

Totnes & District Traffic and Transport Forum

26 October 2022

18:30 – 20:00

Via Zoom

Present:

John Scanlan – Chair

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson

Richard O’Connell – Totnes Trust

Maggie Cornhill – Chamber of Commerce

Vivienne Carnt – Kingsbridge Hill Area Residents Association (KHARA)

Luisa Auletta – Moorashes representative

Notes written up by Sustainability Officer (SO) from Zoom recording.

Actions:

1. Cllr Hodgson to confirm with W&W that they will not be diverting traffic onto smaller roads
2. SO to follow up locations to put in bike racks currently available from DCC
3. SO to check on update from Town Clerk on signage
4. SO to amend previous Forum meeting notes

Recommendations:

No recommendations to Planning Committee made

1. Welcome and who is here

2. Notes from previous Forum meeting

- a. Luisa would like there to be added a note about the reason why she attended the previous Forum meeting which is to highlight concerns that any traffic proposals for the High St will displace traffic onto other areas of town. Proposals need to deal with things holistically.
- b. ACTION: SO to amend the notes accordingly

3. Update from SO on projects (presented by Chair from notes provided by SO prior to meeting)

- a. **Bike parking map**

- i. Filter has been added for missing bike parking
 1. The map can be found here:
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?ll=50.43218210584534%2C-3.6837905546378202&z=15&mid=1VuzGhPRdhCOI2RAUbjDt77zx6DYjWE>
 2. *(Please email greentravel@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk with suggestions for new locations)*
 - ii. It was noted that only Totnes centre is currently covered. There is bike parking in Follaton, Dartington, etc. that needs adding
 1. *Note from SO after meeting: only Totnes centre has been covered so far, please email in with knowledge of other locations, ideally with two images of the bike parking.*
- b. Land registry maps for Morrisons stretch**
- i. Have been located
 - ii. Show that Morrisons own most of relevant land to discussions (see item 5)
- c. Bike racks**
- i. The Plains and Market Square
 1. Plains rack to be moved elsewhere, location TBC
 2. Market Square rack under stairs to be moved slightly to allow all hoops to be accessible
 3. Waiting to hear back from DCC and SHDC on both of these as they are owned by them
 - ii. Market square refurb
 1. Plans currently uncertain but they are aware of need for bike parking

4. January-March gas works on High Street

- a. Question asked re: who is in charge of road diversion signage during gas works – Wales and West (W&W) are responsible
- b. Cllr Hodgson read aloud a letter she had received from W&W with further information & highlighted the drop-in session W&W were planning on 11th November 2022 (see Appendix A)
 - i. Letter can be found appended to these notes
- c. Request by residents representatives that diversions will only be onto roads of a similar status and not onto smaller roads. Worried that plans will be fully set before the drop-in session. Both expressed willingness to discuss directly with W&W if needed.
 - i. Request that Residents Associations can be involved in the discussions around diversions

- d. Devon Highways are the ones advising W&W
- e. Any info that TTC has will be shared onto the council Facebook page
- f. **ACTION:** Cllr Hodgson to confirm with W&W that they will not be diverting traffic onto smaller roads

5. Proposal by Totnes Trust regarding leat next to Morrisons

- a. Richard O'Connell presented on behalf of Richard Mitchell, also of Totnes Trust
 - i. Proposal to open up the lane that runs along the leat by Morrisons and Colebrook Cottages which is currently dark and rat-infested. Remove overgrown vegetation and railings to open it up and make it a more pleasant area
 - ii. Has the support of the Leatside Surgery and 3 out of 4 of the cottages. Owner of the 4th cottage lives abroad somewhere.
 - iii. Only worry is about cottages having views of Morrisons loading bays – strategically planted trees/bushes should resolve this issue
- b. Forum voiced general support for the proposal
- c. Cllr Hodgson highlighted that they would need to get an ecology report done before trying to take it any further
- d. It was noted that the area gets used for drinking/anti-social behaviour and doesn't feel safe. This proposal would likely improve this.
- e. Richard to report back to Totnes Trust that TTF favourable towards the suggestion and that an ecology survey needs to be done before any more action taken.

6. Public bike maintenance stand

- a. Money from last year's budget was allocated for a public maintenance stand but uncertainty around location. Should we go ahead with it (if a suitable location can be found) or would the money be better used by going directly to e.g., the Bike Hub?
- b. It was agreed that it should still be pursued but to engage in proper discussions with the Bike Hub and the Mansion about locations.
- c. The Plains was suggested as a good location as a lot of cyclists already congregate there

7. AOB

- a. **Cllr Hodgson highlighted that Devon County Council currently have 10 lots of bike racks available for free**
 - i. Discussion about where in town could use bike racks
 - ii. Suggestions: Allotment Association, Meadowbrook in Dartington, tennis courts, Steamer Quay, Bridgetown Community Hall, playparks by the Chicken Run, entrance to Leechwell gardens (current ones pretty useless)
 - iii. SO to follow this up

- b. **Stakeholder meeting**
 - i. Questions around how the report from the traffic session in September is progressing
 - ii. Forum expressed concern that it would go to Devon directly without anyone having sight of it and welcomed an opportunity for there to be further discussions on how to think about it more holistically
 - iii. The residents association representatives want any traffic proposals for the High St to take into account the wider traffic impacts on other residential roads in town

 - iv. Clarification that the report will be sent out to all attendees for comment before then going to the Green Travel Steering Group for discussion. An overleaf will be added to the report to highlight any comments/concerns/clarifications that the group want to add

 - v. The Forum asked who was on the Steering Group and requested that it was ensured that the next meeting (30 Nov) was properly represented given the topic for discussion
 1. Suggestion made that the two RA representatives present at the Forum meeting be included in the Steering Group session in order to ensure proper representation
 2. **ACTION:** Sustainability Officer to follow this up

- c. **Satnavs**
 - i. Richard asked whether anyone had noticed an update in the satnav route. It is believed that this has been updated to ensure drivers are not directed up Fore St. Uncertainty whether this is the case in rush hour as well.
 - ii. Satnav shouldn't ever take you up Fore St as it is Access Only.
 - iii. Luisa will check whether diversions are correct or not and report back

- d. **SHDC Prosperity Fund**
 - i. Cllr Hodgson highlighted that SHDC have a Prosperity Fund going with money for active travel measures
 - ii. SHDC are planning to create a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (which would include Totnes) but are currently waiting on funding

- e. **Maggie requested minutes from signage walkaround in July**
 - i. ACTION: SO to check on update from Town Clerk

- f. **Zebra crossings**
 - i. Cllr Hodgson presented the group with a new type of zebra crossing being trialled in Ireland which used reflective signs rather than blinking lights
 - 1. Link to article:
<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/munster/arid-40989902.html>
 - 2. Suggestion that this could be suitable for Totnes as well
 - ii. Discussion about dangerous points in town, e.g., across Western Bypass, Follaton, St Katherine's Way, Heath's Way, the Lamb, etc.
 - iii. Need for improved safety for pedestrians

- g. Cllr Hodgson highlighted that **the Devon Carbon Plan** is out and that it shows Devon's biggest emissions to be from on-road transport

End of meeting 19:45

Appendix A

Information from Wales & West on the gas works that will commence on Fore Street and South Street in January 2022

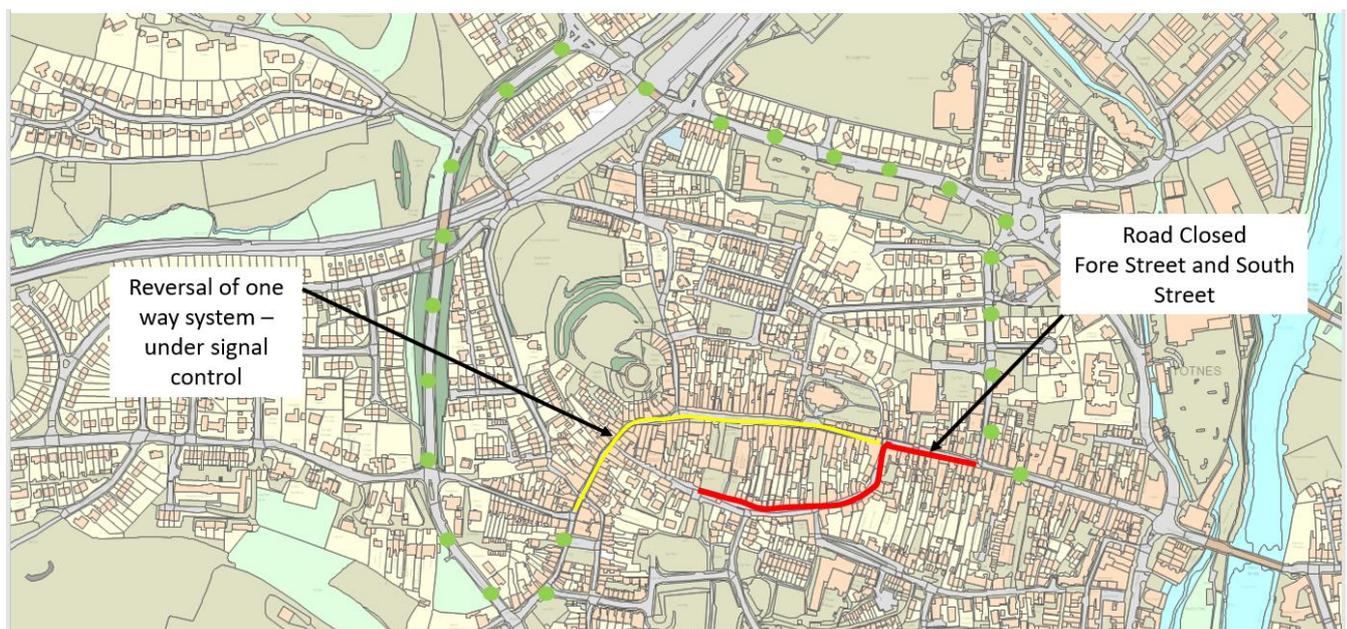
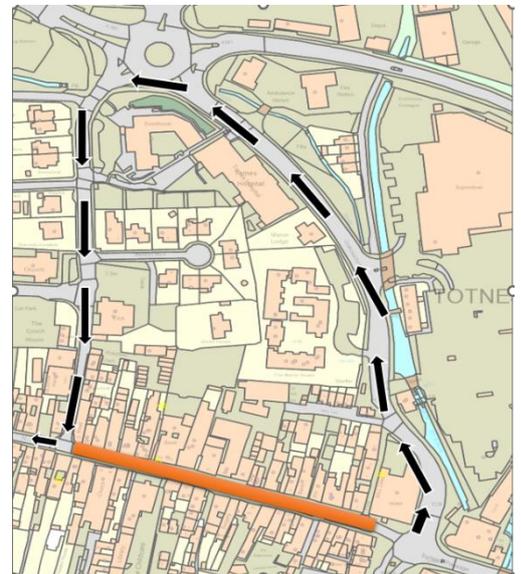
“Unfortunately, because of where are works are and narrowness of the road- the top of Fore Street (from station road- to the arch) will be closed. South Street and the top road on south street will also be closed. This also means that the

High Street will only be accessible to pedestrians throughout these works. We are stopping our works in March so the high street will be accessible to cars for Easter.

For Deliveries and Markets traders there is a diversion route in place. This one-way system will be up seven days a week and under signal control. But I must stress this will not be for general everyday traffic. I know this has raised a few questions which we hope to rectify in a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce in a few weeks time.

We will be sending out a newsletter letter with our drop in session information shortly. We are also offering a priory customer sign up for our vulnerable customers and will have information about going carbon neutral at our drop in. This will be the 11th November at the Civic Hall.

However due to stopping works for Easter, we will have to come back in January 2024 to complete the rest of Fore Street.

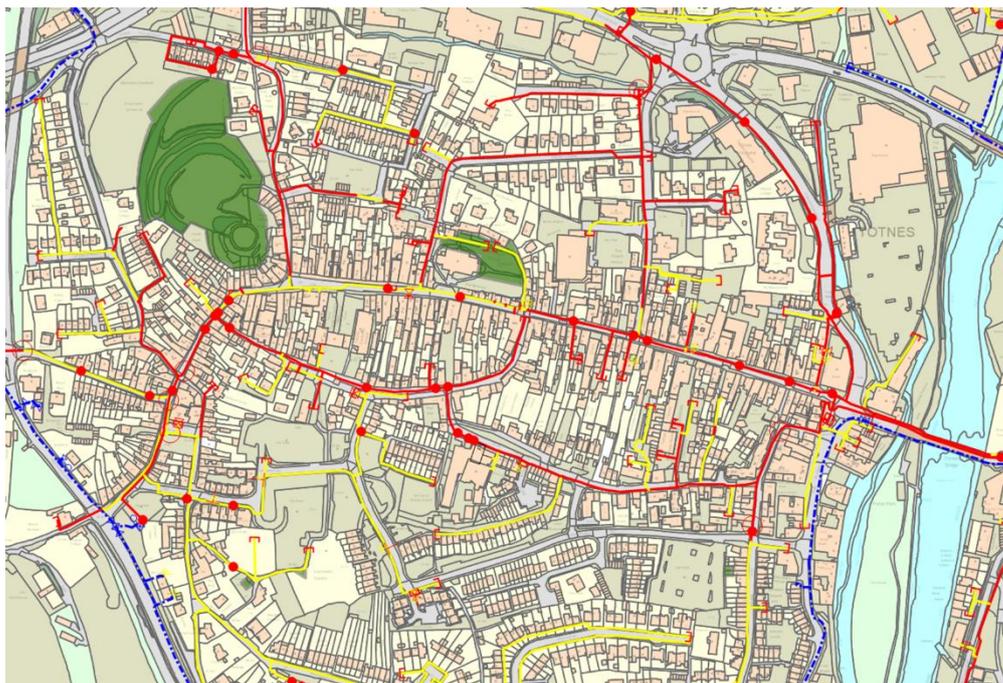


For Business owners: There is a dedicated team for claims, they are used to dealing with these works and any claims for loss of business are dealt with under The Gas (Street Works) (Compensation of Small Businesses) Regulations 1996. This team will be more than happy to answer any questions you have. To start a claim, you will need to provide your name, Business address and a telephone or email address. Our claims team will then send out a pack and will ask you for all other information needed. However, claims cannot be submitted until all works have been finished.

You can contact the team by emailing claims@wwutilities.co.uk, Juliet.collier@wwutilities.co.uk or Juliet's mobile number is 07583017016.

Questions after the press release: Yes these works are necessary is the bottom line.

Let me show you the bigger picture. This is Totnes in and around the town centre. The yellow lines are gas pipe that are already plastic. The red one are still metallic. The Red Dots are where leaks or fractures have been reported. As you can see, we have a lot of leaks that have been reported and we also have a lot of metallic pipes to replace. Bottom line is leaks (worse case) lead to explosions. We must put the health and safety of everyone first. The Gas pipe on Fore street has been flagged as a concern from our regulator Ofgem.



However, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that “time was running out” to reverse climate change, with around 40% of the world’s population “vulnerable” to its impacts. Responding to this by reducing carbon emissions will impact much of what we do as a country, and as a company – from the gas we transport through our network, to transitioning our fleet to electric and hydrogen vehicles.

For our part, we are committed to doing everything we can for the customers we serve to meet the Net Zero carbon emissions target in the most efficient, and least disruptive way possible. This includes an ambition to deliver a Net Zero ready network by 2035, so our network is ready to transport green gases like hydrogen and biomethane so we can play our part in decarbonising heat,

power and transport. We care about protecting and improving the environment and this extends beyond our Net Zero ambitions.

We cannot put Hydrogen through metallic pipes, especially those pipes that are prone to leaking. We have a lot of work to do from Wales to Cornwall to replace metallic pipes, for the future but also for the safety of everyone. The problem with Gas pipes is that we can't see what's going on under the ground and you can't see gas, which makes it even more dangerous. Certain pipes have been flagged as more urgent to be replaced first.

ALL these works will need to be completed and yes Fore street is at the top of the list to be done. This information is not to worry or panic anyone. We are not going to be storming Totnes, we want to keep you updated and work with you not against to get these works done and to keep disruption to a minimum. This is not just for the safety of everyone now but for the everyone's future and the planet.

I hope this answers some of your concerns and questions. I hope to see some of you at our drop in.

Abby Smith, Programme Controller. Plymouth and Cornwall, Wales & West Utilities"