



AGENDA FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

MONDAY 21ST MARCH 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL

You are hereby **SUMMONED** to attend the **Planning Committee** on **Monday 21st March 2022** at **6.30pm** for a maximum of 90 minutes in the Guildhall for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Committee Members: Councillors G Allen (Chair), S Collinson, J Cummings, R Hendriksen, J Hodgson, P Paine and V Trow.

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. 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.

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. AIRBAND

To receive an update on the Airband project role out from Airband Community Liaison. Verbal update [no more than 20 minutes].

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 14th February 2022 and update on any matters arising. Document attached.

4. TREE WORKS APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following tree works applications:

4a. 0193/22/TCA – T1: Sycamore – remove branches near the telephone line. To maintain healthy tree shape and remove obstruction to overhead telephone line. T1: Magnolia - Crown thinning by 20%, crown height reduction by 1.5m. To remove encroachment on Copper Beech. T3: Copper Beech - Crown thinning by 20%, crown height reduction by 2m. To prevent encroachment on Magnolia . Darant House, Seymore Road, Totnes, TQ9 5QP. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/220193>

4b. 0733/22/TCA - T1: Bay (Laurus nobilis) - Crown reduction to approx 3.5 - 4 m height to reduce excessive shading, T2: Buddhist Pine (Podocarpus macrophyllus) - Crown reduction to approx 3.5 - 4 m height - to reduce excessive shading, T3: Honey Locust (Gleditsia triacanthos) - Crown reduction to approx 4.5m height - to reduce excessive shading. Limb on NW aspect of canopy pruned back to main stem to prevent damage through close proximity to property. 28 South Street, Totnes, TQ9 5DZ. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/220733>

4c. 0394/22/TPO – T1: Common Lime - Crown Reduction by 5-6m to reduce wind sail as for tree in decline (see attached survey) Reduce South East Stem to 8 metres Above Ground Level because In sever decline (as stated in survey), Reduce Lowest Branch on the South Side to 1 metre to Prevent Large Wound on Main Stem, Crown Raise on the Western Side to 4 metres Above Ground Level , Deadwood Removal (exempt) T2: Horse Chestnut - Reduce East Side Branch by up to 2m to Reduce Weight and Failure Risk and to Improve Form as Branch has Over- Extended from Main Crown Outline, Crown Lift NE Quadrant to 4 metres Above Ground Level to Improve Light Levels into adjacent property. Redhills, Jubilee Road, Totnes, TQ9 5BP. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/220394>

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following planning applications:

5a. 0479/22/ADV and 0637/22/LBC – Advertisement consent for 1No. non illuminated fascia sign and 1No. non illuminated projecting sign; and listed building consent for installation of external signage and decoration of shop front. 23 Fore Street, Totnes, TQ9 5HN. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/220479> and <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/220637>

5b. 0110/22/FUL and 0111/22/ADV – Replacement of uPVC double glazed window with new uPVC double glazed door and side light plus new signs to front and side to advertise new business; and new fascia signs to front (sign A) and side (sign B) advertising business name. 2A Burke Road, Totnes, TQ9 5XL. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/220110> and <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/220111>

5c. 0698/22/LBC – Listed Building consent to enlarge window opening to form new cafe entrance door. 36 The Mansion, Fore Street, Totnes, TQ9 5RP. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/220698>

5d. 0203/22/CLE – Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of garden room permitted under planning reference 56/2652/14/F as a self-contained rental dwelling. 18 Swallowfields, Totnes, TQ9 5LA. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/220203>

5e. 4719/21/FUL – Retention of existing air conditioning apparatus (amendment to 0573/17/FUL) within single acoustic enclosure and installation of an additional freestanding acoustic enclosure to contain refrigeration apparatus. 44 Fore Street, Totnes, TQ9 5RP. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/214719>

5f. 0348/22/FUL – Change of use of takeaway food premises to residential. 5 Christina Parade, Totnes, TQ9 5UU. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/220348>

6. PLANNING FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY CONSULTATION

To consider the 'Planning for the Climate Emergency' consultation being run by Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon and make a recommendation to Full Council in April with a draft Council response (consultation closes on 21st April). Document attached and see [Climate emergency planning policy and guidance | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](#)

7. 20MPH SPEED LIMIT PILOT SCHEME

To consider making an expression of interest for the 20mph speed limit pilot scheme being run by Devon County Council. Document attached.

8. TOTNES TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT STEERING GROUP

To note the minutes of the Totnes Traffic and Transport Steering Group held on 23rd February 2022. Document attached.

9. ROADMAP NEWLETTER

To note the latest Devon Highways 'Roadmap' Spring newsletter. Document attached.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Planning Committee – Monday 25th April 2022 at 6.30pm in the Guildhall.

USE OF SOUND RECORDINGS AT COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The open proceedings of this Meeting will be video recorded. If members of the public make a presentation, they will be deemed to have consented to being recorded. By entering the Council Chamber or Zoom meeting, attendees are also consenting to being recorded.

Televised, vision and sound recordings or live broadcastings by members of the press or public at Councillor Committee debates are permitted and anyone wishing to do so is asked to inform the Chair of the respective Committee of their intention to record proceedings.



DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL

Present: Councillors G Allen (Chair), J Cummings, R Hendriksen, P Paine and V Trow.

Apologies: Councillors S Collinson and J Hodgson (who observed via Zoom).

In Attendance: Cllr B Piper, three representatives from Seaxburh 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 and recorded.

The apologies were accepted.

The Committee will adjourn Standing Orders for the following items:

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

2. DARTINGTON LANE EAST END

To update on the latest proposals and public consultation for the Dartington Trust Lane End East site from the developers Seaxburh.

Representatives from Seaxburh set out the proposed Dartington Lane development:

- 45 dwellings built, of which six in the Dartington Lane East site fall within the Totnes parish boundary.
- The concept is for terraces of 5-6 properties which are largely prefabricated off site and secured to concrete rafts which minimises the disturbance of soil and tree roots compared with traditional building foundations.
- All properties (2-4 bedrooms) will have solar panels, a small private garden and the opportunity to take an allotment on the Dartington estate, access to secure bike storage, allocated parking, 4 x fast charging points for electric vehicles and 10 x e-bike charging points, and a car club.
- A third of the properties will be affordable housing, a third open market and a third rental prioritised for Dartington Trust employees and key workers. Most of the grounds will be communal and landscaped for wildlife and biodiversity.

The Committee asked about flooding, rainwater harvesting, climate emergency mitigation, the wildlife corridor and bat pinch-points, shared communal facilities (for example washing machine, vacuum cleaners).

The Committee reconvened Standing Orders.

3. AIRBAND

To receive an update on the Airband project role out from Airband Community Liaison.

The representative from Airband did not attend.

Post-meeting note: there was some confusion over dates and Airband will attend on 21st March 2022.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 24th January 2022 and update on any matters arising.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

Items 5, 6 and 7 had been resolved by Full Council and have been actioned.

5. TREE WORKS APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following tree works applications:

5a. 0229/22/TCA –T1: Western Red Cedar – fell to ground level due to excessive shading and outgrowing garden. Hay Hill, Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5LH.

T1 – suggest pollarding rather than felling. The Committee has concerns about the future safety of the wall given the proximity of the tree's trunk to it.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following planning applications:

6a. 4511/21/FUL – Changes to first floor windows, solar PVs to roof and external terrace over first floor flat roof, Following change of use consent (1209/21/FUL). 4 Birdwood Court, High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5SG.

Support with the following comments:

- No details given on the materials to be used for the external cold store or whether it will include a refrigeration unit which could cause noise to neighbouring properties.
- No details given on waste storage.
- Concerns about the noise levels generated from the proposed roof terrace and hours of operation set out in the application form which is much later than that agreed in the change of use. Would request that the roof terrace closes at 1900hrs daily to ensure that residents are not disturbed.
- Concerns about fire safety from the roof terrace – the only means to evacuate is through the building.
- Would request that insulation is installed into the building to improve energy efficiency.

6b. 0181/22/HHO and 0182/22/LBC – Listed building consent for the replacement of late C20 metal and glass shop front, and replacement of fixed glass first floor windows with facsimile timber sash windows, plus internal shop refit works. 51 High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5NP.

Support with the following comments:

- Modern materials are used in the new shop front to ensure the structural safety and strength of the building for years to come.
- Would request that insulation is installed into the building to improve energy efficiency, including double glazing.

6c. 0261/22/HHO – Householder application for erection of double height extension to the side of the property with an alleyway for rear access. 43 Denys Road, Totnes, TQ9 5TL.
Support.

6d. 1693/21/HHO – Householder application for extension together with raising of part of existing roof. 68 Westonfields, Totnes, TQ9 5QX.
Support.

6e. 0275/22/HHO – Householder application for roof extension to create first floor bedrooms with ground floor extension. 11 Hillbrook Rise, Totnes, TQ9 5AU.
Support.

6f. 0207/22/HHO and 0208/22/LBC – Listed building consent and householder application to refurbish existing windows and replace 1 x window, upgrading and replacing of electrical and heating services, removal of cementitious mortars and repointing with traditional lime products, reordering and renovating of existing external building and removal of part of the extension. 10 Victoria Street, Totnes, TQ9 5EF.
Support.

7. TOTNES TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

To note an update on the traffic calming measures on Fore Street public consultation survey.
Noted.

8. TOTNES TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT FORUM

To note the minutes of the Totnes Traffic and Transport Forum Annual General Meeting held on 26th January 2022.
Noted.

9. EVENTS ON SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL LAND

To note the following events taking place on South Hams District Council land:

- 9a. Head of the Dart Challenge, Saturday 23rd April 0700-1700hrs, Longmarsh Car Park. Noted.
9b. Totnes 10K, Sunday 7th August 0730-1530hrs, Borough Park. Noted.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Planning Committee – Monday 21st March 2022 at 6.30pm in the Guildhall.
Noted.

Sara Halliday
Governance and Projects Manager

ITEM 6 – PLANNING FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY CONSULTATION

For the draft document see [Climate emergency planning policy and guidance | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](#) The consultation runs from 3rd March to 21st April.

Consultation Questions: We are interested in your general thoughts on this document and our approach. We want to know whether we should address the climate emergency in this way.

1. Will these new requirements work?
2. Do they go far enough or too far?
3. What are the challenges?
4. Have we missed anything?
5. Could we do it better/differently?
6. What transitory arrangements are required?
7. Would any additional guides help?
8. Should the Statement of Compliance be included as a new validation requirement and included on the local planning authorities Local Validation Lists?

Stay Connected




Email Address


Share Bulletin

ITEM 6




Planning for the Climate Emergency

South Hams & West Devon sent this bulletin at 03-03-2022 05:14 PM GMT



PLYMOUTH & SOUTH WEST DEVON JOINT LOCAL PLAN



NEWSLETTER

PLANNING TOGETHER ...

[View web version](#)

March 2022

Share your views on plans for climate change measures in all new development

PLANNING FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY






Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon are consulting on new planning policy and guidance to support the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan.

We are proposing ambitious new measures to make sure all development is built to address climate change.

We want to hear from you, so share your views with us from **3 March 2022 – 21 April 2022**
www.plymouth.gov.uk/climate-planning

Get involved in the climate conversation...

Developers planning to build new homes or any development in the South Hams, West Devon and Plymouth will have to incorporate measures that will help owners tackle climate change as soon as they move in.

Features such as solar panels, ground or air source heat pumps and electric vehicle charging facilities will be fitted as standard on all new homes and commercial buildings under proposals being put forward in the draft Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Policy and Guidance.

Other measures will see more habitat and green space designed into developments, which increases biodiversity and brings health and wellbeing benefits to residents. These measures will also go some way to mitigate against rising global temperatures.

A consultation has launched today (3 March) to get the views of residents, campaigners and developers across the area about the proposals, which if approved, could come into effect as early as June.

The proposals would apply to all new planning applications for all new buildings, including some extensions across the Joint Local Plan area - an area covering 2,126 square kilometres, with a population of 401,567.

Since 2014, across the area, around 10,000 new homes have been built and around 14,700 have planning consent with 1,474 currently under construction. The new measures, if they get the green light, would apply to new planning applications only.

Judy Pearce, Chair of the JLP Partnership Board and Leader of South Hams District Council said: "We believe this is the first time this has been tried across the country so we are leading the charge in changing how we want homes to be built for the future.

"We know this is a huge change for developers but at the moment developers and the planning system allow properties to be built that are obsolete before they are even completed. This can't carry on. It is doing no one any favours.

"What we are asking is for the developers to pay the costs for energy efficient measures as part of the build rather than put the burden on the homeowner a year or two down the line."



Most of these measures will soon be a requirement under the Government's new building regulations, and will have to be included in new development. This means the costs will soon be non-negotiable and all three councils are keen to ensure that affordable homes in particular have these features fitted as standard.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson, Deputy Leader of Plymouth City Council said: "If we are serious about tackling climate change, we need to look at these features as standard in all our new build properties, not as nice-to-haves way off in the future.

"Planning policy - local and national - is simply not in step with the climate emergency and we want to change that."

Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon already work closely together through the Joint Local Plan and councillors across each of the local authorities have signed up to this new policy proposal.

Caroline Mott, Lead Member for the Joint Local Plan for West Devon District Council, added: "You only have to see what's happening in the energy market right now to know how important energy efficient homes are becoming.

"If anything, this will make affordable homes a much more attractive option as energy bills will be considerably lower.



"We would like to start this as soon as possible but we realise development companies who want to submit planning applications would have already had their projects costed and budgeted for. However we would strongly urge them to review their plans through this climate emergency lens."

Find out more

The consultation can be viewed on <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/climate-planning>

[Click here to find out more](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/climate-planning)

ITEM 7 – 20MPH SPEED LIMIT PILOT SCHEME

Expressions of interest (taken from the Devon County Council website) – We [Devon County Council] are keen to understand the benefits of 20 mph speed limits for our communities and would like to know where you feel this would be beneficial. At our [Devon County Council] Cabinet meeting on the 8th December a resolution was agreed to allow 20mph schemes to be progressed in 2022/23 for those communities who request them (item 87).

This was initially proposed to be a project to run alongside work to introduce a community wide 20 in Newton Abbot. However, after extensive community engagement it was clear that the residents of Newton Abbot did not support this, nor did they support 20 as a default in residential streets. They did however support 20s outside schools and we will be working with Elected Members to develop a study around this. More details can be found in our recent press release.

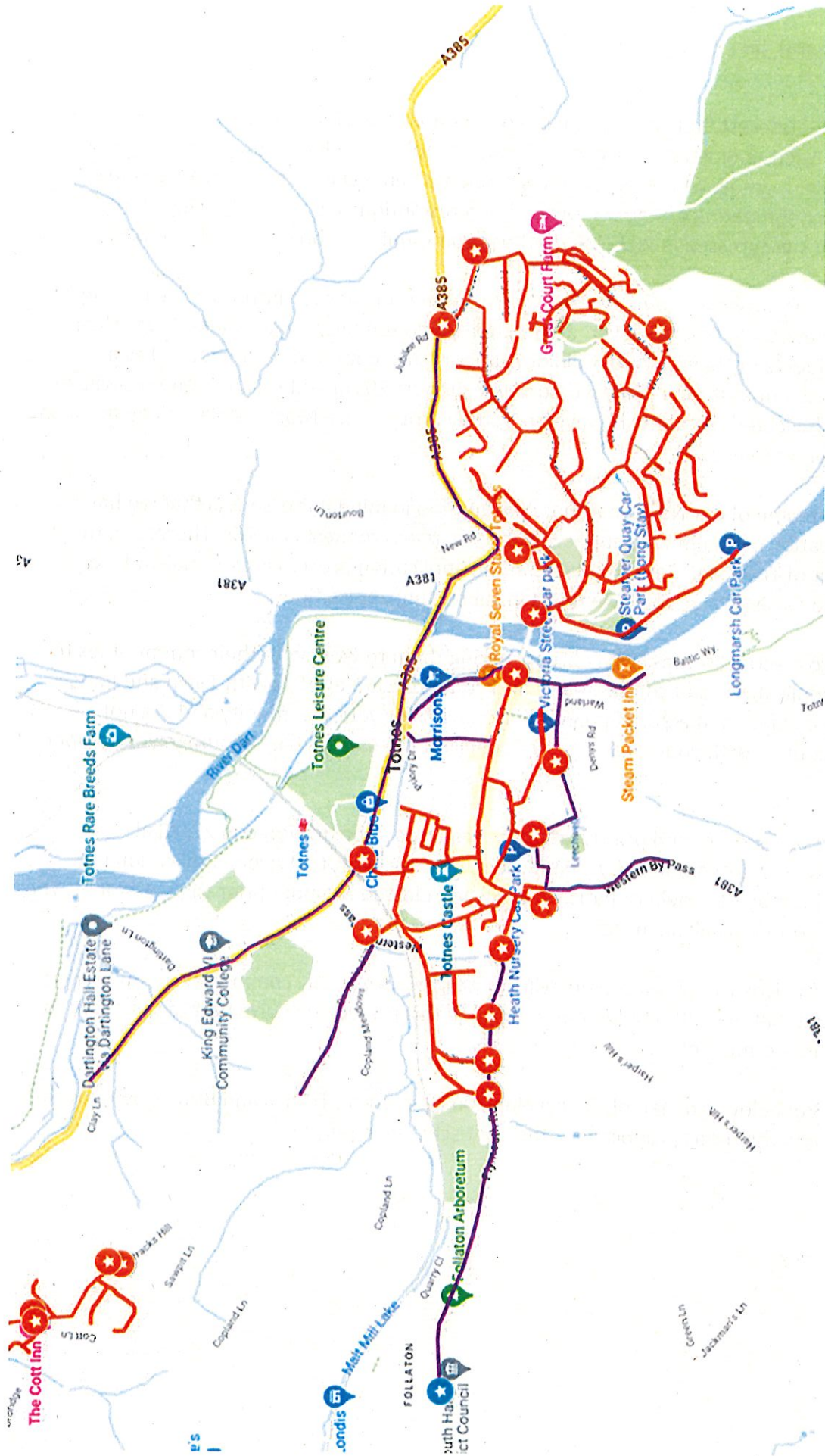
With the outcome of our Newton Abbot consultation in mind it is essential that we have a strong indication of community support when we assess requests for 20s. Therefore, the involvement of Town and Parish Councils in the application process is essential and we invite you to liaise with Elected Members in submitting applications.

We wrote to elected Members in February asking them to work with their communities to complete applications and committed to also communicate directly with Town and Parish Councils. If you feel that a 20mph speed limit is right for your community and are not already in contact with your local County Council on the matter, we encourage you to open dialogue.

To allow for assessment and prioritisation for schemes to be delivered in 22/23 all submissions must be complete by 31st March. It is important that every application is supported both by the Town or Parish Council and Elected Member prior to assessment. The application form is available [here](#).

Given that the Newton Abbot project will not progress for a fully community 20mph scheme it is intended that new 20s implemented through this project will form part of the study to inform future County Policy.

Officers Note: below is a map of the existing 20mph roads in Totnes and Bridgetown marked in orange, and the roads proposed for the pilot scheme in purple.



Traffic and Transport Steering Group meeting notes

23 February 2022

18:30-20:00

Totnes Guildhall

Attendees

J [redacted] S [redacted] - Chair

ClIr John Cummings

ClIr Jacqi Hodgson

S [redacted] K [redacted] - Chamber of Commerce

H [redacted] C [redacted] - cyclist

G [redacted] B [redacted] - Totnes Ramblers

Maiken Hutchings - GTC (notes)

1. Welcome (JS)

2. Meeting notes from the previous meeting in September 2021 have yet to be located. They will be approved at the next meeting. (MH)

3. Brief update from Green Travel Coordinator (MH)

a. E-cocars

- i. J [redacted] who currently runs it has decided to retire and there is a discussion going on as to how to keep the business going.
- ii. An advisory group has been formed which provisionally will be meeting every Friday 2-3pm. Bob the Bus are part of this group and there is a conversation about whether they might be willing and able to take it on.

b. E-bikes and electric vehicles

- i. Baltic Wharf EV and e-bikes are now live
- ii. Results from Green Travel survey launched by previous GTC will be written up into a report soon
- iii. Discussions with SHDC and Co Cars / Co Bikes regarding potential to run e-bike trial in Totnes and area. Funding dependent.
- iv. JC - Dartington keen on having EVs and e-bikes
- v. JH - Issue brought up in Climate Emergency Working Group: charging points in town are slow.

Action MH: check with SHDC on plans to install rapid chargers

- c. Potential cycle route between Buckfastleigh, Riverford and Dartington/Totnes.
 - i. Current discussions happening with Riverford and Dartington Estate. Riverford are keen to enable their workers to cycle in and are willing to pay for a feasibility study.
 - ii. Next step is a feasibility study to be done
 - iii. JH - Steiner School are wanting to reduce speed limit outside the school as a child was hit by a car recently.
 - iv. GB - suggestion to bring the LEP in on this
- d. New Facebook page
 - i. We lost access to the old Green Travel Totnes page. Please follow the new one: [facebook.com/Green-Travel-Totnes-107671561816182](https://www.facebook.com/Green-Travel-Totnes-107671561816182)
 - ii. Once there are 25 followers the page can be given a username which makes it easier to find

Action: everyone like and follow the new FB page
- e. Newsletters
 - i. Plan to continue with creating newsletters as previous GTC. Hope to get one out in the next two weeks.

4. Fore Street traffic calming measures discussion

- a. Online survey currently has 380 responses, 75 hard-copy surveys handed in
- b. In person event went well and some good feedback was given.
- c. Results have not been analysed yet. Consultation runs until 01 March.

Group discussion re what the goals are for the town / high street, how these goals can be achieved and whether the current proposal meets the goals.

It was agreed that we should create a matrix overview of the goals and potential solutions. This will be circulated amongst the Forum for input.

Goals

- Protect fragile historic buildings
- Reduce traffic speed
- Reduce overall volume of traffic – reduce unnecessary traffic

- Reduce air pollution in road (air quality monitoring tbc)
- Support and protect local businesses, protect/improve the shopping experience
- Ensuring accessibility for all, including parking spaces
- Increase community safety
- Encourage transport modal change, i.e. out of cars and onto bikes/walking
- Minimise disruption to businesses during implementation
- Need for an integrated, holistic traffic plan, not just looking at High St and Fore St.
- Reduce reliance on fossil fuels / climate change → support emissions reductions

Highlight that there are shared objectives between business, drivers and pedestrians/cyclists.

Options

- Value for money
- Better signage to warn drivers that pedestrians in the streets
 - Pedestrians – “reclaim the road”
- Monitor air quality
- Enforce “access only”
- Automatic number plate recognition – ANPR
- Improve paved surfaces/pavements/roadway
- Zebra crossings up the road
- PR campaign to ask locals to stop rat running
- Improve language of the street – benches, etc. Make places where people actually want to spend time
- Raised platforms

Discussion of current proposal

- SK - surprised by this proposal, thought it had been discussed and discounted before
- SK - Businesses don't support the plan at all due to issues during implementation, loss of income, noise, etc.
 - A lot of businesses still don't know about the current proposal. There is a need to make a greater effort to reach them.

- loss of parking is unacceptable when there is already a shortage, it would not fix the perceived issue of speeding traffic, cost is very high with little if any benefit – money could be better spent.
 - Business can not sustain another period of disruption to trade during the oncoming economic uncertainty.
- MH - Bob the Bus have said their wheel width is 2.3m. This proposal has narrowing of 2.2m. This would need changing to allow for bus to come through.
 - SK - need to consult specifically with groups such as people with disabilities, people with children, etc.
 - HC - walking in the road deliberately slows traffic down. Could this be encouraged in a safe way?
 - Need for an overall plan for the town.
 - Comments from Cllr Jo Sweett (attached)
 - Does not support anything that loses parking spaces
 - Ramps will make vehicles change gears and accelerate which will cause noise and fumes
 - See attached notes for full comments
 - Overall agreement that more work is needed to consult with impacted groups

5. Steering Group recommendation to Planning Committee:

- Extend the consultation to allow for more time to ensure that “everyone” has been consulted
- Currently only 380 responses to the online survey and 75 hard-copy surveys. Many businesses on Fore St are still unaware and must be consulted before any decisions are made.
- This will also allow the Steering Group to get a matrix ready to present to Planning Committee.
- Suggestion that it is extended for another 6 weeks

6. Actions

- a. MH

- i. Check with SHDC re plans for rapid EV chargers
- ii. Drop off hard-copy surveys to businesses on Fore St and High St
- iii. Create matrix of suggestions raised during session and circulate with group for input

b. JH

- i. Look into what other options DCC might be considering for traffic calming measures in Totnes

7. Date of next Forum meeting: Wednesday 27th April 2022.

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informe
Stay up to date

ITEM 9

Highways Parish & Town Council Newsletter - Spring 2022

Devon County Council sent this bulletin at 08-03-2022 12:20 PM GMT

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/30d5909>



Spring 2022

Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of our Roadmap newsletter

Looking back to the last newsletter in October, I'm relieved that winter has been relatively kind to the highway network. A good indicator is the amount of grit that has been spread across the season which is down by approximately 50% on last year.

This relatively mild winter helps the Highways Service in many ways. The winter service operations can be very disruptive to planned works – drivers often cannot work the next day if they have been driving over night, or have to finish a shift early to ensure they have adequate rest before gritting operations start. And of course, the less freeze/thaw action the less damage to all of our assets, particularly carriageways and footways.

With regard to the condition of the network, I'm very pleased to inform you that this financial year will see the lowest number of reported defects across the county since our current Term Maintenance Contract with Milestone commenced in 2017. The mild winter has no doubt helped but there have been a number of other influences including the county-wide roll out of the Dragon Patchers, and the fact that we encourage inspectors to order works before they meet our policy rather than waiting for potholes to get bigger. Inspectors are also able to order larger repairs rather than just making the defect safe.

The team are currently focusing on the quality of workmanship with all operatives recently re-briefed on levels of expectation and there has been an increase in the number of audits that are carried out. Having said that, we recognise there are often times when gangs are carrying out repairs to keep our roads safe when the weather conditions (too wet and/or too cold) are totally unsuitable and the life expectancy of repairs is very limited.

We have, of course, seen a sting in the tail of winter with a challenging weekend of storms. The team managed over 1,000 contacts on the Friday of Storm Eunice. While the initial focus was on clearing trees to keep the network operational our thoughts quickly moved to protecting those most vulnerable in our communities. There's more detail in the newsletter.

I hope you and your communities remained safe.

Robert Richards - Highways and Traffic Management Group Manager

Devon
Highways

Important updates



Storm Eunice

Robert Schofield, our Network Operations Control Centre Manager, has provided an update following the recent storms. Included are a range of photos taken during

19



the storms which really help to highlight the impact.

Parish & Town Council Conferences

We were pleased that we were able to hold our conferences in November, albeit in a slightly different format to that of previous years.

We would like to thank everybody who was able to attend our virtual events. We really appreciate the positive feedback we received.

The videos and presentations are available to view on the Parish & Town Council website.



20 mph Speed Limits

We are keen to understand the benefits of 20 mph speed limits for our communities and would like to know where you feel this would be beneficial. At our Cabinet meeting on the 8th December a resolution was agreed to allow 20mph schemes to be progressed in 2022/23 for those communities who request them (item 87). Please see our article for further details, including the application process.

The Queen's Green Canopy and requests to plant on highway verges

As we move into Spring, and also as a result of the Queen's Green Canopy, we have seen an increase in the number of enquiries regarding planting on highway verges. We are improving our webpages, and will provide an online application form, to make the process easier. Further details will be available soon.

If you are interested in this type of project, please be advised that all volunteers involved will need to complete the Highway Safety Awareness course. The course is still free and you can register volunteers by contacting the Highway Services Team.



Surface dressing programme

Our surface dressing programme takes place between April and September.

We have over 230 sites on our programme this year. Further information, including the proposed sites (please see the area links at the bottom of the page), is available on our surface dressing webpage.

Devon
Highways

Funding news

Highway Community Enhancement Fund (HMCEF)

Thank you to everyone who submitted an HMCEF application this year. We were able to approve more than 50 bids which supported works to the value of £115,000 to be carried out in local communities.

We also supported 15 requests for temporary pothole repair material which helped 10 councils repair potholes.

The HMCEF application process will reopen on the 1 April. Please visit our communities webpages for more information on the HMCEF and the application process.

If you would like to arrange a community project but are unsure as to the type of work that can be supported, take a look at our communities case study webpage.



Signing, Lighting & Guarding Training (chapter 8)



There may be volunteers within your communities whose signing, lighting and guarding qualification is due to expire, or has already expired (the qualification is valid for 5 years)

We are still able to provide funding for renewal training where there is evidence of community work having taken place. We are also able to provide funding for training for new volunteers. If you would like any further information please speak with your Neighbourhood Highway Officer or the [Highway Services Team](#).

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We've already received several applications for community events for the Queens Jubilee and, as a result of feedback, have taken steps to make the process clearer.

Further information is available [on our street party webpages](#).



Contact us

Emails were sent, in November, providing details of your [Neighbourhood Highway Officer \(NHO\)](#). There have been a few changes recently so updates, where necessary, will be provided in the next few weeks.

Your NHO is your main contact for highways related issues.



Report a problem

The best channel for reporting issues is on our [report a problem](#) webpage. Using this method means that your issue is more likely to get to the right person, or team, straight away.

Parish and Town Council webpages

To view previous copies of Roadmap and for other useful information and links please visit our [Parish & Town Council webpages](#).

If you have any feedback please advise the [Highway Services Team](#).

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