

AGENDA FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 28TH MARCH 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL

You are hereby **SUMMONED** to attend the **Town Matters Committee** on **Monday 28th 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 V Trow (Chair), G Allen, S Collinson, J Cummings, J Hannam, A Oliver, P Paine, S Skinner, N Stopp 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. 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. CITIZENS ADVICE SOUTH HAMS

To receive an update on the work of Citizens Advice South Hams from its Chief Executive Officer. Verbal update.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 28th February 2022 and update on any matters arising. Document attached.

4. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

To consider a request to Government for a proportional representation electoral system to be used in local government elections. Document attached and Cllr Cummings to speak.

5. OPEN SPACES, SPORTS AND RECREATION AND S106 MONIES

To review the list of Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation facilities in Totnes and consider how unallocated S106 monies could be used to enhance these areas. Documents attached.

6. UKRAINE

To consider an update on Totnes support initiatives in response to the war in Ukraine. Verbal update from Cllrs Collinson and Webberley.

7. COMMEMORATIVE BENCH

To consider the recommendation of the Council Assets and Public Realm Working Group for Totnes Gardens to place a commemorative bench for the Platinum Jubilee on Coronation Road. Document attached.

8. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

To note the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group on 15th March 2022 (standing item). Document attached.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 30th May 2022 at 6.30pm.

*The Committee will be asked to **RESOLVE** to exclude the press and public “by reason of the confidential nature of the business” to be discussed and in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. (CONFIDENTIAL by virtue of relating to legal and/or commercial matters, staffing and/or the financial or business affairs of a person or persons other than the Council)*

10. COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME

To consider the nominations for the Community Award scheme (personal information). Document to be circulated at the meeting.

Sara Halliday

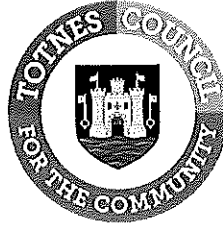
Committee and Cemetery Administrator

22nd March 2022

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.



DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL

Present: Councillors V Trow (Chair), G Allen, S Collinson, J Cummings, A Oliver, P Paine, N Stopp and L Webberley.

Apologies: Cllr J Hannam

Not Present: Cllr S Skinner

In Attendance: Councillor Piper, a 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 Trow read out a statement about how the meeting would be conducted and recorded.

Apologies were received later in the meeting from Cllr Hannam.

The Committee will adjourn for the following items:

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public spoke about the Arts and Events Grant and questioned why Totnes Town Council was funding events in Dartington and asked if Dartington Parish Council had been approached for funding. They were concerned that Totnes taxpayers were funding events in other parishes where the precept was much lower and where other parishioner were benefitting, when they would rather see money spent on sound equipment for the Council Chamber so that meetings could be live streamed or recorded at a higher quality. The Chair note the comments made and explained that Councillors also wanted to learn more about the applications before making a recommendation on funding.

2. ARTS AND EVENTS GRANT

To consider the Link Orchestra and Earthjump grant applications.

Councillors Allen and Collinson declared a personal interest. Representatives from Earthjump and Link Orchestra explained the activities that their grant applications would fund. The Committee asked a number of questions about who the activities would be aimed at (for example young and elderly people), whether they would be inclusive and accessible, and if they could be brought to Bridgetown.

The Committee reconvened.

The Committee **AGREED** that further detail is required about the section in the Link Orchestra application around the proposed collaborative work with KEVICC and a costing for this engagement.

To **RECOMMEND** that Full Council considers both applications and the award of any grant funding from the remaining £3950 available.

The Committee reconvened.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 22nd November 2021 and update on any matters arising.

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

Item 5 HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Item 5 – It was **RESOLVED** by a majority of Full Council that:

- It organises a beacon lighting for the town as part of the national event on 2nd June;
- it promotes 'The Big Lunch' initiative with community organisations and through the Totnes Matters pages in the Totnes Directory; and
- the Trees for Totnes Group looks at areas where trees could be planted (industrial estate, schools) as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project.

Item 6 Emergency Plan. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by Full Council that the revised emergency plan is adopted.

Item 7 Community Engagement Plan. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by Full Council that:

- meeting dates are included in the Totnes Matters pages of the Totnes Directory; and
- Councillors hold a session in the Market Square once a month between April and October to engage with the public.

Item 8 Community Charter Budget. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by Full Council that the revised budget increase of approximately £300 is approved to cover the cost of childcare activities at the consultation event, noting that this is now likely to take place in late March 2022.

The Committee will adjourn for the following item:

4. COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME

To consider the format of the Community Award scheme for 2022.

Cllr Piper outlined the scope of the scheme, with one award presented in 2022 to an individual. The Committee discussed how this scheme could evolve in future years to incorporate a group award (marked with a certificate and donation to the group) and reflect on the community efforts made with an exhibition of profiles of the recipients once the scheme had been up and running for a few years.

The Committee reconvened.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

- a. The following process is adopted for 2022:

Town Matters Committee, 28th February 2022

- Each Councillor has the opportunity to nominate the name of an individual for the award by 21st March 2022.
 - Town Matters Committee 28th March 2022 - consider the nominations in Part 2, confirms if any individual has more than one nomination (i.e. they have been put forward by more than one councillor), and shortlists the nominees to go forward to Full Council.
 - Full Council 4th April 2022 – Councillors decide on who should win the award.
 - Mayoral Choosing 19th May 2022 – winner presented with the award.
- b. The scheme is called the 'Totnes Community Award'.
- c. The award will be in the form of a medal (mould cost approximately £50, each medal approximately £25-50).
- d. The Mayoral budget will pay for the cost of the medal each year.

5. SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY CONSULTATION
To consider the South Hams District Council Homelessness Strategy consultation and make a recommendation to Full Council in March with a draft Council response (consultation closes on 23rd March)

It was **AGREED** that the officer would email the questionnaire to Committee members for their inputs by Sunday 6th March, collate the comments to go to Full Council as the proposed Council response to the consultation (this will be a paper to follow on the morning of Monday 7th March).

6. GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

To consider any Council involvement in the Great British Spring Clean from 25th March to 10th April 2022.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that in conjunction with Totnes Against Trash that Councillors take part in two litter picks during the Great British Spring Clean:

- Saturday 26th March, 10am-12pm in the recreational areas of Bridgetown.
- Sunday 10th April, 10am-12pm in Totnes town.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

To note the reduction of the number of voting Councillors on this committee from 11 to 10 (in line with Standing Orders) with the resignation of Cllr Matthews.

Noted.

8. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

To note any update from the Climate Change Working Group on 25th January 2022 (standing item).

Noted.

9. KEEPING YOUNG TOTNES SAFE

To note the minutes of the Caring Town Keeping Young Totnes Safe meeting held on 11th January 2022.

Noted.

10. FAIRTRADE

To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade meeting held on 2nd December 2021.

Noted.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 28th March 2022 at 6.30pm.

Noted.

Sara Halliday
Governance and Projects Manager

ITEM 4 - PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Cllr Cummings is proposing a motion to Council regarding making local authority councils more diverse and representative of the residents in those authorities by introducing a proportional representation voting system. Details are below:

Full Council notes that:

1. No system of election is perfectly fair, but it is our wish to make those elected to Town, District and County Councils as representative of the residents' wishes and demographics as is reasonably possible. Totnes Town Council considers that more representative and diverse Councils can make better decisions and increase the level of ownership of those decisions by residents.
2. The Good Systems Agreement, signed by political parties, MPs and campaign organisations from across the political spectrum, sets out the ten principles that a new voting system should deliver, and calls for a citizen-led, deliberative process to choose a new system.
3. The electoral system used for local elections in England and Wales, First Past the Post (FPTP), is not a fair system, because it means that votes do not have equal weight and many votes are wasted. This can lead to voter apathy and a feeling of disconnection from local democracy.
4. An alternative to FPTP is a system of proportional representation (PR), where votes cast for parties translate more proportionately into seats won. There are many variants of PR; the Single Transferable Vote system (STV) variant of PR is already in use for local elections in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The introduction of PR for local elections in Scotland has led to an increase in voter turnout. The London Assembly uses an "additional member" system to ensure that all votes count more equally towards the allocation of seats, so that the number of seats for each party is more proportional to the percentage of votes cast for each party.
5. The Welsh Senedd passed the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, which received Royal Assent. The Act grants principal councils in Wales the power to decide which system applies to any particular council: the simple majority system or the single transferable vote.
6. Council also recognises that in age, gender and in other protected characteristics, council members do not adequately reflect the demographic of their residents. Although not guaranteed, a more proportional system like STV may provide a means for improving this.
7. Research by the Electoral Commission in 2019 found that 17% of eligible voters in Great Britain - as many as 9.4 million people - were either missing from the electoral register or not registered at their current address, with major errors affecting up to 5.6 million people. It highlighted stark differences in registration levels between younger people, renters, low-income and black and ethnic minority people, compared with older white people who own their homes.

This Council is asked to consider requesting the Town Clerk:

a) to write to Her Majesty's Government to request changes to legislation that would permit local councils in England to take steps to increase their diversity and representativeness by allowing councils to trial a more proportional voting system in County, District and Town Council elections; and also requesting an increase of funds to support greater levels of electoral registration;

b) to inform South Hams District Council and Devon County Council of this decision, and invite them to pass similar resolutions;

c) to ask our MP, Anthony Mangnall, to support such a change in the law; and

d) to issue a press release to the Totnes Times, informing the public of this resolution.

References:

<https://www.makevotesmatter.org.uk/good-systems-agreement?rq=good%20systems>

- **Proportionality**
- **Representation**
- **Equal votes**
- **Local links**
- **Diversity**
- **Voter choice**
- **Accountability**
- **Balance of stability and flexibility**
- **Sustainability and adaptability**
- **Voting simplicity**

<https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/right-to-scrap-first-past-the-post-won-for-welsh-councils/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/27/more-than-9-million-eligible-voters-not-correctly-registered>

ITEM 5 - OPEN SPACES, SPORTS AND RECREATION AND S106 MONIES

The Committee is asked to review the Open spaces, sports and recreation purposes below and propose any ideas for future funding from the limited unallocated S106 monies available (£8K in Bridgetown, £1.6K general, and £19.5K for sports and recreation facilities at Borough Park – in previous meetings Councillors have suggested something like a trim trail incorporating items of static exercise equipment).

The Town Council has a comprehensive Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation plan (see <https://www.totnestowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Totnes-Open-Space-Sport-Recreation-and-Wellbeing.pdf>) and the key elements are also incorporated in the current draft of the Totnes Neighbourhood Plan – see below:

Public Space & Open Space: Green Infrastructure - Sport and Recreation (from the OSSR dated 2017)		
	Type	Purpose
1	Allotments	<p>These provide opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce. The provision of allotments has increased in Totnes over the last 8 years. At a time of increased interest in sustainability, healthy eating and locally produced food, increasing the number of allotments is an important issue.</p> <p>Allotments fall into three separate categories: Statutory / Temporary / Private. The categories reflect varying degrees of protection from development for other purposes.</p> <p>Statutory allotments fall under Section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925, being best protected in that a local authority must seek permission from the Secretary of State before selling or changing the use of such sites.</p>
2	Amenity Greenspace	<p>Open grassland providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work and enhancement of residential or other areas.</p> <p>Amenity Greenspace rarely has formal equipment, facilities or even seating. It is within the newer housing estates such as Bridgetown. These areas often provide open space within residential areas but frequently lack a clear use and are often used for informal recreation activities.</p>
3	Cemeteries and Churchyards	<p>Quiet contemplation, burial and remembrance.</p> <p>Churchyards are primarily the responsibility of the individual churches or the diocese, and the cemetery is managed by the Town Council.</p> <p>Saint Mary's Churchyard is maintained by Totnes Town Council.</p>
4	Civic Spaces	<p>Providing a setting for civic buildings, public activities and community events.</p> <p>Civic spaces are important and the character and quality of them say a great deal about the town itself.</p>
5	Greenways	<p>Walking, cycling or horse riding routes, whether for leisure purposes or commuting. Taken to include Public Rights of Way and permissive paths.</p> <p>Can also provide corridors for wildlife migration</p> <p>Adopted pathways within towns and settlements and Public Rights of Way are the responsibility of the Highways Authority (Devon County Council) although landowners are required to keep them free of obstructions.</p>
6	Natural Spaces	<p>Areas for wildlife, quiet enjoyment and environmental awareness, including woodland, meadows, heath, moor land and coastal areas</p>

7	Parks and Gardens	Accessible, formal, high quality sites designed for recreation and community events
8	Play/Activity Space	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters. The opportunity for free exploratory play is fundamental to a child's ability to develop their physical and social skills. The opportunity for children over the last thirty to forty years to enjoy free unhindered open play has been
9	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Formal facilities for participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis and bowls
10	Indoor Sport Facilities	Formal and semi formal facilities for the provision of sport and recreation facilities indoors eg Leisure Centre, School facilities in dual use provision and hall/rooms etc. adapted for use.
11	River/amenity usage	River Dart, flowing through Totnes providing an amenity, community and sporting facility for the town. It encourages wildlife into the town and it aids the tourism/employment and casual social/amenity usage on its banks with

And from section 6.2 'Open Spaces' of the Neighbourhood Plan:

Open spaces make important contributions to local character and environmental quality. In Totnes these include:

- a. Formal and informal spaces for sport, recreation and play;
- b. Amenity green spaces, spaces for nature conservation and green ways;
- c. Growing spaces; and
- d. Civic spaces (including town squares), cemeteries and graveyards.

6.2.2 The NP will maintain and enhance the provision, quality and diversity of public open spaces and recreational provision in and around the town.

Section 106 Funds - Section 106 (s106) agreements are legal agreements between Local Authorities and developers; they are linked to planning permissions and can also be known as planning obligations.

The funds, once received by South Hams District Council, are held in ring fenced accounts by SHDC and projects are then developed by the Place Making Team to deliver the required outcomes. Some projects take place on SHDC land - but a significant number take place on third party land. Where they take place on third party land the funds are offered by way of a conditional grant which secures the Council's interests and the requirements of the s.106 agreement.

The table below contains the current OSSR s106 contributions within the South Hams for Totnes. The table includes s106 agreements which are signed, including those where funds are pending receipt once triggers are reached, or where funds have been received by SHDC and are available for spend. The table indicates the amount of funding available, the date by which the funds must be spent (where funds have been received), and indicates the projects on which funds may or must be spent. More recent s106 agreements define specific projects and effectively these funds are already committed.

Explanatory notes to assist interpretation of the main table	
Status	Funds received - these funds are available for commitment and spend S106 signed - the s106 is signed, but the development has either not commenced, or the trigger for payment has not been reached. Please note, there is no guarantee funds from a signed s106 will be received, the development must commence and triggers be met - not every development will be built out and some permissions (and s106s) will lapse. This is either the amount included within the signed s106, or if funds are received - the amount received (this can be more than the signed s106 as interest may apply to payments). Where part of a s106 contribution has already been spent or committed, the amount remaining and available for commitment is shown. References to SPD relate to the residents per dwelling calculation within the SHDC OSSR SPD 2006.
MF - monitoring fee applies	Most s106s include a clause enabling SHDC to take a percentage (commonly 5%) of the s106 contribution to cover monitoring costs associated with administration of that s106.
GI - Green Infrastructure officer	This indicates where a percentage (normally 5% or 10%) will be deducted as a contribution towards a Green Infrastructure Officer to be employed by SHDC. Where this contribution is taken, the GI Officer will assist with delivery of either the named projects, or assist with local consultation, commitment and spend of the OSSR funds in accordance with the applicable s106 agreement. Where TBC this indicates that any deduction will depend on likely level of officer input to realise OSSR projects in relation to the particular s106 agreement.
Trigger	Each OSSR contribution has a trigger within the s106 agreement. Once this trigger is reached the payment is due, and SHDC will invoice the developer/landowner. If you are aware (or suspect) that a trigger has been reached, please contact SHDC who can then confirm and if reached will invoice the developer/landowner. If trigger shows as N/A then the contribution has already been paid.
Spend by	The majority of s106 agreements include a term within which a s106 contribution should be spent (this includes being 'committed' to a project within a formal offer agreement). This could be 5, 10 or 25 years from receipt of funds by SHDC, however if the funds are not spent (or committed by contract/formal offer) within this timescale then the developer/landowner is entitled to clawback the contribution.
Projects	Pencilled projects - this refers to SHDC officers pencilling an OSSR contribution (of less than £30,000) against a project. This is not binding. Projects require agreement by Lead Specialist, Portfolio Holder and Local Ward Member(s). Named projects - where reference is made to 'named projects' these projects/sites are specifically named within the s106. There is limited flexibility to change such projects (it would likely require a deed of variation to the s106 agreement). Executive Committee report projects - these projects have been named within SHDC officer reports to Executive Committee on 10 th Sept 2015 (see http://old.southhamts.gov.uk/ContentHandler.ashx?id=161008&p=0). This gave officers the ability to allocate or spend funds on named projects of over £30,000 within the Executive report. These projects are not binding, but deviation would require officers to obtain agreement from the Lead Specialist (Place Making), Portfolio Holder and local Ward Member(s) Deferred to Parish/Town OSSR Plan - recognises that the local community may identify and prioritise projects through a Parish/Town OSSR Plan - priority projects could be supported (with officers required to obtain agreement from the Lead Specialist, Portfolio Holder and local Ward Members). Where a Town/Parish OSSR Plan (or similar) is not planned or written, then project identification/prioritisation could be based on local consultation, or the Town/Parish Council/SHDC Member/officers or a local group identifying a need. Requires local consultation - where no project has yet been identified or a Parish/Town OSSR Plan is not underway - it may require local consultation with local Ward Member(s), Town/Parish Council, local community (or the writing of a Parish/Town OSSR Plan). Indicates a Parish/Town with no current OSSR s106 funds (received or pending whereby a s106 has been signed)
Shaded boxes	

Please note:

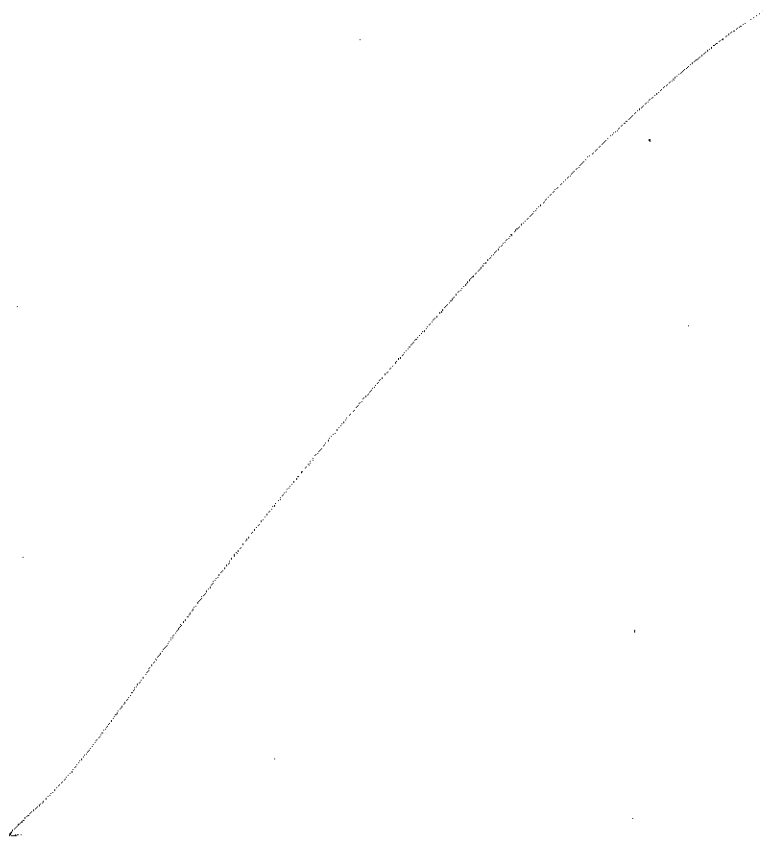
- Whilst every effort has been made to ensure this table is accurate there is of course room for human error - if you consider there are s106 agreements missing, or triggers have been met, officers would welcome Parish and Town Councils and SHDC Members making them aware.
- This table includes only off-site OSSR contributions.
- OSSR contributions which have recently been fully spent or formally committed to a project are not shown in the table.
- S106s which are being negotiated but are yet to be signed are not shown in this table - the table will be kept updated by officers as new s106s are signed which contain OSSR contributions.

Parish	Planning application	Status (s106 signed/funds received)	Amount	MF - monitoring fee applies	GI - Green Infrastructure officer	Clause	Trigger (if funds not yet received)	Spend/commit by	Projects
Stokenham	Old Grist Mill House, Chillington 53/2587/07/F	Funds received	£1,303.08 remaining	None	None	Generic OSSR	N/A	None specified	Local consultation required
	Green Park Way, Chillington 0771/16/OPA	S106 signed	£975 per occupier	3%	TBC	Improved facilities (including for extension of those facilities including the purchase of additional land) for off-site equipped play space and other outdoor space at Chillington Playing Field and/or Chillington church graveyard	On occupation of 50% of open market dwellings.	5 years of receipt	Named projects: Off-site equipped play space and other outdoor space at Chillington Playing Field and/or Chillington church graveyard
Strete									
Thurlestone									
Totnes	Eiwell House 56/1214/14/F	Funds received	£1,669.99	Already deducted	TBC	Generic OSSR	N/A	12/04/2043	Local consultation required
	Riverside (Camomile Lawn) 56/0447/12/O	Funds received	£43,271.44 remaining	Already deducted	Already deducted	Provision of playing fields benefiting residents of Totnes and/or community facilities in the Bridgetown area of Totnes and/or community facilities on the site	N/a	None specified	£35,000 earmarked for projects (Camomile Lawn and Parkfield Close play)
Ugborough	Coco's Nursery, Ashburton Rd (56/2221/15/O)	S106 signed	£19,500	5%	TBC	Sports and recreation facilities at Borough Park	50% on commencement and 50% prior to first occupation	10 years of receipt	Remainder via local consultation/OSSR Plan Named project: Sports and recreation facilities at Borough Park
	Earlscombe Farm Bittaford, 0746/16/FUL	S106 signed	£11,700	5%	TBC	OSSR facilities at: - Donkey Lane play area, Ugborough - Playing fields at Moorhaven, Bittaford - Facilities at Tweenaways playing fields, Hillhead Cross - Facilities at Ugborough Primary School	1/3 prior to occupation of each of the 3 dwellings	None specified	Named projects: Donkey Lane play area, Ugborough Playing fields at Moorhaven, Bittaford Facilities at Tweenaways playing fields, Hillhead Cross Facilities at Ugborough Primary School
	Sidings Cross 1317/16/OPA	S106 signed	£595 per occupier	5%	TBC	towards improvements to OSSR facilities at the Old Cricket Ground, Moorhaven and/or	50% prior to occupation of 50% of dwellings and remaining 50% on	7 years of receipt	Named projects: OSSR facilities at the Old Cricket Ground, Moorhaven and/or

ITEM 7 - COMMEMORATIVE BENCH

Totnes Gardens has requested permission from the Council to install a bench made from recycled materials on Coronation Road (opposite Totnes Hospital) in commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee. All costs will be met by Totnes Gardens.

The Council Assets and Public Realm Working Group considered the request on 16th March as the Town Council is the owner of this land, and recommend through the Town Matters Committee to Full Council that the request is supported and welcome an additional bench in this area.



CEWG meeting notes – 15.03.22, 18:30 – 20:00*Present*

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson
 Maiken Hutchings (Green Travel
 Coordinator - notes)
 R [REDACTED] O [REDACTED]

J [REDACTED] F [REDACTED] (Totnes Talks – arr. 18:50)
 M [REDACTED] R [REDACTED] (18:55)
 I [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] (TRESOC - 19:15)
 Cllr John Cummings (19:20)

Notes

1. Introductions – who is here
2. Discussion of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan new Climate Emergency Planning Policy and Guidance consultation document.

Available here:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicyandguidance/climateemergencyplanningpolicyandguidance>

- Mitigation section is missing the key issue of water
 - Both in relation to water use within housing but also issues re flooding, etc.
 - The document should include this
- Questions as to whether the wording in the adaptation section is strong enough
- Sustainable South Hams SSH / South Hams Climate Action Network SH CAN have created a document to share thoughts on the planning policy
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PUWk33_W1Ju1YXgb-Fj7wrKMTEZmly2dolaiEfiXIBM/edit
 - Requires access permission, email JF for more info
- Comment in reference to the requirement in the doc, p. 23
“All EV charging to be at least 7kw for homes with 50% of communal bays to be connected and for commercial development charging points should be a minimum of 22kw;”
 - 22kW is almost a waste of money for charging - you need at least 50kW for a significant charge. You end up needing more charging points than with rapid chargers

- We are increasingly reliant on electricity – what happens when there is a power cut?
 - Passivhaus not mentioned – this would help in terms of heating
- We need for data when developers say they can't do stuff. Why can't they? This needs to be public information.
- PV panels should be mandatory and developers should have to apply for exemption not to do it
- A suggestion to bring more people in from different environmental groups (e.g., SSH and SH CAN) to discuss this planning document in more detail
 - Agreed that a meeting will be held Tuesday 29th March via Zoom. Jacqi will send link
- How does this policy apply to planning processes?
 - JH: it will be a part of the validation checklist
- Developers tend to demolish existing building and build from scratch. Doc highlights need to minimise demolition but retrofit needs to be included more in the document
 - JH – need to include a hierarchy with retrofit at the top
- Grade 2 listed buildings - extremely difficult and very expensive to try to make it more energy efficient. A lot of things that are prohibitive. Warrants looking at.
- Need for guidance from SH planning on where they stand in terms of PV in Totnes and conservation areas. Need clear guidance from SHDC.
- Brownfield sites – community use might get more priority if new developers cry viability re including embodied carbon of existing buildings etc.
- No mention of co-housing and terracing/shared walls

3. Pension investment fund divestment

- JH – Devon County Council Investment and Pension Fund meetings
 - Have taken out big chunk in the investments in Russia
 - The ones they haven't sold are the ones they can't sell because no one is buying

 - Central Government have said that pension funds need to think about how they can play a role in Levelling Up investments and to be national, rather than international
 - DCC have said there seems to be a deficit on renewable energy projects to invest in

- There will be projects to invest in now that government have removed the planning restrictions on on-shore wind
 - Huge potential, payback time is 3 months. Payback for solar is 5 years. Onshore is our biggest and cheapest resource
 - Orkney doing a lot of work here
 - Severn Barrage back on the agenda

- Enterprise Investment Schemes
 - Could this be put to DCC?

- Need to put a poll to pension holders on divestment at their AGM

- General discussion around structure of grid and exporting renewable into grid

4. AOB

IB - Energy Local

- Need roofs to sign up in Totnes for PVs
 - Become Part of an energy club

- This information can be accessed via TRESOC
 - Write to TRESOC and get on the list
 - Anyone can join consumer and producer (or prosumer, both)

5. Totnes Talks – J ■ F ■ ■ ■

- JF said that these were being considered in a different format, using livestreaming via FB so that viewers could watch live and send in questions via the FB page as the panel discussion or interview was taking place. He agreed to update the CEWG at a future meeting about these plans

6. Extra meeting: 29th March 2022 18:30 to discuss planning document in more detail
7. Next regular CEWG meeting: 19th April 2022, 18:30

ACTIONS

- Jacqi to send meeting link for the additional meeting 29th March 2022