

AGENDA FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

MONDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL

There are stairs to the Council Chamber but if any member of the public has mobility issues the Council can relocate to the lower Guildhall.

You are hereby **SUMMONED** to attend the **Planning Committee** on **Monday 24th October 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), T Bennett, S Collinson, J Cummings, J Hodgson and P Paine.

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. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 18th July 2022 and update on any matters arising. Document attached.

3. TREE WORKS APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following tree works applications:

3a. 1031/22/TPO – G1: Hazel, Sycamore, Plum - Crown height reduction by a third and lateral reduction back to kerb line, T1: Sycamore - Coppice to ground level. Trees blocking light, overhanging parking area and causing issues with telephone cables. Land opposite 1-4 Westward Close, Totnes, TQ9 5HB. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/211031>

3b. 3400/22/TCA - T1: Holly - damaged by previous actions carried out by unknown persons, leaving it of low amenity value - Dismantle and fell to ground level. Angel Yard Cottage, South Street, Totnes, TQ9 5DZ. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/223400>

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following planning applications:

4a. 3136/22/OPA - Hybrid planning application for mixed use development comprising: Outline Permission comprising circa 25 Residential Units, circa 20 Holiday Lodges, a Spa/Concierge building (circa 500sqm), circa 1100sqm Commercial space, demolition of existing structures (apart from Brunel building & chimney) provision of open space & surface water attenuation, parking & associated infrastructure. Full Permission for Change of Use of Brunel building. Former Dairy Crest Site, Totnes. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/223136>

4b. 1525/22/HHO - Householder application for removal of existing UpVC conservatory & erection of single storey extension, insertion of two roof lights and replacement of exiting windows. 5 Bank Lane, Totnes, TQ9 5EH. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/221525>

4c. 1685/22/HHO - Householder application for proposed alterations to roof, single storey rear extension & 2No. balconies. Monksway, Ramparts Walk, Totnes, TQ9 5QH. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/221685>

4d. 3166/22/LBC - Listed Building Consent for alterations to ground floor shop unit including internal redecoration, new signage & reconfiguration of internal stairs. 29 High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5NP. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/223166>

4e. 3008/22/FUL – Relocation of condensing unit. Catherine House Surgery, New Walk, Totnes, TQ9 5HA. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/223008>

4f. 3065/22/HHO – Householder application for proposed alterations & extension to dwelling, garage extension, extension to raised terrace. 6 Farwell Road, Totnes, TQ9 5LJ. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/223065>

4g. 3014/22/HHO - Householder application to replace doors, extend existing first floor balcony replace second floor window to patio doors & add Juliet balcony. Riverview, South Street, Totnes, TQ9 5DZ. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/223014>

4h. 2788/22/FUL – Application for car port. 3 Polperro, Priory Gardens, Totnes, TQ9 5HT. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/222788>

4i. 2798/22/FUL – Replacement of sash windows. Flats 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 The Plains, Totnes, TQ9 5DR. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/222798>

4j. 3097/22/FUL – Retrospective planning for a small storage shed for storage of grocery cages. 1-2 Bridgetown Post Office, Christina Parade, Totnes, TQ9 5UU. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/223097>

5. BALTIC WHARF

To consider a report on the Baltic Wharf area and a draft recommendation to Full Council. Documents attached.

6. MOTORHOMES AT LONGMARSH

To consider the trial of motorhome overnight parking at Longmarsh and South Hams District Council's request for feedback on this policy. Document attached.

7. TORBAY LOCAL PLAN – HOUSING SITE OPTIONS CONSULTATION

To consider the Torbay Local Plan Housing Site Options consultation and make a recommendation to Full Council [consultation closes on 21st November]. Document attached.

8. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT FORUM

To consider any recommendations from the Traffic and Transport Forum held on 28th September 2022. Document attached.

9. FIBRE BROADBAND INSTALLATION

To consider the two fibre installation projects in the town and the suggestion of whether to request to cease roll out in Totnes. Document attached.

10. MINI BUDGET IMPACT ON PLANNING

To consider the impacts on planning from the mini budget announced 23rd September and a draft recommendation to Full Council that it writes to the local MP, District and County Councillors to raise concerns. Document attached and update from Cllr Cummings.

11. RURAL MOBILITY STRATEGY

To note the publication of a joint rural mobility strategy for the South West by Peninsula Transport. Document attached.

12. EVENTS ON SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL LAND

To note the following events taking place on South Hams District Council land (no document):

- a. Dart Totnes Rowing Association Autumn Head Rowing Race, Saturday 19th November 0600-1900hrs, Longmarsh Car Park.

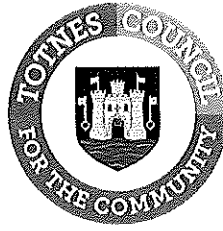
13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Planning Committee – Monday 21st November 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 18TH JULY 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL

Present: Councillors G Allen (Chair), T Bennett, S Collinson (joined at 6.40pm), J Cummings, J Hodgson and P Paine.

Apologies: None.

In Attendance: 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 Allen read out a statement about how the meeting would be conducted and recorded.

The Committee will adjourn Standing Orders for the following items:

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public who lives above The Cornish Bakery (item 4b) spoke of her objection to the application which does not go far enough to mitigate the noise and vibration issues that they are exposed to on a daily basis, along with concerns that the additional unit will exacerbate an already tight bin storage area.

The Committee reconvened Standing Orders.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 20th June 2022 and update on any matters arising.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

3. TREE WORKS APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following tree works applications:

3a. 2066/22/TCA – G1: Young/Semi Mature Ash & Sycamore - dismantle and fell smaller front line trees overhanging Moorashes Cottages to ground level. Prune back overhanging limbs to main stems. Excessive shading over neighbour. Totnes County Primary School, The Grove, Totnes, TQ9 5ED.

Support. The Committee would ask that replacement trees are planted in the school grounds.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following planning applications:

4a. 1523/22/FUL - Construction of 39 No. two-storey dwellings with associated landscaping. Proposed development site West Dartington Lane, Dartington.
Object, for the following reasons:

- The impact of the development on Joint Local Plan Spatial Priorities for Development in Totnes (SP6) points 3 (Ensuring that all development, singularly or cumulatively, will not negatively impact on the ability of the relevant authorities to improve air quality within the A385 AQMA) and 6 (Ensuring all new development does not have any negative impact on the greater horseshoe bat species and their flight paths within the protected South Hams SAC).
- Concerns about the flood risk. The Committee supports calls for flood containment modelling for this site based on the 2022 data which is a requirement from September this year, rather than using data from 2013.
- The loss of trees around the proposed entrance to the development.
- S106 funding – it is suggested that this would be better spent on the proposed cycle path through the rear of the plot from Meadowside to the river rather than travel vouchers.
- Concerns on health and safety grounds on the impact on local facilities – there has been no mitigation made for the increase in properties/households in the area to upgrade the water treatment and reduce water pollution, the danger to pedestrians from increased vehicle numbers and the impact on air quality along the A385.
- Concerns about the requested increase in light levels recommended in the Police comments and the impact on the bat foraging area and wildlife at night.
- Concerns about service and emergency vehicles accessing the development via Dartington Lane.

4b. 2095/22/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 (resubmission of 4719/21/FUL). 44 Fore Street, Totnes, TQ9 5RP.

Object. The Committee's concerns raised under application 4719/21/FUL still stand. The scale of the business continues to cause an issue in terms of the vibration and noise/sound generated and the Committee would wish to see the comments from SHDC Environmental Health who have been involved with this case for some time. The additional air conditioning unit will cause space constraint issues in the existing bin storage area. The Committee has concerns about: the scale of the bakery and the factory grade machinery operating in a listed building; fire safety factors; and would ask whether this possibly goes beyond the scope of the original change of use granted – the heritage statement submitted is dated 2017 isn't very detailed and has no mention of the building's current operation.

4c. 3048/21/FUL – Provision of single dwelling house (resubmission of 1668/20/FUL). Montgo, Maudlin Road, Totnes, TQ9 5TG.

Supportive of the amendments to the original plan.

4d. 1614/22/VAR – Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 2560/21/FUL. Brutus Centre, Fore Street, Totnes.

Cllr Allen declared a personal interest.

The Committee would want to ensure that the sub station has adequate acoustic protection, and to confirm that there is no removal of any trees and the tree root protection zone is not affected by the foundations for the proposed sub-station.

4e. 1311/22/FUL – The provision of security shutters to existing open rear porch to church. St Marys and St Georges Church, Station Road, Totnes, TQ9 5HW.
Support.

4f. 1585/22/HHO – Householder application for single storey rear extension. Winterleiten, Jubilee Road, Totnes, TQ9 5BP.
Support.

4g. 1353/22/HHO – Householder application for roof extension. 13 Springhill Road, Totnes, TQ9 5RD.
Support.

5. LICENCING APPLICATION

To consider the following licence application for The Albatross, 105 High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5SN (no document):

- The supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises Monday to Saturday 10:00 to 23:00 and Sunday 10:00-22:00.
- Recorded music indoors Monday to Saturday 10:00 to 23:00 and Sunday 10:00-22:00.
- Activities of a similar description to that falling within (e), (f) or (g) (live music, recorded music, performances of dance) Monday to Saturday 10:00 to 23:00 and Sunday 10:00-22:00.

The Committee is supportive of the application but would not wish to see any street furniture (tables and chairs) put in the Rotherfold public space.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Planning Committee – Monday 19th September 2022 at 6.30pm in the Guildhall.

Noted. It was confirmed that any non-contentious planning applications will be emailed to Committee members for their comments which will be collated for the Clerk who has delegated responsibility to respond during August. Any urgent applications will be taken to Full Council on 5th September.

Sara Halliday
Governance and Projects Manager

ITEM 5 - BALTIC WHARF

Recommendation: That Totnes Town Council fully supports the aims and objectives set out in the attached document for the following reasons:

1. The town of Totnes has a long maritime history and the Baltic Wharf Boat Yard is part of that heritage. In the past this association with the sea has brought prosperity to the town and we believe it could do again, through the creation of highly skilled and well paid jobs at Baltic Wharf.
2. The changing nature and the growing potential within the marine sector presents a real opportunity to develop Baltic Wharf as a thriving marine centre and one which would also make a significant contribution towards the development of the local green economy.
3. Baltic Wharf's location along with the unique facilities it offers makes it ideal to be developed as a marine centre and it would enhance the town.
4. Most of the businesses and local organisations associated with marine industries support these alternative proposals and would benefit from a vibrant marine centre at Baltic Wharf, and many feel their business could be damaged if the housing proposals went ahead and the yard was reduced to one third its current size.
5. By preserving Baltic Wharf and building on what is there already, the huge carbon cost of the proposed housing development will be avoided, the burden on local services of another 100+ households will be avoided, the only road access to the river for large loads will be maintained, the existing businesses at Baltic Wharf will be protected and allowed to grow.

ITEM 6 – MOTORHOMES AT LONGMARSH

Text of email from South Hams District Council about the trial of overnight parking at Longmarsh.

Background

In June 2021 we commenced a 12 month trial to allow motorhomes to park for a maximum of two consecutive nights at £10 per night to stay from 6pm until 10am in nominated car parks throughout the South Hams. This applied to motorhomes which are self-contained i.e. have on board toilet facilities only. The nominated car parks were as follows:

- **Longmarsh car park, Totnes**
- Cattlemarket car park, Kingsbridge
- Park & Ride car park, Dartmouth
- Leonards Road car park, Ivybridge
- Poundwell Meadow car park, Modbury

Signage was erected in the car parks stating the terms and conditions which included details of

1. the maximum permitted stay,
2. the code of conduct requesting responsible behaviour,
3. the requirement for vehicles to have toilets and
4. zero tolerance of anti-social behaviour.

Parking enforcement has taken place within the car parks during the trial to ensure the terms and conditions were adhered to and penalty charge notices were issued for non-compliance.

Performance

Overall, the policy has seen 1401 overnight stays within the nominated car parks. Highlights of the statistics are as follows:

Income generated was £14010 (the exec report prediction was £9600 for the 12 month trial)

The top three locations are Longmarsh car park, Totnes (934 overnight stays), Park & Ride car park Dartmouth (239 overnight stays) and Cattlemarket car park, Kingsbridge (129 overnight stays).

Leonards Road car park, Ivybridge saw the least stays of 48 over 12 months followed by Poundwell Meadow car park, Modbury at 51 stays.

We have carried out 385 early/evening visits in addition to the daily car park enforcement checks

182 Penalty Charge notices have been issued for non-compliance

Some of the advantages of policy have been:

- Increased income in terms of car parking income and also the wider visitor economy
- Positive for tourism
- Effective management of motorhomes
- Positive news story for towns

Some of the disadvantages of the policy have been:

- Some increased antisocial behaviour – these issues have predominantly been at Longmarsh car park, Totnes and have included the eviction of individuals trying to stay long term within car parks, defecation in the car park etc
- Motorhomes not abiding by the terms and conditions of parking
- Some complaints for local residents
- Some users were disappointed there were not facilities such as chemical toilet disposal

Going Forward

SHDC is due to take a report to the Executive in December and propose recommending allowing motorhome parking to continue permanently as per the trial at the above car parks.

SHDC would welcome the Town Council feedback regarding the policy. Is there any advantages or disadvantages you have seen or experienced whilst the trial has been in operation. Would you like us to consider expanding the scheme to alternative car park within your town? Do you feel the policy has been a success?

ITEM 7 - TORBAY LOCAL PLAN: HOUSING SITE OPTIONS CONSULTATION

On 7th October Torbay Council published the **Housing Site Options consultation**, as part of the preparation of the **Torbay Local Plan Update 2022-2040: A Landscape to Thrive**. The consultation is open until 12 Noon on Monday 21st November 2022.

The best way to view and make comments on the Site Options consultation is via the council's online platform at: <https://yoursay.torbay.gov.uk/local-plan-update> . There is more information on the background to the Local Plan Update at [Local Plan Update - Torbay Council](#) .

This consultation (which is made at "Regulation 18" Issues and options stage) focusses on housing numbers, distribution and site allocations. We are also consulting on draft housing policies. We will take any representation made in response to the consultation into account in preparing the next stage of the Local Plan. We intend to publish the pre-submission draft Local Plan (i.e. the Regulation 19 "Preferred Option") in Summer 2023.

Information copied from the Torbay Local Plan website is below and the site options document and questions is attached as a separate document.

Have your say

We are consulting on the local plan update. It outlines how we plan to deliver 5,400 homes between now and 2040. The Local Plan: identifies where we could build new homes; aims to get the views of as many local people as possible.

We want to hear from as many people as possible, as well as stakeholders such as the development industry, environmental bodies, and neighbouring councils.

Please make comments online via Consultations - Torbay Council which is open until 12 Noon on Monday 21 November.

Housing in Torbay

Torbay currently has 150 families in temporary accommodation. There are 1600 households on the waiting list for affordable housing. This number will only grow over the coming years.

The government sets a formula to work out the minimum number of homes that we should build. This figure is 600 dwellings a year: or 10,800 new homes by 2040. We know that there is an urgent housing need, but we have concerns about the way the formula works this out. In particular, it relies on very old data, but our main concern is that the formula doesn't take into account: environmental constraints; our ability to accommodate growth for: jobs, infrastructure, suitable land to build on.

There are some areas that the draft plan aims to protect. For example, the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It means we will need to look at other sites and to do this we need your help.

Cabinet

We carried out an earlier consultation in January 2022 on Local Plan growth options. The findings of this have helped us prepare the new consultation. The report to Cabinet in July

2022 talks about the issues in more detail. It can be read at: Cabinet Report and background papers.

The policy and targets

The Local Plan doesn't only look at housing. It also sets out an overarching strategic policy and sets targets for: employment land; addressing the climate emergency; suggesting more detailed policies for neighbourhood plan areas.

We will be consulting on the non-housing policies in the Local Plan Update in early 2023.

Evidence Documents

The Local Plan will be supported by evidence about key issues. Two important studies that have been carried out are the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA) and the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA). The latest versions of these documents are attached below, but please note that they are likely to evolve over time as new sites and data become available. The HENA and the HELAA are not policy documents, but part of the evidence that will help shape policy making.

Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA)

This document looks at the housing market in Torbay and calculates how many affordable homes need to be provided, as well as the size, type and tenure of homes that we need.

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)

Need is different from capacity to meet that need. The next step has been to identify land that could potentially be used to meet Torbay's housing need. This process, known as a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), looks at whether sites would be suitable to build homes on. The HELAA has included a 'Call for Sites' in which we have asked local people, land owners and agents to notify us of sites which may have development potential.

The HELAA may be viewed on the Torbay Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment page.

Next Steps

The current consultation focusses on housing policies. We will consult on non-housing policies (e.g. on employment, retail, transport, landscape, ecology etc. early in 2023.

The current stage is known as "Regulation 18 Issues and Options" where no decisions have been made about the Plan. We want to hear people's views and we will take these into account when preparing the next stage of the Local Plan.

The next stage is the "Preferred Option" (Also called "Regulation 19"). We will publish this in Summer 2023. Although still a consultation plan, this will set out what the council considers to be the right Local Plan Update.

Following consultation on the "preferred option" the Plan will be Submitted to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) for Examination in Autumn 2023.

There will also be a separate consultation on our new Housing Strategy later in the autumn.

ITEM 8 – TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT FORUM: RECOMMENDATIONS

General Bus Issues - The Steering Group recommend to Planning that TTC should send a letter of concern to relevant stakeholders (including relevant DCC officers) regarding the issues around recently amended and reduced bus services in and around Totnes.

Zebra Crossing at the Lamb - It was agreed to recommend to Planning that TTC should consider the issue of pedestrian safety around the Lamb and Heaths Nursery car park, specifically how it might be able to financially support the implementation of pedestrian safety measures, such as a zebra crossing

Steering Group meeting notes

28.09.22

Guildhall, 18:30 – 20:00

Present:

██████████ (Chair)
██████████ – Bourton Residents Association (until ~19:00)
██████████ – Ramblers
██████████ – Chamber of Commerce
██████████ – Bob the Bus
Cllr Sarah Collinson – Inclusive Totnes
Cllr Bennett
Cllr Hodgson (until ~19:00)
Maiken Hutchings – TTC Sustainability Officer (notes)

Recommendations:

- The Steering Group recommend to Planning that TTC should send a letter of concern to relevant stakeholders (including relevant DCC officers) regarding the issues around recently amended and reduced bus services in and around Totnes.
- It was agreed to recommend to Planning that TTC should consider the issue of pedestrian safety around the Lamb and Heaths Nursery car park, specifically how it might be able to financially support the implementation of pedestrian safety measures, such as a zebra crossing

Actions:

- Cllr Hodgson to await email from ██████████ before taking bus stop issue further
- Sustainability Officer to find contact details for relevant officers at DCC to pass on to Cllr Collinson/Cllr Bennett
- Sustainability Officer to chase outcomes/report from signage walkaround
- Sustainability Officer to pass on feedback on wayfinding to TTC Marketing Manager
- Sustainability Officer to find out about current status of getting Totnes map removed and replaced
- Steering Group members to email feedback on new wayfinding signs to Lucy at TTC
- Sustainability Officer to pass on Wales & West contact email to CoC, Bob the Bus and Inclusive Totnes

1. Bus issues

1.1 Bourton bus stop issue

██████████, representing the Bourton Residents Association, explained the difficulties experienced by residents with regards to buses suddenly not stopping at the bus stop by Newton Road. This has caused significant distress as people are not able to get to where

they need to go. Some bus drivers have said that there have been a number of new drivers employed who are not aware that it is a formal stop. There is currently not a bus stop sign at that location. This was felt to be a key solution to the problem. The bus company had been contacted but no response had been received.

The group discussed the issue, and it was agreed that [REDACTED] should write to Cllr Hodgson as DCC Councillor so that she could take this forward. It was also suggested that she write again to the bus company in another effort to receive a response.

ACTION: Cllr Hodgson to take this forward with DCC/bus company once email from [REDACTED] received

1.2 General bus issues

Sarah Collinson explained that she had received an email from [REDACTED] regarding the mounting mobility problems faced by Bridgetown residents who rely on buses, particularly evenings, weekends and for anyone needing to get to Torbay Hospital. Appendix A outlines some of the changes coming into effect 2nd October 2022.

Particularly safety issues related to the new Gold bus route were highlighted, such as lack of safe crossing points on the busy main road and lack of bus shelters.

This was discussed. The conversation turned to bus issues in general, the serious issues with Stagecoach, and how the Town Council might be able to take these issues forward.

It was suggested that TTC should send a letter of concern to the relevant stakeholders, including officers at DCC and the transport commissioner (?).

RECOMMENDATION: It was agreed to recommend to the Planning Committee that TTC should send a letter of concern to relevant stakeholders (including relevant DCC officers) regarding the issues around recently amended and reduced bus services in and around Totnes

ACTION: Sustainability Officer to find contact details for relevant officers at DCC to pass on to Cllr Collinson/Cllr Bennett

2. Initial traffic meeting feedback

The group discussed the traffic meeting that was held on 13th September 2022. Four Steering Group members were present as participants (DCllr Jo Sweett, Chamber of Commerce, Ramblers, Inclusive Totnes).

They felt that the meeting spent too long going over things that have been discussed previously (which we know won't work) rather than focusing on new solutions. It was felt that a lot of legwork had gone into the meeting for little outcome. The group also expressed frustration at the fact that DCC had us do this meeting rather than engage with us directly. It was felt that it was a way to kick the issue further into the grass.

██████ said he felt that the meeting was a positive one, but that he thought the real issue related to the next steps process and the worry that it would lead to another stalemate.

- ██████ stated that what we really want and need is to sit around a table with DCC officers to explain why Totnes is a peculiar place, why it matters, and try to find solutions that work for everyone.
- He also made the point that if we can find a solution that works for Totnes, then this may be replicable in other places

The group agreed that an open approach should be taken and that the whole of objective of the final report to DCC should be to get a proper sit-down meeting with DCC. This will be discussed further at the November Steering Group meeting.

Other issues

The group then discussed other issues that came up at the meeting, such as signage. It was requested that the Sustainability Officer chase Highways / TTC internally for a report back on the signage walkaround in mid-July, especially with regards to the Fore St entrance sign.

ACTION: Sustainability Officer to chase outcomes/report from signage walkaround

Some of the Group also provided feedback on the new wayfinding signs in town.

- Generally agreed that writing too small
- Fingerposts too high and sometimes not visible
- Lack of signage from car parks into town (many had seen tourists wandering around lost)

The Totnes map by the bus stop at Seven Stars was also highlighted as being a real eye sore. ██████ said that someone local had offered to create a new one for £150.

ACTION: Sustainability Officer to pass on feedback on wayfinding to TTC Marketing Manager

ACTION: Sustainability Officer to find out about current status of getting Totnes map removed

DCllr Sweett highlighted to the Group that DCC will be introducing new parking charges on Fore St / High St parking. Prices are going up quite significantly.

3. Update on zebra crossing at the Lamb

Sarah updated the Group on the current situation with the proposed zebra crossing. Inclusive Totnes was approached by local residents regarding the situation for pedestrians around the Lamb. A zebra crossing had originally been rejected by HATOC but Sarah explained that they hadn't taken everything into consideration that they should have done. Inclusive Totnes had pointed out several oversights. HATOC were told to repeat their

surveys. The result is that HATOC in principle support the introduction of a zebra crossing (no formal vote taken) but that they do not have any funds to provide.

The Group discussed this further.

- DCllr Sweett pointed out that there is another problem area between Heaths Nursery and the Nursery car parks. Many people cross here and it is also on a corner.
- Clir Bennett suggested that DCC could put in stop signs at each junction to prevent drivers speeding around the corners.
- Sarah suggested that it might be worth TTC looking into whether they could fund it through a multi-pronged approach (TTC funding, sponsorship, etc).

RECOMMENDATION: It was agreed to recommend to Planning Committee that TTC should consider this issue further, specifically how it might be able to financially support the implementation of pedestrian safety measures, such as a zebra crossing

4. AOB

Gas works on Fore / High St

TTC were informed on 23rd September by Wales & West Utilities about future gas works on Fore St / High St. TTC have very little information other than the fact that gas pipes need replacing for safety issues and the works are expected to take potentially several months. Wildanet are also due to install fibre up the High St which will also require road closures.

A council officer told Wales & West to contact the Chamber of Commerce, Bob the Bus, Inclusive Totnes, funeral care providers, and others as soon as possible to consult with them directly. Wales & West were informed that Easter is a key time for traders in town.

ACTION: Sustainability Officer to pass on Wales & West contact email to CoC, Bob the Bus and Inclusive Totnes

End of meeting 20:00

Appendix A

Bus changes

Some more changes that will affect Bus services in the area beyond the Gold, such as on to the hospital and the number of connections from Paignton to Torquay. These will come into play on the 2nd of October.

Service 13/13C/13D (Kingsteignton – Brixham)

This Service will no longer provide a connection to Torbay hospital for those coming into Paignton Bus Station from Totnes (Gold) service as it will no longer connect at Paignton Bus station. Due to low customer demand, the Service 13 route and timetable are being redesigned to provide a simpler, sustainable service for the future with more unique areas served.

The route will be amended to operate between Brixham and Torbay Hospital only, with the section of route between Torbay Hospital and Kingsteignton withdrawn. To simplify the route Paignton Bus Station will no longer be served, however, Service 12 will provide an alternative in many cases.

- The 12 will pass close to the Hospital but at the bottom of the hill by the stop at Lowes Bridge which will be inconvenient for those who are mobility challenged.
- Service 13 will operate every 60 minutes Monday to Friday daytime, with no service at the weekend.

To accommodate staff working at Torbay Hospital, the timetable has been designed to accommodate a pre-0800 arrival and an additional evening return journey at 2015 will be introduced.

A replacement new Service 53, operated under contract to Devon County Council will operate between Kingsteignton and Torbay Hospital. School and college journeys will operate as Services 13C, 13D or 53.

Reduced Frequency - Service 12 (Newton Abbot – Brixham via Torquay and Paignton)

The Saturday daytime frequency will be reduced from 10 to 12 minutes. On Sundays and Public Holidays, the daytime frequency will be reduced from 15 minutes to 20 minutes. In addition, there are also some minor changes to journeys at the start and end of the day.

Service 35A/35C (Torquay – The Willows via Torbay Hospital)

Sunday and Public Holiday daytime frequency will be reduced from every 30 minutes to every 60 minutes.

Stopped service until next year

Service 122 (Babbacombe – Devon Bay via Torquay and Paignton)

Service 122 will pause operation until 2023. While there will be no direct service to Devon Bay, Services 12 and 120 continue to stop nearby on Dartmouth Road (Waterside Shops), with all other sections of the route served by other frequent services.

ITEM 9 – FIBRE BROADBAND INSTALLATION

From District Cllr Sweett's report:

Wildanet and Airband- Currently Wildanet are installing fibre broadband underground in Bridgetown (Totnes and Berry Pomeroy). They will not be installing any overhead cabling so will not be erecting any poles. Those erected by Airband have been incredibly unpopular. Airband have still many more poles to instal throughout Totnes and Berry Pomeroy (and the District) if Fibre can progress before poles are installed then CDS (Connecting Devon and Somerset) could possibly cease that contract. If Town and Parish Councils wish they could contact CDS to make this point.

ITEM 10 - MINI BUDGET IMPACT ON PLANNING

Totnes Town Council notes with alarm:

- The Government has tabled the "Retained EU law revocation and reform bill" before Parliament. The Secretary of State at BEIS (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) has stated "The bill will sunset the majority of retained EU law so that it expires on 31 December 2023. All retained EU law contained in domestic secondary legislation and retained direct EU legislation will expire on this date, unless otherwise preserved."
- In an article on 24th September, the Guardian reported "DEFRA sources confirmed that the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) measures are under review and area-based payment is on the table. . . A DEFRA spokesperson did not deny the change was to take place". The National Farmers Union has been pushing to delay the introduction of ELMS, and Minette Batters, the NFU president, welcomed the departure from ELMS "My absolute priority is ensuring that farmers can continue to produce the nation's food".
- In his recent "mini-budget", the Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng announced the formation of "investment zones" in 38 local authorities. In these zones, "The need for planning applications will be minimised and where planning applications remain necessary, they will be radically streamlined." The RSPB has branded these investment zones as "an attack on nature", and they are similarly criticised by the Wildlife Trusts and the National Trust.
- On 22nd September, the Secretary of State at BEIS announced: ""Under these circumstances, HM Government considers it appropriate to pursue all means for increasing UK gas production, including shale gas extraction. The government is therefore lifting the pause on shale gas extraction and will consider future applications for hydraulic fracturing consent with the domestic and global need for gas, and local support for developments, in mind."
- On 12th November, 2017, Environment Secretary Michael Gove announced: "Leaving the EU gives us the opportunity to put the environment at the heart of policy making, while ensuring vital protections for our landscapes, wildlife and natural assets are not only maintained but enhanced."

- The Conservative Party election manifesto in 2019 stated:
 - “We want to get Brexit done so that we can get on with our work of making Britain the greatest place in the world to live, . . . with the most ambitious environmental programme of any country on earth.” (page 3).
 - “Once we have got Brexit done, we will free our farmers from the bureaucratic Common Agricultural Policy and move to a system based on ‘public money for public goods’ . . . In return for funding, they must farm in a way that protects and enhances our natural environment, as well as safeguarding high standards of animal welfare.” (page 42).
 - “Conservation is, and always has been, at the heart of Conservatism. Our Government’s stewardship of the natural environment, its focus on protecting the countryside and reducing plastic waste, is a source of immense pride. . . . We will lead the global fight against climate change by delivering on our world-leading target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as advised by the independent Committee on Climate Change. . . . We will not support fracking unless the science shows categorically that it can be done safely.” (page 55).

- The Westminster Parliament, Devon County Council, South Hams District Council and Totnes Town Council have all declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency, and developed policies in response.

Totnes Town Council therefore AGREES to write to Anthony Mangnall MP, and to Conservative councillors at South Hams District Council and Devon County Council, calling on them to uphold the promises made at the time of the EU Referendum and in the 2019 election manifesto, and to distance themselves from the recent announcements above.

Proposed: Cllr Cummings

References:

Retained EU law revocation and reform bill

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-growth-plan-2022-factsheet-on-investment-zones/the-growth-plan-2022-investment-zones-factsheet>

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<https://www.theplanner.co.uk/2022/09/22/rees-mogg-announces-moratorium-fracking-has-been-lifted>

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<https://www.conservatives.com/our-plan/conservative-party-manifesto-2019>

ITEM 11 – RURAL MOBILITY STRATEGY

From the Peninsula Transport website: *Peninsula Transport is a shadow sub-national transport body, bringing together the five lead transport authorities in the peninsula; Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay to transform the economic potential of the region. Working closely with co-opted members and key stakeholders from the private and public sector, the partnership is responsible for defining and delivering the strategic transport priorities for the peninsula.*

The South West has the most rural population of England's traditional regions. Around 17% of the English population live in rural areas and in the South West that figure is 33%. However, despite a sizeable population, many of its countryside and coastal communities are being significantly impacted by a reduction in public transport services, leading to an inevitable high dependency on private cars.

We recognise the current approach to rural mobility has not worked for many of our local communities in the South West. The challenges they face from the lack of access to everyday services, affordability and limited choice are very real. With this in mind, Western Gateway and Peninsula Transport Sub-national Transport Bodies (STBs) have developed and published a joint rural mobility strategy for the South West, the first to be developed at sub-national level in England.

Decarbonised, publicly available and affordable transport should be central to improving rural mobility, increasing choice and providing alternatives to private car journeys. Digital connectivity and mobile services are also key, enabling more to be done without the need to travel. The South West Rural Mobility Strategy has been developed to address these challenges and build new approaches to support rural and coastal communities in becoming more connected and more prosperous. It identifies the locations where rural mobility issues are most pressing and sets out a framework for delivering solutions.

Piloting new approaches will be a first major step in delivering more for rural areas. A wide range of potential interventions have been packaged into bundles that target different types of rural place (rural towns, villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings). Six types of pilots have then been identified to trial the bundled interventions.

The next steps will be to develop the pilots into live trials. By running a varied set of pilots there are more opportunities to learn and to develop sustainable models for long-term delivery of mobility in rural areas.

The rural mobility strategy can be found at <https://www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/20220805-South-West-Rural-Mobility-Strategy-v1-0.pdf>

