

## AGENDA FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2021 IN THE CIVIC HALL

You are hereby **SUMMONED** to attend the **Town Matters Committee** on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021** at **6.30pm** for a maximum of 90 minutes for the purpose of transacting the following business:

**Committee Members:** Councillors V Trow (Chair), G Allen, C Allford, P Allford, S Collinson, A Galvin, D Matthews, P Paine, S Skinner and L Webberley.

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
The Chair will read out the following statement:

Welcome to everyone attending and observing the meeting.

A reminder that open proceedings of this meeting will be video recorded on Zoom and live streamed on social media. If members of the public make presentations, they will be deemed to have consented to being recorded. By entering the Council Chamber attendees are also consenting to being recorded.

Can members of the public please note that given the current climate Councillors and staff are adapting to mainly paperless working and therefore you may see use of mobile phones and other devices for reference to the agenda and associated papers.

This meeting is limited to 90 minutes and therefore members are asked to raise their points succinctly and not repeat the same view expressed by colleagues if it does not add to the debate.

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. TRESOC SOLAR PANELS ON THE PAVILION**

To consider a request for formal support of the TRESOC proposal to place solar photovoltaic cells on the roof of the Pavilions. Verbal update from a member of TRESOC and document attached.

**3. FOOD IN COMMUNITY**

To consider an update from Food in Community and the future plans for the Food Bank. Verbal update from Food in Community member and document attached.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

To approve the minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 and update on any matters arising. Document attached.

**5. RURAL SERVICES NETWORK MEMBERSHIP**

To consider renewing the Council's membership of the Rural Services Network as a market town member at the cost of £65 (Oct 2021 to Mar 2022). Document attached.

**6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

To consider Town Council/Councillor community engagement opportunities in 2021. No document.

**7. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

To note any update from the Climate Change Working Group on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (standing item). Document attached.

**8. TOTNES PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

To note a summary of minutes from recent Totnes Partnership meetings. Document attached.

**9. KEEPING YOUNG TOTNES SAFE UPDATE**

To note the minutes of the Caring Town Keeping Young Totnes Safe meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Document attached.

**10. HOMELESSNESS AND VULNERABLE UPDATE**

To note the minutes of the Caring Town Homelessness and Vulnerable People meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Document attached.

**11. FAIRTRADE UPDATE**

To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Document enclosed.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 6.30pm.**

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 representation, 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 – TRESOC SOLAR PANELS ON THE PAVILION

TRESOC wish to apply for a grant from the UK Community Renewal Fund 2021-2022, administered by Devon County Council.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/economy/document/community-renewal-fund/>

As a local community organisation, TRESOC is eligible to apply. At a recent TRESOC Board Meeting it was agreed to prepare a grant application for the Pavilions as a community energy hub. The grant would enable TRESOC to go beyond solar photovoltaic panels at the Pavilions to include ground source heat pumps, solar roof car parking with electric charging facilities and electric bike hire. Any such application would benefit from Totnes Town Council support in principle, and would enable TRESOC to register an interest in applying with DCC.

## A roadmap to tackle poverty at root and transition from emergency food aid to empowered citizens: a proposal from Food in Community, May 2021

In 2010, food banks were uncommon and yet in 2021, there are more food banks in Devon than there are branches of McDonalds. We are at a point in time where food aid for people in crisis is becoming normalized in the UK, as has already happened in the US. What went wrong?<sup>1</sup>

It is recognised that "...the problem of child food poverty in the UK today is not down to a lack of food. It is instead that too many families do not have enough income to afford to put food on the table." Dame Rachel De Souza UK Children's Commissioner.

As we emerge from the pandemic, there is an opportunity to reimagine how we support our community in a fairer and more dignified way.

Food in Community (FiC) has delivered more than 6000 boxes of fresh donated surplus food to households in Totnes and district throughout the pandemic. We source the best quality food for our clients, and they appreciate our efforts, but however thoughtfully and professionally the service is delivered, if a person has already reached the point of being unable to afford food, their mental and often physical wellbeing is already adversely impacted. Our team refer and signpost people to sources of support to help address the financial problems that led to needing food aid, but earlier intervention would be a more compassionate solution, and builds on the success of existing efforts locally.

Food in Community is an active member of the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN), a collective of more than 500 independent food aid organisations. The "Cash First" approach was developed by IFAN to put an end to the need for emergency food aid in the UK. Cash First was piloted in Scotland and as of May 2021 is being adopted in 25 local authorities in England, including Cornwall and Plymouth.

Cash First has several components:

1. **To maximise income for struggling households by reducing barriers to existing financial entitlements.** It comprises a clearly worded leaflet signposting people to sources of finance help tailored to the local area, such as Citizen's Advice, Christians Against Poverty, Step Change, the local council and others. It aims to destigmatize asking for help and assist people before they get to the stage of being unable to afford food and other essentials. We could also look to further improve access to services such as CAB by facilitating a space at regular public events such as FiC's community cafe.

FiC proposes that a copy of the leaflet is delivered to all households in Totnes and District, and copies made available in public spaces such as libraries. IFAN have supplied a template and offer free help to put the leaflet draft together. There is also a little funding available towards printing costs. This would be complimented by a campaign on social, broadcast and print media. If the campaign resulted in increased demand for the advice services, Food in Community would propose to work together with Caring Town Totnes and Totnes Town Council to procure additional funding to support the service delivery.

2. **To shift the thinking of policy makers away from the idea that surplus food is a solution to poverty.** Our clients have told us that they like receiving good quality food that would otherwise go to waste because they are contributing to reducing the impact of climate change, but nonetheless it is better that they have sufficient money to support themselves and make their own purchasing decisions, as used to happen prior to 2010, when food banks were uncommon. The pandemic saw millions of pounds of government support for building the infrastructure of national surplus food organisations such as FareShare, who flooded Devon's food banks with large quantities of processed food, some of which was of poor nutritional value and unsuitable for clients with specific dietary or cultural needs. Should policy makers consider diverting money directly to those who need it via the benefit system and emergency grants? There are plenty of more creative and positive alternative outlets for good quality surplus food.
  
3. **To offer more choice and dignity for people in crisis.** If households slip through the net and still need food support despite the Cash First campaign, clients with a professional referral would be offered shopping vouchers for the shop of their choice to purchase essentials such as store cupboard items, toiletries, cleaning materials and pet food. Food in Community would supplement this provision with deliveries of surplus fresh produce. Vouchers would be funded by a combination of public donations and government grants. Supermarket food bank collection points are an inefficient use of public generosity. A campaign for the public to donate cash would replace the purchasing of food items at retail price that then have to be sorted, collected and stored by food banks (at their expense).

Cash First is a critical step towards a Totnes and District without the need for emergency food aid, where everyone is in a position to afford adequate, nutritious food.

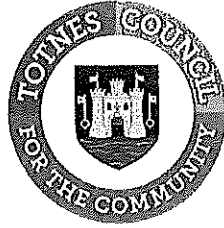
#### Supporting notes:

1. The underlying causes that lead people to approach a food bank are primarily a low or unreliable income, caused by low wages, the benefit system and the high cost of living. It can be triggered by a sudden crisis or be a longer-term slide into poverty. In work poverty affects 72% of households with children in poverty. Debt, mental health issues, physical health conditions or disabilities make it harder for people to afford to live.
2. Fresh food is almost universally acceptable to households in Totnes and district, including ethnic minorities and those on special diets for medical reasons. Where people struggle to cook due to health or (rarely) lack of cooking facilities, we offer an Easy Eating box or signpost them to other services. Referrals to Food in Community from out of area often occur because packets and tins offered in a conventional food bank can be unsuitable for different cultures, or those on special diets. Education levels are higher than the UK average in Totnes, even though income levels are not. In helping >200 clients, only 1 or 2 lacked basic cooking knowledge. Young people use Youtube, Instagram or TikTok to find recipes, if they have enough money for mobile phone credit! Even so FiC offer cooking workshops to increase confidence and knowledge of working with economical and environmentally sound ingredients.
3. FiC work through the Independent Food Aid Network to lobby government to transform loans to cover the 5-week wait for new Universal Credit claims into a non-

repayable grant, and to make the £20 per week UC uplift permanent. We also observe that the turnaround times of 3-4 months and the process for PIP claims needs reviewing.

4. FiC advocate the setting up of community surplus food restaurants across Devon and the UK, modelled on those we run in Totnes and Newton Abbot, where great quality nutritious food is served at an affordable price, in a sociable and enjoyable setting to be enjoyed by all.

## ITEM 4 – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES



### **DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2021 – HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM**

Present: Councillors V Trow (Chair), C Allford, P Allford, S Collinson, L Webberley, G Allen (intermittent connection), P Paine (joined at 18.40) and A Galvin (joined at 19.05).

Apologies: Councillor D Matthews.

Not Present: Councillor S Skinner.

In Attendance: Cllr Piper (from 19.00), one member of the public and S Halliday (Governance and Projects Manager).

#### **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

Cllr Allen read out a statement about how the meeting would be conducted, recorded and live streamed on social media.

Apologies were received from Cllr Matthews and were accepted.

*The Committee will adjourn for the following items:*

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present at this point in the meeting.

*The Committee reconvened.*

#### **2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**To approve the minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 and update on any matters arising.**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings. Matters arising:

Item 4 – This will be discussed under agenda Item 3.

Item 5 – Resolved by Full Council and the response has been sent.

Item 7 – Complete. A number of posts were made on the Totnes Town Council Facebook page in the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Item 8 – Actioned through the Totnes Partnership meetings. It is hoped that Citizen's Advice will speak at the next Committee.

### **3. COMMUNITY HEROES FOR COVID AWARD**

**To consider the details, criteria and timeline for the Community Heroes Award announced in January 2021.**

The Committee expressed concerns that the third wave of the COVID pandemic experienced in continental Europe might affect the planned easing of lockdown restrictions in the UK and that setting dates now for events in June may be affected. It was **AGREED** that this is potentially a large project and that further discussion is needed to break the various elements down to take forward.

### **4. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT RESOURCE AND WASTE STRATEGY**

**To consider how to respond to the Devon County Council Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay, with recommendations to Full Council to meet the deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

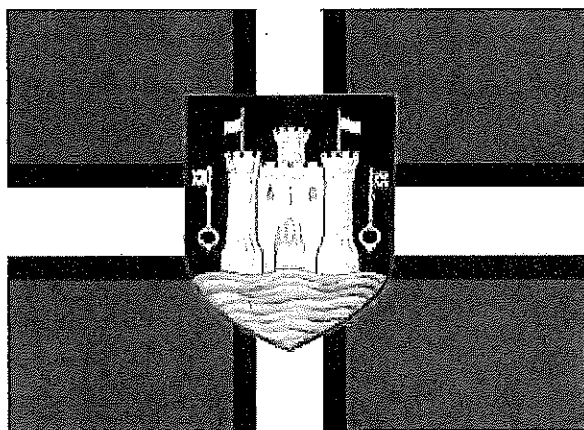
The Officer set out the background to the consultation and the themes covered in the questionnaire. It was **AGREED** that the questionnaire would be circulated to Committee members for their comments by 31<sup>st</sup> March, these comments will be collated and circulated on 1<sup>st</sup> April for agreement out of committee to make a recommendation to go to Full Council on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (in order to meet the consultation deadline).

POST-MEETING NOTE: the survey was circulated to Councillors on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. No comments have been received so there is no recommendation for Full Council to consider.

### **5. TOWN FLAG**

**To consider commissioning a town flag to be made and for it to be regularly flown from the Civic Hall flagpole.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that a town flag (see image below) is purchased on printed fabric (costing between £50-70 for a 150cm x 90cm flag) and is regularly flown from the Civic Hall (except during forecasted high winds).



### **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**To consider Town Council/Councillor community engagement opportunities in 2021.**

It was **AGREED** that until there is more certainty about the date when lockdown restrictions will be lifted, offering in person events and surgeries will be difficult. This item will return to the next meeting.



**7. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

To consider a Traffic Regulation Order to simplify the Care and Health Workers' Parking Exemption Scheme to allow 3 hours parking in No Waiting Limited Waiting, Pay and Display, and Resident Parking spaces.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that this Traffic Regulation Order is supported.

**8. RIGHT TO FOOD CAMPAIGN**

To consider support for the 'Right to Food' campaign.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that Totnes Town Council supports the 'Right to Food' campaign that makes access to food a legal right for all, and that it pledges its support by:

- Adding its signature to the #RightToFood campaign pledge;
- Signing the Parliamentary petition;
- Asking the local MP to sign Early Day Motion 1251 on the #RightToFood;
- Writing to the National Food Strategy Team; and
- Telling everyone via the Totnes Town Council website and Facebook page that it is backing the #RightToFood.

**9. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

To note any update from the Climate Change Working Group on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

No minutes of this meeting had been received. Councillors reiterated that minutes from this working group need to be reviewed by the Committee. No Councillor connected to the meeting felt able to comment on the Working Group meeting.

**10. TOTNES PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

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

Noted. The Committee acknowledged how useful these partnership meetings have been during the first year of the pandemic and the enormous efforts of all Totnes' community organisations in assisting those in need.

**11. HOMELESSNESS AND VULNERABLE UPDATE**

To note the minutes of the Caring Town Homelessness and Vulnerable People meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Noted.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 6.30pm.

Noted. It was explained that the number of Monday Bank Holidays in April and May has necessitated this change in meeting day as a one off.

Sara Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager

## ITEM 5 – RURAL SERVICE NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Officer's Note: Full Council agreed last year that Totnes Town Council would take up the offer of a free trial membership of the Rural Services Network Market Towns Group, to be reviewed in advance of when a fee paying membership is required. The latest update from the Rural Services Network is that free membership runs until the end of September 2021, and membership from 1<sup>st</sup> October (after the free period expires) to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 is £65 (i.e. half the rate of the annual membership).

### **Rural Market Town Group Services**

- **Weekly Rural Bulletin** which includes Rural News, Member Insight, Economic Profiling, Spotlights on Economy & Housing, Hinterland, Analysis & Commentary Pieces, Week in Parliament – Politics Roundup and more.
- **Monthly Funding Digest & Government Consultations** – with funding and grant opportunities, along with relevant Government Consultations related to rural areas.
- **Rural/Market Town Group (RMTG) Newsletter** – quarterly newsletter ('Market Town Round Up') highlighting latest relevant policy developments, showcasing useful member good practice examples, signposting members to relevant initiatives and funding opportunities. (January, April, July, October)
- **Area Profiles** – an Area Profile of your Principal Council issued once a year setting out key statistics in relation to the rural area. This will help to give the overall picture of their local area to help plan services and understand local issues. (February)
- **Engagement and Involvement in RSN Campaigns.**
- **Involvement in the RSN Consultation Programme** – this includes responding to Government Consultations, White Papers, Calls for Evidence and Select Committee Inquiries. In addition, the Group will help to develop the rural voice at a national level to ensure rural are properly represented. This would be in the form of our own surveys, calls for evidence and case studies. Some surveys will be on most important topics that were highlighted by RMTG. (Various times throughout the year)
- **RMTG Meetings** – There will be a meeting for RMTG representatives twice a year, dedicated for best practice sharing, networking, and group discussions on most relevant rural topics. The Clerks Advisory Panel will also be invited to the Autumn meeting. (April, October)
- **RMTG Clerks Advisory Panel Meeting** – once a year. Meeting for RMTG clerks dedicated for best practice sharing, networking, and group discussions on most relevant rural topics. (March)
- **Free Access to Seminar Programme.** (Various times throughout the year)
- **Discounted Access to the National Rural Conference.**
- **RMTG Good Practice** – collecting, signposting, and informing members on good practice, relevant learning material on key policy areas, delivery challenges and opportunities for rural/market towns.
- **Facilitating Member Networking on a National Level** – through more joint working, networking with the goal of tackling most relevant rural challenges, seeking solutions and improvement. This will include exploring whether the RMTG can contribute to work and research of the National Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE), in relation to rural town economic issues.
- **Young People** - To facilitate work in key areas, members may nominate a representative

interested in young people in their rural area, who may be contacted to gather specific consultation throughout the year to support national campaigning.

- + The pattern of local area Market Town meetings is mixed across England. The group could explore this to see if there is any improvement in areas where meetings / joint working is not taking place currently and look at how liaison can take place between this national facing group and existing area arrangements.



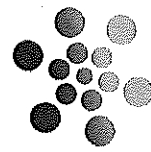
[View this email in your browser](#)

Summer 2021 Edition

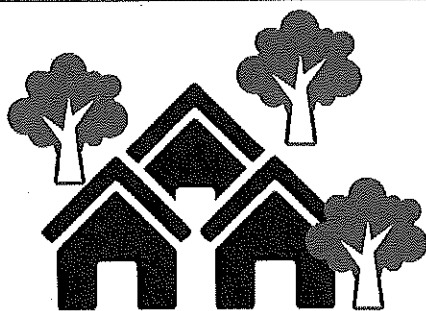
ITEM 5



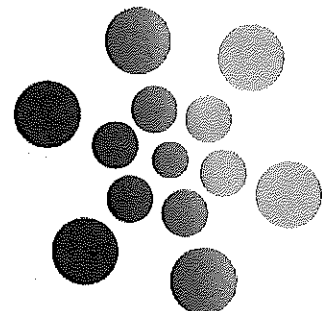
## Rural Market Town Group Roundup



Dear Sara, welcome to the Summer edition of the Rural Market Towns Group Newsletter! The Rural Services Network has established this newsletter as a way of communicating with the group on key rural issues relevant to them and their membership.



## Rural Market Town Group



### RMTG reaches 200!

With the Kirklees area Town of Meltham joining, the RMTG has reached the threshold of 200 Rural Local Councils in membership. This was the initial goal for the Group - because it was felt important that there should be members from all the rural areas of England – ensuring it was truly a cross rural English Town grouping. You can find out more about the other groups in membership at [this link](#)

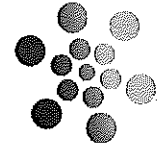
*[Read more](#)*

### What is the Rural Market Town Group?

The RSN believes that Rural Communities are frequently overlooked in a policy environment dominated by urban thinking and policy concerns. This often means that communities either miss out on benefits or experience unintended consequences from policies which are poorly thought through from a rural perspective. Rural areas should be able to realise their potential within the national economy and be appropriately recognised in government thinking and actions. We have therefore developed the Rural Market Town Group (RMTG) so that we can strengthen our rural voice, and to enable the larger rural towns and parishes to have a place to come together to network, share best practice and develop their own voice.



# Rural Exchange



We have been informed by members of the RMTG that additional expenditure and loss of income, particularly in rural areas has taken place due to the pandemic, by both local councils and Principal Councils. We believe Government should be made aware of the issues and consider the situations that have occurred at the local council level across the nation. If we are to pursue this matter, we need evidence to facilitate the ongoing discussion with the Ministry. We are therefore seeking direct evidence and input from you, our RMTG members, to understand each local council's financial position and present an evidence-based case to the Government. Please note that the survey on this topic will be quite narrow, looking at very specific finance questions, as we are seeking to demonstrate how big a proportion those expenses are in your overall budgets. This survey does not seek to dismiss all the other work that you have done to help your local communities.

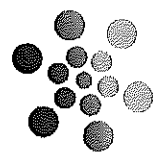
**- COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE**

We ask all RMTG clerks to fill out this survey on behalf of their council by 6pm, Wednesday 30th June 2021.

We have also been asked to develop an online forum for this group to share good practice and ask for advice and support from other rural Parish and Town Councils about particular issues facing rural Local Councils. We are just finalising our plans for this which is likely to be a private facebook group, which is invitation only to join, with the group able to post comments and ask questions. Further information will be shared with the group in the next month about this initiative.



## Upcoming Events



We have recently held two meetings for the RMTG:

- **The Clerks meeting** on 4th March which Clerks from all members of the RMTG are invited to attend as part of your membership. Minutes from this meeting are available at [this link](#)
- **The RMTG meeting** took place on 29th March and a Councillor from each member of the RMTG are invited to attend. Minutes from this meeting are available at [this link](#)

We will be contacting you shortly about an upcoming event for Autumn for the RMTG:

14-

- Rural/Market Towns Group Meeting

This meeting is targeted at a Councillor representative from each of the Town and Parish Councils in membership of the RMTG to discuss key rural issues

This meeting will be held via zoom and joining instructions will be sent out once you have registered your attendance. It is free to join as part of your membership.

The Rural Services Network has a comprehensive Seminar programme of events and one that may be of particular interest to those in the RMTG is the following event:

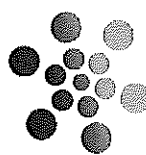
- Wednesday 27th October 2021 11am-1pm.

- Topic: Rural Town Centres, High Streets and Village Hubs

**Book your place here**



# Rural Services Network



## Who are we?

The Rural Services Network is the national champion for rural services, ensuring that people in rural areas have a strong voice. We are fighting for a fair deal for rural communities to maintain their social and economic viability for the benefit of the nation as a whole. We have a number of different groups in membership and started as a primarily Local Authority grouping (We are a Special Interest Group of the LGA). We have around 120 rural local authorities in membership. We have expanded our Rural Services Partnership which now includes over 200 organisations delivering services in rural areas.

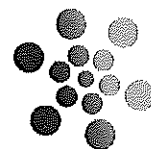
## Rural Services Network Member Groups:

**RSN Members**

100	Sparse Local Authorities
16	Rural Assembly Local Authorities
210	Rural Market Towns
219	Rural Services Partners
77	Rural Health Care Providers
10	Fire and Rescue Services
24	Housing Associations
12	Utility Members



# Rural News



*This section contains recent news stories from RSN that may be of particular interest to the RMTG*

## Large Scale Business Survey to shed light on rural resilience during covid

The National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE) is asking rural and farming businesses in the North East, South West and Midlands how they are dealing with COVID-19 to explore the lesser-known area of rural resilience.

There is little research about how small firms in rural areas manage crises and how they recover so NICRE is speaking to more than 4,000 businesses over the next two months to shed light on this area.

The survey – NICRE's first – asks businesses about the strategies they have put in place during the pandemic to increase their resilience and their plans and expectations for the future.

*[Read more](#)*

## Questions over future of rural petrol stations

Trade publication Autocar has reported on news that around 100 petrol stations were forced to pause sales last year due to the pandemic

In 2019, 70 per cent of independent filling stations that were operating in 2000 shut their doors permanently.

The report outlines how petrol stations have been supplementing fuel sales with additional retail for years, however smaller, rural stations have tended to struggle to provide these services to make up the shortfall.

*[Read more](#)*

## UK Gigabit Voucher Launch

Announced on 19 March as part of the wider £5bn 'Project Gigabit' programme, the UK Gigabit Broadband Voucher will provide micro grants of up to £1,500 for households and £3,500 for businesses in the hardest to reach rural areas (with current speeds of less than 100Mbps) to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections when part of a group scheme.

*[Read more](#)*

**Please feel free to forward this newsletter to colleagues at your Town and Parish Councils. If you have any feedback on this newsletter please contact [david.inman@sparse.gov.uk](mailto:david.inman@sparse.gov.uk)**



## Climate Emergency Action Group

20 Apr 2021

### Present

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson  
Sylvia Dell (minutes)  
David Cutting (environmentalist)  
Sue Misselbrook (Bridgetown, Berry Pomeroy counsellor)  
Ian Bright (TRESOC)  
Richard O'Connell (recycling)  
John Cummings  
Mirella (Shareshed)  
Cllr Georgina Allen (planning)  
Cllr Victoria Trow  
Leslie Nel  
Chris Watson  
Barbara Philips  
Cllr Sarah Collinson  
Diana Brown (designer)

### Future Forum

Preparing med and long term plan for the town of Totnes. Aiming to engage a facilitator and looking for representatives from the CEWG. Currently preparing a mission statement.

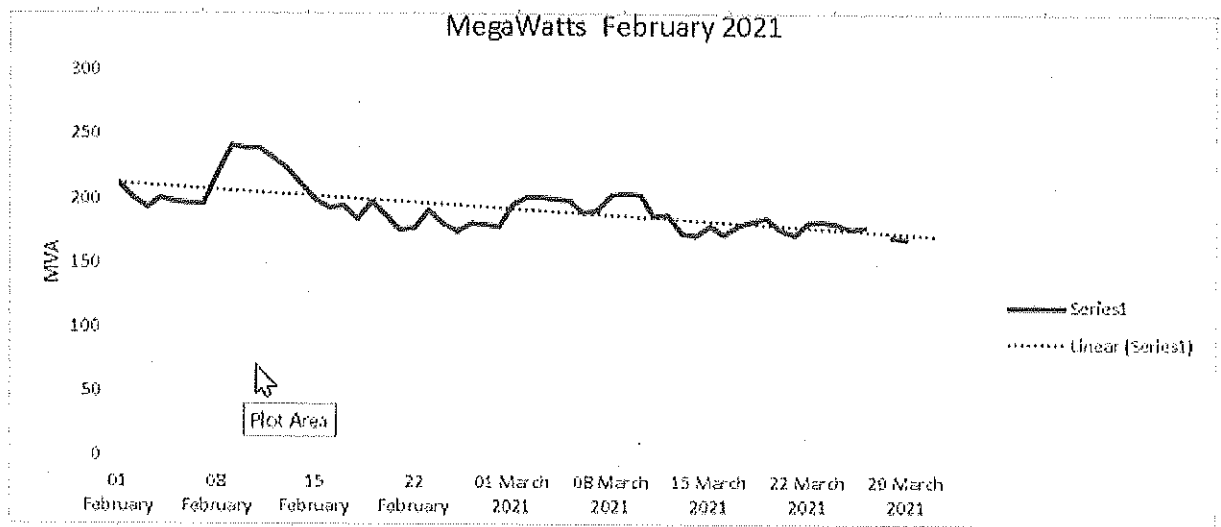
### Updates from current projects

#### Tree planting

- Baltic Wharf zig zag path - planted 24 cherry trees. Well attended
- Cemetary 6 white flowering cherry trees
- Plans to plant oak trees on parish boundary
- Action - send photos of tree planting - Clare Alford has Tree Planting Facebook page

#### Local water and energy consumption data

- These measure water consumption within the town - still awaiting Mar figures
  - Malt Mill
  - True Street
- Energy consumption - Feb - Mar 2021



- New carbon footprint tool - Impact Community Carbon Calculator <https://impact-tool.org.uk/footprint/footprint?parishId=E04003183&footprintType=territorial&scale=per-household>

☒ Territorial
 ☒ Consumption
 ☒ Per-household
 ☒ Total
 ☐ Show sub-categories

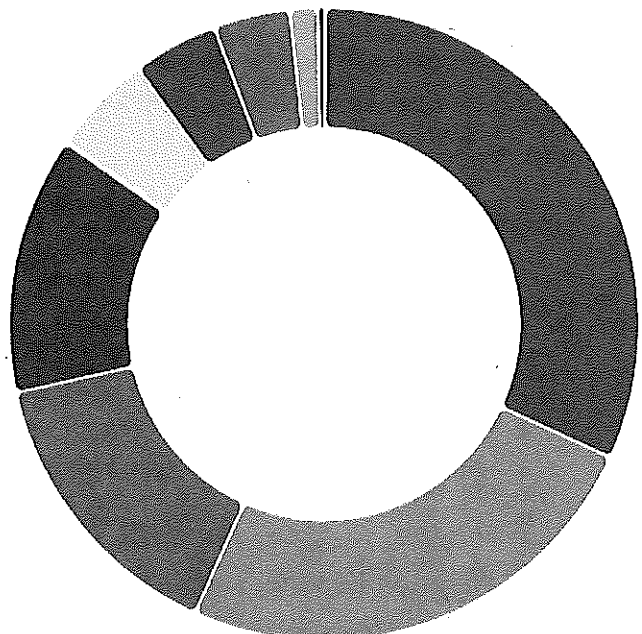
Totnes

9.6t CO<sub>2</sub>e\*

per-household territorial footprint  
(p.a.)

EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO<sub>2</sub>e)

Housing	3.04
Industrial and commercial	2.37
Road Transport	1.42
Aviation	1.26
Shipping	0.5
F-gases	0.42
Agriculture	0.37
Waste management	0.14
Diesel fuelled railways	0.03
Other Transport	0



## Our Place Our Planet

### Progressing slowly

- Energy - Catherine Munrow (TRESOC minutes) offering energy advice South Devon Group in totnes

## Sustainable South Hams

They have set up a FB page

We also have a climate emergency FB page - anybody can share their projects and news updates

### Shareshed

- Library of Things - over 350 items
- Reopened last week - every Thursday 1-5 pm is in Civic Square
- Looking for funding and volunteers, and also repair cafes
- They are looking for funding - suggest you contact SHDC counsellors for locality funding (after May elections)
- Action - Leslie and Mirella to talk funding

## Measuring Air Quality

- Mobile air quality monitors - we have 2 already and are looking to extend these, taking advantage of short term discounts
- However these are not necessarily appropriate for measuring
  - NOx
  - SO2
  - CO2
  - Particulates 2.5 and 10 ppm
- What is the purpose of these - awareness raising or something more?
  - Problem that we need someone with appropriate skills to use the data
  - Also they cannot be used for decision making as the data does not conform to statutory requirements
  - Possibly used to put pressure on SHDC to fulfill their legal requirements
- CW put forward information about the data collection monitors which SHDC should be using. SHDC have a climate emergency budget of £500k
  - Action - CW provide a document about the air quality monitors which can be discussed at Green Travel Steering Group
- Action - invite Sarah Harcombe, environmental health officer to explain what SHDC are currently doing

## Renewable energy at the Pavilions

- TRESOC approached Tadpool, running the Pavilions, 6 years ago
- SHDC has freehold of the property and they have to sign the lease - they appeared to be interested but nothing has happened for 2 years

- Action - Totnes Town Councillors are invited to support the proposal with SHDC - take proposal to Full Council
- Action - IB write to our MP (who speaks with SHDC chief exec each week)
- Action - contact Adam Williams - this project ticks every box - IB to contact him

#### Wildflower Verges

- Action - look out for verges that could be managed as wildflower areas
- Action - "Please don't cut - managed for wildflowers and insects"

#### Climate Emergency Hub

- Action - link Becca with Mirella and Shareshed - engage with them in the Civic Sq on Thursday (JH)

#### Cumulative impacts on wildlife

Deferred to next meeting

#### CEE Bill

DCC officers have expressed support

## ITEM 8 – 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, Transition Town, KEVICC Governor, SASHA, Leatside Surgery, Bridgetown Alive, South Hams District Council Councillors and Officers, TTC Councillors and officer.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

**Totnes Caring** – the new CEO of Totnes Caring was introduced. Over 900 clients are registered and help provided to around 500 each in week in some way. Currently over 150 volunteers. Totnes Caring hot lunches are provided 7 days a week. The number of people needing help with benefit applications has gone up and are working in partnership with Citizens Advice and staff helping with financial issues.

**Citizens Advice** – receiving a steady number of calls and some video booths (Connection Hub on Wednesday) are still operating and staff working from home. The two debt advisors are now fully trained and preparing for a rise in debt advice demand as furloughs and other financial protection end, may lead to household financial issues. In discussions about bringing the video booth to either St John's café or Bridgetown Community Hall.

**Street Pastors** – will start again on 16<sup>th</sup> April from 8pm and will change as lockdown progresses. Drug issues in St John's churchyard and vandalism with posters being torn down.

**Food in the Community** – working towards Easter and including activity packs funded by the Council. Several outdoor activities going on including working with Lifeworks, adults with learning disabilities involved in sorting and grading vegetables and fruit. 110 food boxes went out to households last week, and another 20 via South Dartmoor College to supplement families in the Totnes catchment area. Working with Rotary Club to provide cookbook exchange for those receiving boxes. FiC boxes are not all the same, they're tailored to specific needs or dietary requirements. FiC do make referrals to other agencies – CAB, the Hub, or if out of area to others. FiC do accept self referrals, but sometimes don't take them on and refer them to other agencies.

**SASHA (domestic abuse support)** – taking place on Friday with no more than 6 in person and phone lines available. Since it was established in May 2020 it now has four permanent volunteers and is seeking funding for a permanent paid support worker. SASHA has provided a number of services including directly supported clients on 119 occasions, resourced a helpline for 903 hours, run 24.5 hours of group support, as well as one-to-one support, training and administrative support.

The value of the Partnership meetings was noted. They will continue fortnightly to the next stage of restrictions easing and then maybe monthly - Partnership to discuss.

### 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Totnes Caring** – number have been steady, all services are running as usual with transport very busy now most clients are receiving their second vaccination. The Art group made beautiful decorations and displayed outside St Mary's and St John's churches.

**Citizens Advice** – going strong and have reopened some of the outreach. Videobooth in Follaton and working on other initiatives to help people access services.

**Street Pastors** - go live next week, expect young people to be out and about quite late now pubs will be open again. Churches are all open, services still on Zoom.

**Food in the Community** Numbers of regular food box clients are falling as people find work, but demand from food banks and charities is still strong. The allocation that would normally go to schools is being redirected this week - 57 extra food boxes going out to families as part of a collaboration with the Space team at the Rushbrook Centre. 30 recipe boxes going out to families of learning disabled young people as part of Lifework's holiday provision, and FIC team will be running produce grading and sorting educational sessions for small groups of some of the young people at Torre Abbey and Seale Hayne.

**Connection Hub** - busy with people coming in with complex problems, so a lot of support work going on. During most of the pandemic had discouraged support work to focus on feeding people, but now conversations have opened up with individuals and highlighted the issues and working with multi agencies to address. Evictions look like they may become a problem and rent debt will be an issue. Start up of job club working with jobcentre is imminent. Also working with Leatside, SHDC and Hep C project to gather rough sleepers in for Hep C information and covid vaccinations. Concern about food parcels only being given to 6 weeks – Hub confirmed that is the general idea as funding means Hub can't support people indefinitely, they need engage in a process to move them on from the hardship faced, but that the Hub won't stop supporting people until they are confident that they are safe on their own. Also refer people to Food In Community. 3 rough sleepers in last fortnight (mostly showers and washing). Hub has two furloughed chefs volunteering at the moment – cooking fresh food and freezing it for food parcels – easy to microwave.

**Bridgetown Alive** - Bridgetown Community Hall is in the last stages of renovation, should re-open at the end of April.

**Transition Town Totnes** Transition received a grant in January for What Next – addressing the Climate Emergency and what next for TTT as well. Relaunching Transition Streets – first done in 2009 engaging over 500 households to reduce emissions. Applying to postcode Lottery for a grant to continue this work.

#### 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Totnes Caring** – some changes coming slowly e.g. carers' meetings have moved off zoom and are taking place outdoors. Still delivering over 100 hot meals a week, but now only shopping for the most vulnerable. Most are building confidence to return to shops or ordering online. Looking at how to support people to build confidence and mobility. Have taken on two new home helps. The Totnes Caring newsletter is on their Facebook page and website.

**Street Pastors** – were out Friday evening, starting early and pubs were quite busy at that point. Engaged with several teens at Borough Park and the skate Park, young people were very supportive of the Street pastors and appreciative of what they were doing. Problems of bottles and needles in the chicken run – Street Pastors will check location and schedule if appropriate. All churches open for services and private prayer with social distancing in place.

**Food in the Community** - Food box numbers are steady – the Hub had made a decision to only do ambient food and ready meals (not fresh produce) and have transferred long term clients to FoodinCommunity. Approach to clients is different - have recruited a new liaison officer who stays in touch by phone to people receiving boxes, gathering more detail on why people need more support. FiC still waiting for the community pop up cafés to be approved by the venues that will be hosting them. Field gleaning going on, and a lot of support from Riverford but this will be the last week as the field kitchen reopens next week. Beyond Borders used the FiC packing centre to make up boxes for Refugees, and a healthy amount of fresh produce going to Totnes Caring. Good volunteers, some from social prescribing, about 80 on the books but about 40 active at the moment as cafes not yet open.

**SHDC Homelessness officers** – it's been pretty quiet and stable, but important to remember that this is just a moment in time and will probably get busier as summer warms up. It changes all the time. There is a wide range of users at the Connection Hub including families, people in need and homeless – anyone needing support. Small vans and living vehicles – there has been a lot of joint working with agencies to get people housed but it takes time to build up trust, for people to understand that you want things to be different for them, and can help.

It was agreed to keep meetings fortnightly.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Totnes Caring** – making plans to gradually and cautiously reopen group activities. First lunch club will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June with limited numbers and initially once a week, but if all goes well hope to build back up to five lunch clubs a week. Will keep running the hot lunch delivery service alongside the lunch club. The provisional date for reopening the weekly memory café is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Hoping to be able to run weekly art groups again as soon as possible, but not before late June. New Directions will restart in September (an activity club, usually held straight after the Wednesday lunch club, generally fairly frail people, including arts, crafts, singing and guests from organisations to talk). A lot of clients will need help with transport which will put pressure on transport services (a lot of medical appointments at the moment).

**Street Pastors** – next shift is on May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Seven Stars is open now, town will probably be busier later. Last shift young people were hanging around the fire escape at the Pavilions, none at the Galleon or at the chicken run but will keep an eye on them next time. The following shift in June is the same weekend as the world summit – there may be less police around. Street pastors are low on volunteers at the moment – some people are still cautious about being out and about or waiting for their second jobs.

**Food in the Community** –have been looking at how food banks are viewed, and if we can get to a point where food banks are not needed. The Independent Food Aid Network has carried out a lot of research and presented papers. A pilot project called Cash First is running in Scotland, people are not short of food but short of money to buy it. Programme looks at support on accessing benefits, addressing debt and budgeting. The aim is to destigmatise fear of debt and poverty and asking for help. Leaflets being rolled out in Cornwall too, explaining how and where to access support services. Totnes could learn from this – could we channel resources to support services? FiC can access resources through the Independent Food Aid Network. People can slide into a situation easily, need help to get out. FiC referrals aren't just about food poverty, a lot of the out of area referrals are supporting people with special dietary requirements – cancer patients, ethnic communities- fresh produce is more universal than store cupboard ingredients. The Food First style approach could run alongside a community restaurant or café, where everyone is welcomed each. FiC held the first of the Saturday café's at the United Free Church – used the screens for the first time which gave people confidence but found them distracting. Could have been busier – it will build up as open every Saturday through May and June. FiC has been 7 invited to the Town Matters Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> June to discuss food fairness.

**Foodbank** –the Connection Hub's preference is to keep running the foodbank from the Portacabin but to relocate to Steamer Quay as suggested by Cllr Birch at the Homelessness Partnership. Volunteers are very keen to stay involved, and would signpost people to other services. Fundraising bought the portacabin – it was a task to get it delivered – whoever takes it on will have to arrange for it to be moved too – it could be passed on or sold with money going to support work. Discussion on FiC taking on the foodbank - FiC deliver food rather than people collecting it – how feasible would it be for FiC to deliver to the households in need? The Hub hopes that another organisation will take on the food bank but will run it until they need to leave the building and although the Hub is closing, numbers are low, and food support referrals have already been moved to FiC from the Hub.

**Homelessness** – South Hams Homeless team are there to provide the homelessness support, they have secured another year possibly two of funding, and have additional funding in place to employ outreach support for drugs and alcohol working alongside the SHDC team. Currently one homeless person in the town and one begging.

It was agreed that the Partnership meeting should be held monthly unless the situation changes with new restrictions or rising numbers of cases.



TOTNES CARING WEEKLY NUMBERS

	C 08/03/1900	15/03/1900	22/03/2021	29/03/2021	05/04/2021	12/04/2021	19/04/2021	26/04/2021	03/05/2021
Approximately 476 clients and carers being supported each week currently	476	476	476	476	476	476	476	476	476
Active volunteers at this time.	152	150	150	150	152	155	155	154	155
Shops for clients	32	30	34	31	33	33	33	36	36
Hot lunch deliveries.	122	103	120	118	117	100	100	95	92
Prescription deliveries	5	9	6	4	1	2	3	6	2
Clients transported by volunteers to health appointments at surgeries, hospitals etc	18	24	9	13	18	19	23	27	18
Transport to COVID vaccinations	2	1	1	8	2	8	3	3	2
Clients transported to visit family members in care home or other social welfare trip	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Clients receiving visits from a Totnes Caring home help at least once a week.	85	85	86	85	85	85	85	88	88
Total home help hours in week	156	152	161	123	139	159	151	155	144
Home visits by home help coordinator to clients	0	1	1	2	2	3	2	0	0
Clients receiving one or more befriending phone call at least once each week (some are daily).	52	52	52	49	49	49	41	41	41
'Checking in' phone calls/emails from Totnes Caring staff to clients.	92	78	74	75	52	67	95	89	55
Clients assisted with hospital discharge by wellbeing staff, including lots of family liaison including:-	9	2	0	2	5	6	8	5	5
Interventions/ discussions	19	4	0	3	5	10	10	7	7
Zoom or Face to Face support session for a group of carers led by Totnes Caring's dementia services coordinator	3	1	3	1	3	1	1	0	0
Zoom singing/ concert for clients with dementia and their carers	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	0
Zoom concert and singing for other clients	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Calls and other communication (email, text etc) with particularly vulnerable clients & where relevant, their carers	36	32	29	28	30	25	30	35	32
Wellbeing home and hospital visits to vulnerable clients,	8	10	9	12	2	7	9	7	9
Arrangements to supply cash to a client	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Hearing aid batteries, wheelchairs etc and other medical equipment delivered/ supplied	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Clients assisted with Attendance Allowance and other benefits assessments, applications and reviews and other money matters	20	13	9	10	6	23	11	10	15
Clients assisted with blue badge applications	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1
Clients assisted with council tax relief	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clients and Carers assisted with Power of Attorney	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	0
No of clients helped with IT	1	2	2	2	2	4	1	1	0
Housing application completed for/ help given to client/carer	3	2	3	2	2	2	6	1	1
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	3	3	3	3
Clients receiving delivery of books	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Number of census forms completed for clients					NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
No. of festive treat hampers gifted to most vulnerable clients and delivered by volunteers	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Clients receiving delivery of home-made cakes					NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Volunteers helped at the Leatside Saturday flu clinic	0	20	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
Telephone data- calls received/ calls made	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Also lots of liaison with and referrals to and from, as appropriate, Leatside and Catherine House surgeries, local Hospitals, Social Services, Mental Health Services, Devon Carers, Citizens Advice, Totnes Food Bank and Food in Community and so on.	3,224/165	Not available	Not available	Not available	229/153	241/130	271/163	291/150	258/139



## ITEM 9 – KEEPING YOUNG TOTNES SAFE

### Caring Town Totnes -Keeping Young Totnes Safe Draft minutes of 2nd March 2021

#### Present:

██████████ Chair Caring Town Totnes, ██████████ Youth Projects  
Organiser for Caring Town Totnes and the TRAYE project, ██████████ Safeguarding  
Lead Totnes Progressive School, Claire Allford (CA) TTC, ██████████ KEVICC, Jacqi  
Hodgson ( JH) Totnes Town Council, Jo Sweett (JS) SHDC, ██████████ Youth Service  
Chair of Rotary, ██████████ Totnes Street Pastors, ██████████ Governor from  
Grove School, ██████████ NHS Leatside Health and Well-Being coach, Joseph  
Deal Rose (JDR) SHDC and Living Projects, ██████████ Daisy and Rainbow  
Nurseries, ██████████ Caring Town Totnes.

#### Apologies:

████████████████████████████████████████████████████████████████████████████████  
██████████

██████████ welcomed us all to the zoom call and briefly explained the purpose of the Keeping Young Totnes Safe group, ie: Networking, Problem Solving and Sharing Concerns that affect our young people especially in these Covid times.

#### Updates.

██████████ explained to us that **KEVICC** are currently busy with creating a plan that will bring all students safely back into school after March 8. This plan is complex as it involves testing, social distancing and mask wearing. Only 3 sets of parents are questioning mask wearing out of over a 1000 sets whose students attend KEVICC. Very encouraging! ██████████ went on to speak about the fire on the Elmhirst site. It has been confirmed as arson. Unfortunately, it has proved very difficult to ID the culprits so no further action will be taken at this time. The fire has caused, amongst other things, a lack of changing facilities for Sports activities. Students will have to come into school in PE kit on the days they have PE. ██████████ and ██████████ are working together on the Natural Helper scheme for students, by students. ( more about this later). Food parcels are still being distributed to families in need. 15% of the school population has been in during this third lockdown. That is much higher than the national average of 5%. ██████████ particularly praised the teaching and support staff for their work during these challenging times . She also confirmed that laptops are getting through to many students who need them, both from the govt scheme and from the Rotary Club.

██████████ There are concerns at **TOPS** about the roll-out of pupil testing as well as mask wearing. ██████████ has also been into TOPS to discuss the Natural Helper scheme for their students too. Laptops have also been received by the school from the Rotary scheme. There is to be a staggered start back to school beginning on Monday 8th March for all Pupils nationally. It is expected that all year groups will be back in full- time by Thursday 11th.

█████ Has set up the **Natural Helper Scheme** for students, amongst his other work. He is making good progress with getting the scheme established in both KEVICC and TOPS. There is to be a big fund raising effort shortly for this scheme and for an enterprise that a young couple are starting-up on a farm, to support those with suicidal thoughts and their families. (15% of a Banksy to be sold at Christie's will go to these two projects.) Plymouth University are involved in the Natural Helper scheme. █████ is keen to get government grants to support his work in schools. The idea of the Natural Helper scheme is to make helping and supporting one another a Natural part of any day, for any student, at any time. That crisis management should not be our first awareness of a problem. There needs to be an open dialogue about how we are feeling and thus how we can support one another on a daily basis.

As part of his work as a **Social Prescriber for the NHS** █████ sees the need daily for people to have support in the community and not just in health care settings. 122 people committed suicide in hospital, and 1200+ died in the community.

It is clear where the need lies. The Natural Helper programme aims to support students to support each other. Empowering young people to help themselves and others. There is a huge element of training required along with support and supervision, hence the need for funds. █████ works with a PCN and is due to add 3 more areas in the locality. More volunteer organisations are being brought in to add to the NHS offer. █████ explained how the Finnish Model of mental health support worked within the community.

JH - Asked if █████ was keen to work with young people outside school who were suffering with stress and anxiety. He explained that he was indeed keen to do so and to that end was hoping to acquire a lease on a shop/ cafe in Totnes that could be a base for such a project. Jacqui explained how TRAYE in Buckfastleigh had set up The Waffle Shop as a youth cafe in the town to act in the same way. It has however, been virtual for most of its existence but is looking forward to being actual, as soon as COVID restrictions allow. █████ will contact Jacqui so that they may discuss this further.

JS - had a question for █████ around supporting young people in general. Her point concerns the young people who have actually found this time liberating and are not looking forward to returning to the classroom. █████ replied that many young people are very keen to return to school and many aren't. We need to empower each group to help and support each other in whichever setting they find themselves be it home learning, or school learning. Jo asked if there are any plans to allow a "mixed- economy" of home and school based learning at Kevicc.

█████ explained that there are no such plans are on the agenda. The government are concerned with Attendance figures and data and getting young people into school. There would be huge safeguarding issues with such a hybrid approach to learning. It is a political decision and schools have no power on this.

Whilst it is true that some have enjoyed the home learning many more have not. **The Domestic Violence figures** show a huge rise from March 2020 to March 2021. A rise of 11 reports coming through 121A forms in the previous year to 40 in the year just past which is very concerning.

JDR - introduced himself as a director of the Living Project at Dartington. This is a project that engages people with agriculture to support well-being and mental health. Perhaps it could now link with [REDACTED] having already established links with TRAYE?

[REDACTED] reminded the group that the **Rotary can provide laptops** for these groups too.

[REDACTED] explained how both **Daisy and Rainbow Nurseries** have seen huge challenges with staffing during the last year. They have always been open, always been able to offer childcare and education for the youngest children. She is justifiably proud of that achievement. All the children are in Bubbles. This may ease as COVID restrictions ease but for now, they will remain in place. [REDACTED] is hoping the staff will have access to Lateral Flow Tests shortly to ensure all remain safe especially after the schools open to all pupils on 8th March. With funding that Caring Town has secured, both nurseries have new equipment to help those young children who suffer with anxiety. Jacqui then asked about **Free School Meal provision** in the two settings. She has been contacted by parents who are in receipt and those who are not eligible. There appears to be a very uneven distribution. [REDACTED] explained that families who attend Early Years settings do not get FSM vouchers. **The only way for these families to get support is through local schemes such as the Connection Hub. There is no access through national schemes. JH will raise this at County Council level.**

[REDACTED] (not present but sent in data) told of 65 food parcels going out and the need increasing in this area.

[REDACTED] Gave us a **TRAYE update**. The AGM was held on- line and they are still working within the villages. There are approx **454 young people ranging from 8-19 years, engaging with TRAYE projects** currently. They have all been busy during the pandemic however the support groups at Buckfastleigh and Dartington have been the most active. It is clear that there are many hidden problems in our communities due to their isolated, rural nature. **The Young Person's Forum has kept meeting** and are now represented on the steering group be part of policy making. There has also been a well-attended tree planting session at Dartington. The survey carried out by TRAYE hopes to open opportunities for young people based on the needs they expressed. A Lottery bid has also been made to access funds to carry these plans forward. £50,000 has been requested. The bid is through to the second round.

[REDACTED] Gave a report from **the Grove school** stating that approx 40% of pupils have been attending in person during this last Lockdown. The biggest problems that children appear to be facing have revolved around the lack of social interaction; missing their friends and a nervousness expressed on returning to school next week. The plan that the Grove hope to enact for the pupils' return will involve practical learning, circle-times focussing friendship themes and actually doing things together. English and Maths will take a backseat for a while.

[REDACTED] Told us of a meeting that the Street Pastors are holding on 23rd March in which they will review when it is safe for them to return to the streets. They are hoping that will occur in April, but it does depend on how the Lockdown restrictions are lifted and in which

direction the infection rates travelling. ■■■ has expressed her concern that **once again young people are dealing drugs / being preyed on by dealers , in Bridgetown.** This is sad as so much work was undertaken by people to clear this out of that area. She is hoping to take this up with the Police.

■■■ updated us on the current Caring Town lottery. This bid is also into the second round. **£179, 000 has been requested to support young people struggling with isolation and mental issues.** It includes the appointment of a Youth Strategy Co-ordinator. This work would involve not only liaison but ensure unnecessary duplication and that gaps in provision are filled. Lesley Nel is leading the bid process.

■■■ expressed the opinion, echoed by many in the meeting, that we are investing in young people and their needs: **maybe a gap that needs addressing is family work.** That perhaps a way could be found to extend and cement the work we do with individuals and groups by engaging more with families. Parents need a way to access good quality support. Many young people struggle because of the dysfunctional nature of the family circumstances in which they find themselves. **Parents struggling with their own mental health issues may struggle to support their children That is the cycle that we need to break. There is currently little support for parents on parenting.**

JH - further reiterated her support for this working with the whole family approach. There is to be a new report coming out from DCC in March which, she feels, will add weight to this idea.

■■■ offered to help with further progressing any of these bids , drawing on his past experience of successful bids and grant applications.

■■■ was very positive about all the projects and ideas she sees and hears about concerning support for young people. **She reiterated the Town Council's support for as many projects as they can.**

JS - Had a very **welcome update on the Skate Park which is now making real progress!** Planning Applications have been submitted. Many of the comments that have come in are from younger people and their parents and concern how they would use the re- vamped Skate Park. This is good news as it wrests this area back into positive use and away from the dealers and pushers who regarded it as their territory. Lockdown has helped break this down and repurpose this area in a positive way. The tree-felling aspect of the plans has been contentious. However, new trees will be planted to replace, and even increase the numbers of those lost. It is important that these "screening" trees are removed to open the area and create better views all round. The police are happy with the plans submitted. The rugby club have put up CCTV to monitor the area and deter vandalism. This may be something the Skate Park will emulate. Other ideas are welcome to take this area further forward and open it to even more young people.

CW - **drew the meeting to a close and thanked everyone for their contributions.** The date of the next meeting will be 4th May 2021 at 11:00. CW will forward a meeting link closer to this date.

## Caring Town Totnes

### Keeping Young Totnes Safe Forum, Zoom meeting May 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

Apologies: Cllr John Birch, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (Dartington primary), [REDACTED] (St John's primary).

Present: [REDACTED] (Caring Town), [REDACTED] (rotary), [REDACTED] (Youth Mental health Foundation), [REDACTED] (NHS), [REDACTED] (Street Pastors), [REDACTED] (Street Pastors), [REDACTED] (TRAYE), [REDACTED] (DCC Rushbrook), Cllr Claire Allford (Totnes Town Council), Lesley Nel (Totnes Town Council), [REDACTED] (KEVICCS)

[REDACTED] – Street Pastors did a shift on April 16<sup>th</sup>, met up with several groups of teens, handed out Stay Safe cards, well received. There didn't seem to be any trouble on the streets.

[REDACTED] – Another shift on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, there were a lot of young people on the fire escape at the Pavilions. The skate park is being used a lot now, hasn't been busy for a long time. Checked the chicken run as this had been raised as a hotspot for drink and drugs but very quiet. Street Pastors crossed the bridge to Steamer Quay around 10.30pm and the Waterside was very busy – on the way back it was deserted, people are not hanging around. Had a conversation with Sgt [REDACTED] who said there had been a lot of alcohol on the streets but didn't see any street drinking. Street pastors are really underlining reassurance to young people to call for help if they need it – no stigma about asking for help in any circumstances

[REDACTED] TRAYE are now meeting up with people outdoors and indoors face to face which has been welcomed. TRAYE has been applying for grants – submitted to Big Lottery and to Postcode Lottery. Young people are really wanting to get together now. Have arranged some activities – recent permaculture event.

[REDACTED] – have opened up street based and open access youth clubs. [REDACTED] now has a new role covering Exeter, Newton Abbot and Totnes, will ask colleague [REDACTED] to attend these meetings. Young people are excited to be starting back, new people have come in too – yr 6 and 7 now attending. It's been very busy with targeted 1:1s, can't take on any more. 1:1 referrals come from schools, social worker/professionals, parents and self-referrals. Working with young people to set goals and solution focussed goals, some signposting and sometimes referrals to other agencies. Might work with someone for 2-3 months. Service is open to South Hams residents including other towns. Generally work with 6-7 young people at any one time.

[REDACTED] positivity is in the air – getting together safely is very important. Going to the Reb Space Bar, using libraries and village halls with covid risk assessments in place. Struggling to find one place for the Youth can make a Difference Forum to be 'our' venue. Claire – could Bridgetown Community hall be any good? [REDACTED] – most of the young people are from KEVICCS, feels a closer venue would be better – will lose people if it's too far. [REDACTED] – There is space at Rushbrook if days are compatible – [REDACTED] Wednesdays 2-5? Action – [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to talk this through.

[REDACTED] Rotary have a couple of fundraising events coming up – a classic car show and the annual raft race should both be running this year. Rotary are looking for a project or

organisation to be the main focus of support for monies raised – does TRAYE have anything to put forward? **Action – [REDACTED] to put forward idea.** Also looking at things affected by Covid – and have an element of small amounts available for urgent requests now – please send ideas over to [REDACTED], Rotary have just given 5 laptops to Totnes Caring.

**Lesley** - Town Council Community Grants now open but deadline May 12<sup>th</sup> and Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. Application forms here [Community Grants - Totnes Town Council](#)

[REDACTED] Natural helpers programme taking off – recently received 15% of the sale of a Banksy print from a bereaved family – programme will support young people and parents. He has spoken to Plymouth social care who have a multi community approach to respond to the needs of parents – could do this at KEVICCS. He is looking for more funding to work with other schools.

Working on a new programme 'I Will' supporting kids bereaved by suicide or Covid. He has secured £10k for this year and next.

[REDACTED] has reduced his hours but is still working on the NHS Practice Hope programme which, is training GPs to recognise potential suicides and to move away from prescribing anti-depressants.

[REDACTED] read out message from [REDACTED] who joined the meeting later strongly supporting the need for family therapy, a safe and neutral space with flexible times, perhaps available after work hours, to access family counselling and support. Recognise that trauma can be generational. General support for families has become urgent, there are huge gaps in provision, and long waiting lists – capacity issues.

[REDACTED] – New government funding has just been announced - £79m for mental health in schools – does anyone know anything about it?

[£79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[REDACTED] – The Youth Mental Health Foundation is going into schools now – [REDACTED] delivers an assembly presentation to destigmatise mental health, promoting resilience. They have received some funding from District and Devon Councillors - focussing on schools in those wards. They will be delivering at 35 schools next term. He has continued with the development of online courses for parents of young people who self-harm. There is a big gap in support for parents; parents can do a huge amount. Now seeking funding to complete 4 modules – module 1 is up and running. [Youth Mental Health Foundation](#)

[REDACTED] The Grove is having an Ofsted drop-in to talk about sexual abuse issues, this might also come into parental support needs, or what support the schools can access if any disclosure arises.

[REDACTED] haven't heard of the £79m yet. Govt £ in previous years it was used to train staff to recognise signs of mental health and suicide, but school is up to date with training. KEVICCS is creeping back to normality – reducing the strict bubbling zones and getting kids back into specialist classrooms. Twice weekly testing for students is ongoing, so far no positive cases of Covid. Clubs are back on now, and geography field trips planned. Collaboration with



Sharpham for mindfulness. Some vulnerable kids have been on the WildChild programme - all the students seem to be relaxing into normality now. Working with [REDACTED] – the whole school is involved in rolling out Natural helpers – hope to have 60-70 trained helpers at the end of this programme. Skate Park – the police have had a few problems with large groups – in school kids have bubbles of up to 150 and outside its 6, and feels unfair. Have been working with police and kids on a friendly message to keep everyone safe.

[REDACTED] Caring Town working on stage 2 bid to Reaching Communities – inadequate facilities will be built into a strategy, and Totnes will need a large capital grant to deliver at some point. Connecting youth and mental health is important but it's become very clear that looking holistically at the mental health of young people and their families is a priority, as is capacity to support, and a space to allow meetings.

**Next KYTS meeting will be on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am.**

#### ITEM 10 – HOMELESSNESS AND VULNERABLE UPDATE

##### **Totnes Homelessness Partnership April 21<sup>st</sup> by Zoom**

Apologies: Cllr John Birch

Present: [REDACTED] (Caring Town), Cllr Jacqi Hodgson, Cllr Emily Price, Cllr Claire Allford, [REDACTED] (Resilient Lives), [REDACTED] (Street Pastors), [REDACTED] (Street Pastors), [REDACTED] (SASHA), [REDACTED] (Market Place Ministries (MPM) and Connection Hub), [REDACTED] (Connection Hub), [REDACTED] (SHDC), [REDACTED] (SHDC).

[REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] to open discussion on the Connection Hub plans previously circulated. [REDACTED] have been looking at a road map of what will happen – will be leaving the building by the end of September (if no other organisation picks up the project); will close as a service by the end of July. MPM are in discussions with an organisation to pick up the whole project, but also open to an organisation picking up some of the services, or just the foodbank. Services as outlined in the brief circulated. Discussions so far have been a conversation with [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] only started to talk on Friday so the concept of taking over is very recent. Currently talking to his other Directors to see what it could look like, might only be possible if expands the services. The big question is – is there a need for it? And if so, can it be sustainable? In Bristol similar projects worked as there were 200 people living on the streets to engage. As a social enterprise it should be looking at generating income and not sure that it can.

[REDACTED] open discussion – where and what is the need? What are the gaps in current services to be filled?

[REDACTED] asked clarification on the services running from the Hub now, what is the provision and the needs of the Town?

the only people using the clothes bank were the usual 4 rough sleepers; Morrisons have been generous in helping SASHA children. The same 3 people regularly use the shower facilities.

How many use the drop in service? 4 or 5. **Foodbank** – one or two people have been using the service for over a year, number of households using it weekly has dropped, this week about 8. The starter packs (to help rehousing) have been useful, 4 homes have been equipped, and the Hub coordinates donations of larger items eg beds. There are about 12 regular volunteers on a weekly basis at the Hub.

Claire asked what about SASHA?

SASHA will be staying under the MPM umbrella, and offered facilities at the Wellness Hub next door. clarified that SASHA want to stay under the MPM umbrella, they're covered by insurance etc. Could be based in a different venue – the Mansion or elsewhere but like the idea of being in the Wellness Centre.

would like to thank all involved in the Connection Hub, and show gratitude for the services in the past, we must remember all the people who have been helped and whose lives have been made better. – remembers the feedback when changes to services were announced a few years ago, and how many positives came out of those changes. Hopes that this too will lead to more positives.

- South Hams are very committed to work and will be maintaining that work flow, trying to wean people off the streets. It's a dynamic and involved situation – welcomes a chat with if it helps his decision-making on a take-over. **Action**, and to have a conversation about numbers and services. -the scale of overheads and how things can be run differently is key to this. Ideally paid staff rather than all volunteers.

Working in partnership is what has been so effective – joint working, especially with the police – people get the support they need. Currently there is one known rough sleeper, and a new possible 1, and another in Ivybridge. People don't seem to move on quickly – small steps lead to bigger steps, we need to celebrate each step. Sometimes it is a step back before moving forward. It has been important in Covid to meet people in a safe space – the Hub allowed that, but perhaps the wider community can now do that too? – will need a safe space – South Hams are very committed to her work, we will need to find somewhere.

Jacqi – What about the other services at the Hub? The town's Covid Partnership really brought organisations together – and CAB have been offering a service at the Hub. Which other venues can offer space for these? Particularly if the main project needs paid staff. With potential numbers of evictions looming, wonders if any government funding will cover support costs? Concerned at services moving to the Wellness Centre – this has a membership fee, and therapists' fees. How will this work?

– Can't commit to offering the mansion (now on the board of trustees) but is working on getting people back into the building. It needs to move away from the previous open door

policy – drop ins won't work there. People who come in for support often have chaotic lives and need paid and experienced staff to work with them. It's most important that services come with funding with structured support. With a CAB hat on – the video booth at the Connection Hub has had a very low uptake, CAB will be having a presence in the Mansion as it reopens.

■ - we don't have projections on potential future numbers of homeless or street sleepers, but it's very rare for evictions to lead to actual homelessness. Early interventions in place and working with people as they receive notice and we are generally able to accommodate in temporary accommodation. Worth noting that some of the South Hams officers have caseloads of 20-40 people but ■ has 10 as they're much harder more complex cases.

■ - Is there any funding that ■ could go for, or South Hams?

■ – no but can talk to the assets team on property. 4 years ago, MPM did talk to them about setting up a night shelter but this didn't happen. Will chat to ■ on ideas. South Hams are not in a position to run services. ■ has been given permission to discuss and support the issue.

Lesley will send ■ a list of grants that might help.

Claire asked ■ – Are meetings with clients adhoc? ■ - yes, it depends how engaged people are, and what their needs are. It can be setting up on home choice, or a number of conversations. Being in a safe space builds trust through conversation and offers a quiet space if they're distressed. Having access to multi-faceted services works well, and face to face has been important too. Claire wondered if the Bridgetown Community Hall could help as a safe space? ■ felt not – The Hub works well as there are other people around – a safe space is two-way – needs to be safe for her too.

■ in reply to Jacqi- the Wellness Hub is a business; it has to make money. During Covid it did receive a grant for therapeutic therapies – people in need could be referred there. But any referral has to contribute too. Jacqi – A Town Council grant was given to the Wellness Centre for flooring – was this for the business? ■ – this was used for the café and toddler area. ■ – suggested this issue is followed up out of the meeting as time is limited.

■ – general update – have had a good response with getting people into accommodation. Long term homeless is harder -the Housing First model is a challenge but slowly getting people ready for next steps. It has been hard to move people away from Totnes, there is not enough 1 bedroomed accom in town. The street scene is different in Totnes at the moment – no large groups of people on Vire Island for instance, Summer or warmer weather might change it. Supporting people who have moved on, helping people to make links in the new areas they have moved to, even simple things like changing where they go for prescriptions.

■ - we're always on the lookout for affordable accommodation. South Hams runs SeaMoor Lettings and works with private landlords – if anyone knows of landlord or

accommodation, please pass it on, we always need more. We want to get people into long term accommodation rather than temporary, and that usually means out of town. Also working with travellers and van dwellers – some people want to maintain their alternative way of living, recently engaged people in Follaton, but there are no toilet or shower facilities there – they may want a site with facilities. SHDC had a Forum for travellers, will get it running again now covid restrictions are easing.

■■■■ Street Pastors shift last Friday – pubs were very busy in early evening but quieter later people don't seem to be staying out late. ■■■■ Street Pastors have another shift this Friday, the 'chicken run' in Bridgetown has been raised as a concern, will include it in a walk about. Have engaged young people in a chat, and reassured them they can call for help whatever situation they're in.

■■■■ - St Mary's Church is open if you need space to pop into -there is CCTV and people are in and out, could have a quiet space and be safe.

■■■■ – sincere thanks to ■■■■ and ■■■■ – it has been an amazing journey for everyone involved in the Connection hub. There used to be 11 people begging on the streets of Totnes but now it has significantly reduced. Thanks to the TCH along with ■■■■ and ■■■■ it has been a big effort, but it has paid off. ■■■■ we will be making public whatever comes next. In a lot of peoples' minds the loss will be greater than it actually is. A lot of support and coaching still by appointment – need the buy in from clients. ■■■■ – can you involve some of the people who use the services in decisions and plans? ■■■■ – yes, that could be part of discussions with ■■■■ ■■■■ - Please involve ■■■■ in any conversations as she has much to contribute.

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday May 12th**

#### ITEM 11 – FAIRTRADE

##### Totnes Supporting Fairtrade

##### Minutes of Zoom Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Present:** Chairman: ■■■■ Cllr Colin Luker,

■■■■  
Apologies Cllr Jacqi Hodgson

##### **Matters Arising**

■■■■ will put in a request for money to support promoting fairtrade to Paige Adams fund in September. (May 12<sup>th</sup> deadline was missed.) He will emphasise the educational aims of the group and how local school children benefit from the conference held annually.

##### **Parish Councils support for fairtrade**

Staverton Parish Council supports fair trade. ■■■■ said that short regular reports of our fairtrade activities and/or issues would be appreciated to keep fair trade in the forefront of people's minds.

■ will be considering ways our aims link with those of "Sustainable Staverton."

**Action** Ways to regularly inform parish councils to be discussed at our next meeting. If villages would like "fairtrade village" signs they need to apply to Devon County Council for them.

### **Treasurers Report**

£752.28 in balance.

■ was sent a cheque for £150. He sent a very nice thank you letter.

■ proposed and ■ seconded that £250 to be sent via UNICEF for vaccines in developing countries. All approved.

### **Schools**

■ will find out if any schools have been, or will be, using fairtrade resources.

■ informed Rainbow Nursery about the resources for preschool children – Earth cubs.

### **Devon Fairtrade Group**

■ informed us that the group covers the whole South West, not just Devon. Next meeting is 10 a.m. on Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **World fairtrade day**

This day is always on the second Saturday in May.

Some of us attended the coffee morning organised on zoom by DDE on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The slogan this year was "Build Back Fairer." We were asked to take photographs of someone holding the poster with this message on it outside local fairtrade businesses and post them on social media sites and send to DDE.

■ posted them on Totnes Post.

### **Ugandan coffee farmers**

A lady called ■ in Sidmouth group is promoting a direct link between a cooperative of some Uganda coffee growers and coffee roasters. ■ is keen we encourage local "roasters" to consider doing this. We need to find out about local roasters and give them information.

### **■ fairtrade stall**

■ told ■ she would like to have a fairtrade stall on Tuesday market days, and asked advice. ■ to suggest she contacts ■, who used to be a Traidcraft distributor.

■ would have to first buy the products to sell. We thought she should not sell fairtrade products that Greenlife already sell, such as tea and coffee.

### **Big Green Week**

18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September

We will have a coffee morning at the Methodist Church. on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> from 10-12. We will serve tea, coffee and cakes for donations. Information table, bunting, pop up banner. Display our usual photos and literature and any other information we can gather about coffee growers and the Ugandan cooperative.

**Action for all** is to contact fairtrade coffee suppliers to ask for information and free samples.  
[REDACTED] will contact Clipper.

**Visits to shops and cafes**

Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**AOB**

[REDACTED] to send [REDACTED] the list of activities the group has done throughout the year.

[REDACTED] asked if our aim is to make money for fairtrade.

Our primary aim is to promote awareness of fairtrade in the town and encourage supply and purchase of fairtrade products, but we do need some money to cover costs such as the school conference, insurance, banners and publicity.

We have gratefully benefitted in the past from donations from local councillors.

[REDACTED] will research possible sources of grants.

There is a lady called Lesley Nell at the Town Council available to help local organisations raise money.

**Zoom meetings** [REDACTED] recommended continuation of zoom meetings for environmental reasons. They save travelling. To be discussed at our next meeting!

**Date of next meeting: 5.30 p.m. Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May by zoom**

**Colin to set this up please.**

CAS 13.5.21