Traffic and Transport Steering Group meeting notes

23 February 2022   
18:30-20:00   
Totnes Guildhall

# Attendees

John Scanlan - Chair

Cllr John Cummings

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson

Sarah Kidd - Chamber of Commerce

Howard Cotton - cyclist

Graham Bennett - 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)
   1. E-cocars
      1. Jeremy who currently runs it has decided to retire and there is a discussion going on as to how to keep the business going.
      2. 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.
   2. E-bikes and electric vehicles
      1. Baltic Wharf EV and e-bikes are now live
      2. Results from Green Travel survey launched by previous GTC will be written up into a report soon
      3. Discussions with SHDC and Co Cars / Co Bikes regarding potential to run e-bike trial in Totnes and area. Funding dependent.
      4. JC - Dartington keen on having EVs and e-bikes
      5. 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**
   3. Potential cycle route between Buckfastleigh, Riverford and Dartington/Totnes.
      1. 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.
      2. Next step is a feasibility study to be done
      3. JH - Steiner School are wanting to reduce speed limit outside the school as a child was hit by a car recently.
      4. GB - suggestion to bring the LEP in on this
   4. New Facebook page
      1. 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)
      2. 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**

* 1. Newsletters
     1. Plan to continue with creating newsletters as previous GTC. Hope to get one out in the next two weeks.

1. **Fore Street traffic calming measures discussion**
   1. Online survey currently has 380 reponses, 75 hard-copy surveys handed in
   2. In person event went well and some good feedback was given.
   3. 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

1. **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

1. **Actions**
   1. MH
      1. Check with SHDC re plans for rapid EV chargers
      2. Drop off hard-copy surveys to businesses on Fore St and High St
      3. Create matrix of suggestions raised during session and circulate with group for input
   2. JH
      1. Look into what other options DCC might be considering for traffic calming measures in Totnes
2. **Date of next Forum meeting**: Wednesday 27th April 2022.