

Totnes and District Traffic & Transport Forum

27 April 2022

18:30 - 20:00

Present:

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson - Acting chair
Sarah Collinson - Inclusive Totnes
Graham Bennett - Totnes Ramblers
Cllr Jo Sweett - and Vice Chair of Chamber of Commerce
Cllr John Cummings
Steve Grove - Chair of Trustees, Bob the Bus

Lyn Price - Bob the Bus coordinator
Vivienne Carnt - Kingsbridge Hill campaign
Maggie Cornhill - Chamber of Commerce
Natasha Buck - Kingsbridge Hill campaign
Pruw - Heritage champion
Maiken Hutchings - Green Travel Coordinator (notes)

Overview of recommendations and actions at end of document.

Notes

1. Welcome & Who is here

- Meeting started late (18:40) as Jacqi was struggling to log in
- Sarah Collinson kindly stepped in to start the meeting
- Jacqi joined a few minutes later

2. Fore St traffic calming proposal update

Update (MH)

- TTC ran a public consultation on behalf of Devon County Council. The suggested traffic calming measures for Fore Street were designed by DCC in response to calls to make the road safer and to reduce the amount of traffic using the road.
- The public consultation ran from 18 January until 31 March, having been extended on the recommendation of the Steering Group to ensure a better response rate.
- The consultation consisted of an online and hard-copy survey, as well as an in-person drop-in event in February.
- Results are currently being analysed and put together in a report.
- A total of 767 responses were given to the online/hard copy survey – approximate 40 people attended the in-person event.
- 50/50 in terms of people supporting or not supporting. Clearly a complex issue.
- Timings:

- a. Preliminary report to Planning Committee 23 May 2022
- b. Steering Group 25 May 2022
- c. Full Council 6 June 2022

Other comments

1. Proposal not designed in collaboration with TTC
2. Need for a proper strategy for the town
3. A stakeholder meeting will be scheduled to have a conversation and figure out priorities
 - o Need to ensure there are DCC officers present as otherwise we will just keep going round and round in circles
4. **ACTION** - suggestion made to get DCC to tell us some dates that their officers can attend such a meeting
5. **ACTION** - suggestion that a press release should be sent out to people in Totnes regarding this meeting to keep people updated on what is going on
 - o **ACTION** - suggestion to send out a notice to the Forum members as well

3. Bob the Bus update (LP/SG)

- BtB in a state of uncertainty as Government grants during Covid are being phased out
- Probably up to $\frac{2}{3}$ of passenger numbers before Covid.
- Need for a base / hub
 - o 4 buses in 2 different locations
 - o Current conversation with GWR for the old Alchemy Cars site at Totnes Station - early stages – any help there would be much appreciated
 - o A location within the Atmos area would be ideal.
- Still have strong volunteer base - nearly 40 volunteer drivers
 - o D1 category drivers, 1997 cut off, cause of future issue looming
 - o In 5-6 years BtB will start running out of volunteers able to drive minibuses
- Discussion in the group regarding how to overcome this issue in the future
 - o Applying for grants that will cover training costs
 - o Potential for funding that aims to support employment initiatives, e.g., providing skills and experience for people out of work who would like to work for Stagecoach
 - o Could Stagecoach be approached to offer support? Charitable giving.

- Historically relations between commercial and charitable transport organisations hasn't been good
- Could MP Mangnall tap into some source of funding? Levelling Up agenda perfect for this.
- Lack of a hub is a major limiting factor to everything, including sourcing funding.

4. Discussion of 'proposed transport schemes' in the Transport Policy and Strategy: require updating (JH / MH)

- Plymouth Rd
 - Largely been forgotten
 - Speed camera disabled - due to number of cars parked in front of it
- E-bikes: GTC pursuing e-bike trial with Co Bikes
- Totnes Forecourt to Borough Park: skate park will be moving away at some point, this will be an opportunity to make a nicer entrance
- Electric charge points: SHDC leading on this as TTC has very limited land. TTC can support residents and businesses to apply for funding
- Chicken run: now wheelchair accessible - this scheme can listed as completed
- Underpass still to pursue
 - Was put on hold as they were going to put up new signal boxes
 - **ACTION:** Follow up with rail company (David Norrie)
- Western Bypass - Cistern Street
 - Need for a refuge point at bottom of Harpers Hill – this is one of the walking routes out of town
- Western Bypass - Plymouth Rd
 - Refused by DCC in summer 2021
- Painted cycle lane line by Coronation Rd at Seven Stars Hotel
 - Still there but likely won't be taken out until road needs resurfacing

General discussion re pedestrian safety at the Plains roundabout

- A lot of clutter and street furniture
- Could be made a lot safer for pedestrians, issues with people tripping over curb as they cross at the "wrong" point
- Needs rethinking - a main crossing point into town for those coming from Bridgetown
- Need expert in pedestrian safety to come and have a look

Discussion re lift at Totnes Station

- Locked in the evening and no one there to open. Significant accessibility issue.
- **ACTION:** find out what is going on (SC may have email address for relevant person)

Other items to add to proposed schemes:

- Zebra crossing at the Lamb (already has Town Council support)
- Bob the Bus hub

5. ‘Pedestrian priority’ signs in the High Street and the Narrows (SC)

- Type of signs that they have in Salcombe would be ideal for Totnes (see image)
- At the start of the High St and in other strategic locations going up
- **Motion** to endorse this as a proposal to Planning Committee
 - Motion passed unopposed
 - Needs to go hand in hand with the wayfinding project and a general audit/consideration of signage in town



6. Kingsbridge Hill residents’ proposal (SC, VC, NB)

Update on progress

- Long standing issue with Kingsbridge Hill – popular and dangerous place to walk
- Also dangerous for drivers – people think it’s a one-way road but it’s not, accelerate up the hill and around the corner
- Tash and Vivienne - in process of forming a Kingsbridge Hill Residents Association (11th May)
 - Extensive survey undertaken with residents
 - Various suggestions considered
 1. Bollards going up and down: too costly and would take too long
 2. Make it a one-way road down the hill: creates access problems

3. Alternative option → having a no-entry sign near the top: allows access for residents but turn the top section into one-way coming down
 - Is this a workable idea?
 - How would it impact other areas?

General discussion of proposal #3

- A proper public consultation would be needed
- Suggestion to email to the Allotment Association to ask how they would feel about it
- Would the Forum endorse the proposal provisionally, if also supported by the Residents' Association (once formed)?
- **Motion** to take this forward to the next stage of the process
 - Motion passed unopposed

20:10 End of meeting

Date of next Steering Group meeting: 25 May 2022

Date of next Forum meeting: 27 July 2022

Recommendations

1. Install 'pedestrian priority' signs up the High St and Narrows
 - a. Similar to signs in Salcombe (see point 5)
 - b. To be considered in conjunction with the wayfinding project and Fore St public consultation results to ensure a cohesive signage strategy is implemented
2. Organise independently facilitated town stakeholder meeting to discuss traffic priorities
 - a. To be organised for after Fore St consultation report finalised
3. Support that Kingsbridge Hill Residents Association (when formed) pursue turning part of the hill into a one-way system (see point 6)
 - a. This might solve a long-standing issue of danger to both drivers and pedestrians

Actions

1. GTC: Ask DCC to give us some dates that their officers can attend a stakeholder meeting (once this meeting has been properly considered/planned)

- a. GTC/TTC: Press release to be sent out to people in Totnes regarding this meeting to keep people updated on what is going on
 - b. GTC: Send out a notice to the Forum members as well
- 2. GTC: Follow up with rail company re underpass / status of signal boxes
- 3. GTC: Find out what is going on with the lift at Totnes Station
- 4. GTC: Add to transport schemes: Bob the Bus hub; Kingsbridge Hill proposal; zebra crossing at the Lamb