write to John Lewis and Asda re the clothing market. Sample letters are provided, you just have to put in your address and sign the letters. She had a reply from Asda.

##### **5.Nestle**

Nestle admit farmers will be worse off under their new plans to work with Rainforest Alliance and to buy sugar in Europe. People in Fiji have been growing sugar for Nestle for 10 years and will not have an outlet. Cocoa farmers want to continue with fairtrade for the guarantee of price, premium and power.

**We are all** asked to write to Nestle to ask them to change their mind and to our MP and to sign an online petition. **Wendy** has publicised on social media. **Colin** – on the labour party site and Totnes Post and will ask the Town Council to send a letter **Pruw** will ask **Jacqi** to write to the Totnes Times and Nestle in her capacity as Mayor.

**David** will send us all a prototype of a letter we can use as a basis.

**6.Action Plan for renewal of Fairtrade Town status** has been completed.

## ITEM 5 – History of Follaton House

At the June Full Council meeting a member of the public raised the issue of Follaton House and its links to slavery. As part of the 'Black Lives Matter' movement a number of Councils are reviewing whether statues or buildings should remain in place or acknowledge their historic links to slavery.

An internet search on the history of Follaton House shows:

George Stanley Cary of Follaton Devonshire, son of Edward Cary (d. 1822) and Camilla Annabella Fleming, and grandson of Gilbert Fane Fleming, great grandson of Hon. Gilbert Fleming, Governor General of the Leeward Islands, awarded the compensation with his cousin Sir Wastel Brisco (q.v.) for the Shadwell and Great Westhope and Grange estates on St Kitts.

Born 1780, in a collateral branch of the Carys of Torr Abbey. George Stanley Cary's father Edward Cary, grandson of Edward Cary of Torr Abbey, bought the Follaton estate near Totness [sic]. In addition to land in Devonshire, George Stanley Cary held extensive estates in the West Indies inherited from his great-grandfather Gilbert Fleming.

George Stanley Carey [sic] of Fullerton [sic] Devonshire married Matilda Mary Bedingfield, daughter of Sir Richard Bedingfield (1767-1829). Death of George Stanley Cary registered Q1 1858 Totnes. He left £3000 in effects.

**According to local planning records and magazines, the extant house at Follaton was built for George Stanley Cary by George Stanley Repton in 1826.**

(Source: University College London 'Legacies of British Slave Ownership')

*Officer Advice:* Follaton House is owned by South Hams District Council, not Totnes Town Council, therefore it is not the Town Council's property to place signage on. The Town Council could write to SHDC asking that they consider this request and erect a sign in the grounds or near the public entrance to the SHDC offices acknowledging the Cary family's links to slavery in the West Indies.

**7. Visits to the industrial estate** planned for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2 p.m. Wendy has made up packs.

**Date of next meeting: 5.30 p.m. Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**  
**AGM and ordinary meeting. Seven Stars or by zoom**

