

Minutes from Traffic and Transport meeting 25 Nov 2020

Via zoom - 18:30 - 20:00

Present

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| Cllr Jacqi Hodgson - Chair | Paul Wesley |
| Sylvia Dell - Green Travel Coordinator | Simon Harrington |
| - Secretary | Celia Atherton |
| Chris Watson | Amanda Lane |
| Tessa King | Maggie Cornhill |
| Ken Robertson | Jane Williams |
| Pru Boswell Harper | Philip Thornford |
| Cllr Colin Luker | John Scanlon |
| Cllr Jo Sweett | Sandy Whale |
| Darren Thorn | |
| Lucy Thorn | |

Agenda

1. Introduction to Sylvia Dell - Green Travel Coordinator
 - a. Email agenda items and points for discussion to GreenTravel@TotnesTownCouncil.gov.uk
 - b. Follow new facebook group TotnesGTC <https://www.facebook.com/TotnesGTC>
2. Where are we now?
 - a. Intention to restructure the forum as an advisory body to Totnes Town Council - work is currently in early stages, with a new Terms of Reference being submitted to the next full council meeting, and then to be brought to the January forum for discussion prior to the AGM in Feb
 - b. Suggestion to rotate the chair, but there is only a single meeting prior to the AGM, therefore stay with JH for now
 - c. A group of TCllrs has met with DCC highways officers to identify issues for potential review to improve town centre traffic.
 - d. At that meeting with DCC it had been agreed that the Saturday morning road closure after lockdown finishes would remain suspended and a vote would be taken at the next TC meeting on December 7th.

3. Review of Totnes Travel & Transport Strategy - addition of further schemes

a. 20 mph speed limit for all roads within Totnes boundary

- i. Existing 20mph limit for all of Bridgetown - there are some repeaters, but several have fallen off
- ii. Fore Street and High Street are currently 20mph, but this cannot be enforced, so defaults to 30 mph - this cannot be reduced unless there are 20mph speed limit repeaters at regular intervals. 20 mph is the lowest legally enforceable national speed limit. The 5 mph currently signposted in Fore St/High St is advisory only
- iii. Police conducted a survey this week and found average speed of 14mph with top speed of 21mph - so in their view, speeding is not a legally enforceable problem
- iv. However, the view during the meeting was that this is sometimes too fast given the character of the space, number of cars (approx 300 per hour) and number of pedestrians - widespread support for lower speed limit.
- v. Comment from TK that Dartington parish council have been trying to get 20mph for several years- no success as yet
- vi. 20 mph zone trial for whole town pilot in Newton Abbot has currently been delayed as the proposal has gone out for public consultation.
- vii. Suggestion that schools can have powerful influence on bringing in lower speed limits
- viii. Comment made that 20mph zones in London do not have these repeaters therefore it is possible and legal to enforce 20mph without. **ix.**

Actions arising

- 1. SD - check highway regulations about distancing of repeaters**
- 2. SD - map speed limits around Totnes to identify which might be suitable for reducing to 20mph - produce a proposal for submission to TTC**
- 3. JH to raise 20mph enforcement requirements at DCC**

b. Digital speed reminders on the Plymouth Road at Follaton; St. Katherine's Way and in Bridgetown

- i. These were widely viewed as a good idea

ii. Actions arising

- 1. CL - send costings for digital speed reminders to SD**
- 2. SD - produce a proposal for TTC, detailing costs, explicit locations and measurement criteria for success**

c. Direction Signs on Bridgetown Hill - changing to show Town Centre direction pointing towards Brutus Bridge and not via old bridge

- i. Concern that diverting traffic heading into town away from old bridge onto Brutus Bridge will simply create more congestion around Morrisons and Coronation Road.
- ii. Many views saying that better signs are needed to point to the Steamer Quay car park, and also to promote the use of Bob the Bus community transport as a "Park and Ride". SHDC need to maximise revenue from their car park, so there could be lots of benefits all round. Bob is back 3 days a week from 07 Dec, hopefully 5 as soon as more volunteer drivers are covid confident to restart driving.
- iii. Also need to promote the existing car parks and show how many spaces each has

iv. Actions arising

- 1. SD - liaise with SH about promoting Bob - include fliers to distribute in cafes/ shops etc. Include on the Visit Totnes website etc. Liaise with SHDC to put up permanent signage for a Park and Ride**
- 2. SD - Clarify how many spaces in each car park and investigate getting better signage to direct vehicles to car parks and check where this is with TC Wayfinding proposals**
- 3. SD - provide update on Wayfinding work on signage**

d. Improve Signage at Plymouth Road traffic lights leaving 20mph and entering 30mph

- i. Already covered during meeting with DCC highways

- e. Traffic Lights at Plymouth Road (coming from The Narrows)**
- i. Discussed with DCC about proposals to remodel and narrow part of the carriageway in Fore Street / High Street. The car parking spaces to be retained. And the space in front of St Mary's would remain a wide shared space, and also to extend the remodelling of the Civic Square across the road as well.
 - ii. CW proposed rephrasing the lights at peak times to make it slightly slower. Concern was raised about the impact on traffic build up on residents.

iii. Actions arising

- 1. SD / CW - investigate what is needed to try out a rephrasing of the traffic lights at peak times**
- 2. SD - establish what factual information already exists about traffic flows through those lights**

f. Shared E car and e bike network

- i. SD outlined proposal to engage with Co Cars and Co Bikes to provide an electric car and 2 e bikes, initially in Baltic Wharf, but hopefully to be extended across the town.
- ii. CW outlined a proposal he is working on for e bikes - there could be some collaboration there
- iii. CW - Also asked what is the latest position on EU funding for EV charging points - where will they be placed - will they have a car port and solar panels - will they offer subsidised charging rates for residents? Dilitte have contract with SHDC
- iv. CL - Connected Curve for on road charging - could be invited to do a presentation
- v. CW - swytchcycle.co.uk with labour from Channings Wood to refurbish bikes and convert to e bikes

vi. Actions arising

- 1. SD / CW liaise re shared e bike scheme**
- 2. SD / CW liaise re EU subsidised EV charging points**
- 3. SD / CL - talk to Connected Curve**

g. Engage with local schools - identify schemes that can reduce the number of private journeys to and from school

- i. Feedback from Santa Fe & Vire - have developed a walking bus - children engaged to design the routes - use coloured animals to waymark the routes

ii. Actions arising

- 1. SD - obtain the presentation of schools walking bus**
- 2. JH to contact Vire Mayor for information**

4. AOB

- Last Sunday, 7 volunteers helped to divert traffic from going up High Street while lights were fixed - public very supportive - it was highlighted that those volunteers had no legal powers to stop drivers, but there were no problems on that occasion and it was suggested to repeat this and hand out flyers to reinforce the "Access Only" signs.
- Survey is out - intended to assess the impact and measure the level of support for the 4hour road closures (currently suspended during 2nd lockdown) to provide information about whether this be reinstated after lockdown - concern was expressed that the questions are not entirely unbiased and this may reduce the validity of the results - concern also expressed that some businesses (represented during the meeting) are adversely affected during road closure. JH reiterated that the survey was

independently designed and analysed and is being paid for by COVID 19 funding from Central Government, which is explicitly intended to help pedestrians with social distancing and enhance public safety during the current pandemic.

- The following document was shared by JS to highlight research on the benefits to business and community on improved pedestrian experiences -
<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/3890/pedestrian-pound-2018.pdf>

Date of next meeting 27 Jan 2021 18:30 - 20:00

Actions spreadsheet - check here for updates to actions

<https://tinyurl.com/yya5tmto>

Email items for agenda to GreenTravel@TotnesTownCouncil.gov.uk

Facebook group - TotnesGTC <https://www.facebook.com/TotnesGTC>