

AGENDA FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 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 **Town Matters Committee** on **Monday 28th November 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, A Oliver, P Paine, B Piper 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. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

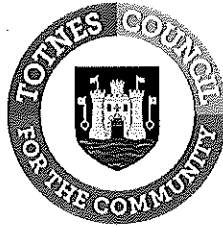
To approve the minutes of 26th September 2022 and update on any matters arising. Document attached.

3. **DAISY AND RAINBOW NURSERIES**
To consider a report from the Daisy and Rainbow councillor representative. Document attached and verbal update from Cllr Bennett.
4. **TOWN DECORATION**
To consider any town decorations for Coronation Day (6th May 2023) and summer events. Verbal update.
5. **WATER QUALITY UPDATE**
To note an update on the water quality meetings with South West Water and the Environment Agency. Document attached.
6. **COST OF LIVING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**
To note the minutes of the Cost of Living Partnership meeting. Document attached.
7. **CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**
To note the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group held on 25th October. Document attached.
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 30th January 2023 at 6.30pm.

Sara Halliday
Committee and Cemetery Administrator
23rd November 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 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL

Present: Councillors V Trow (Chair), G Allen, J Cummings, P Paine, B Piper, and Cllr S Collinson

Apologies: Cllr A Oliver

Not Present: Cllr L Webberley

In Attendance: L Ferrier (Marketing and Communications 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.

The apologies were received and accepted.

The Committee will adjourn for the following items:

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

The Committee reconvened.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 25th July 2022 and update on any matters arising.

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

Item 4 - Community Award process for 2023. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that:

a. Two awards are presented in 2023 – an individual and community group award – with the timings as follows:

- February 2023 - nominations will be invited from the public through the Totnes Directory, Town Council Website and Social Media with a closing date of mid-March;
- March 2023 - Town Matters Committee will consider the nominations received;
- April 2023 - Full Council considers Town Matters Committee recommendation.

b. Depending on the number of nominations received, the top three nominees in each category (as determined by Full Council) will be invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting in May 2023 where the award will be presented.

c. A new medal is cast based on the Town Council logo (see below) which will cost £100 for the moulding from which pewter medals can then be struck (unit cost £3-5 plus engraving for 'Community Award 2023', type of award and the name of the recipient on the reverse).

3. AIR AND WATER QUALITY CONCERNS

To consider concerns about air and water quality levels in the town and make any recommendations to Full Council.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Council need to facilitate action to highlight community concerns regarding water quality in the River Dart. Many issues associated with poor water quality cross over with causes of poor air quality, so this is an opportunity to highlight both concerns.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that a meeting is held for local stakeholders including representatives from river user groups, community groups and monitoring authorities. Invitees to include: Rowing Club, Canoe Club, SHDC planning, SHDC environmental health, South West Water, Westcountry Rivers, Dynamic Adventures, Dart Harbour Authority, Surfers Against Sewage, DCC Highways, DCC Public Health, Buckfastleigh TC, Staverton PC, Berry Pomeroy PC, Anthony Mangnall, and the local media.

The meeting will comprise of those groups invited but will be recorded and shared publicly via the website and on social media.

Cllr Cummings will consult with Cllr Hodgson for a joined-up approach and will draft a letter/invitation. This will outline:

- the reason for calling the meeting (at community request)
- that contents will be shared publicly
- matters to be discussed
- desired outcomes.

4. COST OF LIVING MEETING

To consider any actions from the community Cost of Living Crisis meeting and make any recommendations to Full Council.

It was **AGREED** that support should be given to enable the partnership meetings to continue and a joined-up town response to the cost of living crisis.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that in lieu of the currently vacant TTC community coordinator role, alternative co-ordination support provision is investigated to empower and facilitate a joined-up community response. This could be funding a part-time post within one of the community organisations. Also, that the Civic Hall should be made available, if needed, to provide one venue that can be used by multiple community support projects one day a week to reduce individual costs.

5. COUNCIL CHRISTMAS EVENTS

To note a verbal update on (no documents):

- a. **Christmas Lights Switch-On; and**
- b. **Christmas Festival evenings.**

Noted. The officer updated that preparations for both events are progressing well with a focus on local businesses and community and creating a fabulous festive atmosphere for the whole family. Entertainment was discussed and agreed that as well as the on-street performances, the markets and late nights could work in a similar way to the Totnes Festival to co-ordinate and promote music events in venues around the town. Cllr Collinson suggested Jam Buddies should be contacted to see if they would like to get involved providing entertainment for the night. The email for Jo at Miss Ivy Events was provided.

6. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

To note the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group on 20th September 2022 (standing item).

Noted.

7. FAIRTRADE GROUP

To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade meeting held on 9th August 2022.

Noted.

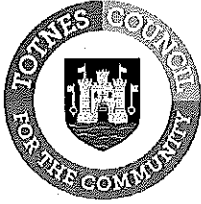
8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Noted.

Lucy Ferrier
Marketing and Communications Manager

Item 3



Cllr Tim Bennett

cllr.bennett@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk

3/11/2022

Daisy Preschool & Rainbow Nursery AGM

Link Councillor Report

In my role as link councillor I attended the Daisy & Rainbow AGM, and what follows is a brief report of the key statements contained within.

In the interests of full disclosure I am now a Trustee of Daisy & Rainbow.

COVID Response

As we all know, education institutions and their staff endured some of the most challenging obstacles during the pandemic and found themselves having to develop entirely new ways of working at very short notice and often with little or confusing guidance from the government. In the main, Daisy & Rainbow managed this through rigorous testing and by splitting their cohorts into bubbles, which proved successful and allowed them to contain infections - notably, when a significant number of infections occurred within one of their bubbles causing them to have to close a classroom this did not affect the provision of childcare and learning for the remainder of the nursery.

I think it's easy to overlook the rest of the work that went on behind the scenes - the daily cleaning, steaming, and disinfecting of surfaces, equipment, and toys, the extra administrative load both in terms of new working practices and also staff absences, and also, most importantly continuing to provide excellent pastoral care and learning outcomes in a safe and caring environment for some of our most vulnerable members of the community.

OFSTED Inspection

In February 2022 Rainbow Nursery was inspected by OFSTED and received a rating of "Outstanding" for all criteria.

Considering the challenging nature of the last couple of years I think that is testament to the hard work and commitment to child development they demonstrate.

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50180632>

Relationships with St Johns and The Mansion

Changes within the management personnel at both St John's Primary and The Mansion have been met with positivity and have allowed for "increased community engagement".

In particular regards to The Mansion Deborah Oakey, Childcare Services Manager says that the new trustees and volunteers have been *"very proactive onsite to ensure that a community focus is established. They liaise well with us and treat us with respect and fairness. During the COVID period they were incredibly supportive too when the site was kept open solely for the benefit of our provision to the families of keyworkers and vulnerable children."*

Recruitment

Staffing continues to be an issue for Daisy & Rainbow (as across the entire early years sector), although the situation has improved somewhat from where they were at the start of the pandemic.

Through running a profit they have been able to increase staff pay 2-3 times and now have been able to register as a Real Living Wage employer. This has helped with retention - staff are no longer quitting mid-term to work in the care sector for more money - but recruitment remains a problem.

The waiting list for Daisy & Rainbow at the moment is such that they could "easily" open a third site were it not for the inability to staff it. Speaking from my own experience, our youngest child has just started at Rainbow *one year* after he became eligible for his free hours, having been on the waiting list for that whole time. This undoubtedly will have an effect on his learning and social development, but also it has severely impacted on my ability to work during this period. Extrapolate that out to the ≈50 families currently on the waiting list (and in turn all nurseries nationally) and the reality of a decade of under investment in early years education is clearly a much bigger problem than most people realise.

Daisy & Rainbow parents have written to Anthony Mangnall to urge the government to reinvest in early years, and I think that as a town council we should add our voice to this argument as it has a direct effect on both the wellbeing and economy of Totnes.

ITEM 5 – WATER QUALITY UPDATE

Cllr Cummings has provided the following summary of his work to date on organising a meeting of stakeholders to discuss water quality. There will be an item on the January 2023 Town Matters agenda to update on the meetings to be held over the coming weeks.

“Since I undertook to draft a letter to South West Water (SWW), I have discovered two other related initiatives. Firstly, a small core of activists around water quality, aware that there are many different groups all campaigning around river water quality, but often not in touch with each other, began meeting to try to co-ordinate all the different groups, and establish a proper communication strategy between them.

Secondly, Friends of the Dart (a mixture of wild swimmers and citizen scientists who have been doing their own water testing) had already contacted SWW, who are fully committed to establishing "Bathing Water" (BW) status for part of the Dart; they had set up an online meeting Wednesday 16th November with representatives from SWW, the Environment Agency (EA), and 20 or so community groups. I gained an invitation to participate, and it was a very useful meeting. That project, though, is currently restricted to BW status, and not wider issues.

At the meeting, I mentioned TTC's concern around planning decisions, and gave my councillor's email address; subsequently, the SWW organiser, as well as representatives from the EA, West Country Rivers Trust and the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty have all contacted me, and are very willing to meet with me.

On Friday 18th November, Cllr Sarah Collinson and I met with key members of both Friends of the Dart and the other activist group. We agreed to set up a form of "consortium" to bring all the stakeholder groups together, and to carry out a stakeholder analysis, to distinguish what level of interest and influence each group has. Sarah and I volunteered to act as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. The group does not have a definite name yet, but we have a provisional name of "River Dart Action Collective (RDAC)".

SWW are already planning some event in January (date tbc), to progress the BW project. I am also aware that Tuesday March 14th is "International Rivers Day".

I'm thinking that, rather than try to set up our own TTC event in January, with all the statutory bodies and all the community groups, we might be better giving some time for the RDAC consortium to get set up, and establish communication between the full list of stakeholders; some of us will be closely involved with SWW's own January event, and their next quarterly stakeholder meeting in February - which will be primarily around BW status. Meanwhile, I and some others can meet informally with the reps from SWW, the EA and some of the more active campaign groups, to discuss using March 14th as a date to aim for, to hold a major community event, which TTC could facilitate.

Meanwhile, others have already organised an event outside the Conservative Party premises in Totnes on Saturday morning (19th November), around the issue of sewage in rivers. Anthony Mangnall has offered a justification for how he voted on the "Duke of Wellington's amendment" to the Environment Bill, on this issue.⁴¹

Cost of Living Partnership (CoLP) - Meeting notes 10.11.22

TQ9: Together We Care

Present: Catherine Marlton (TTC) , Amy Lumsden (TTC – notes), C [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] (Caring Town Totnes), A [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] (Caring Town Totnes), J [REDACTED] M [REDACTED] (Citizens Advice South Hams), C [REDACTED] H [REDACTED] (Totnes Caring)

Suggested content for webpage (to be used as signposting and general info and TTC can manage content and creation of the webpage)

It was agreed that the webpage, hosted by TTC would include:

TQ9: Together We Care + logo

- Brief description of the partnership and its purpose (to follow)
- Google calendar
- Links to partner organisations / SHDC advice / local offering (eg Morrisons)
- Summary list of activities/ spaces on every week + regular services
- Links to any relevant grant pots and benefits
- A map of warm spaces (google maps)
- Link to SHDC website
- Contact Zonkey (AL)
- Draft headline copy for website and Social Media channels (logo and any other images?) (AL)
- Print out summary page for local noticeboards (Morrisons, Birdwood, Civic Hall) (AL)

The Google Calendar for listings and events

Listing to include: title, what, where, when, image/ poster?? QR codes

It was agreed that any subsidised or reduced rate events or services should be included in the calendar. If the Coordinator is unsure about a listing they can check with the steering group members before publishing.

- Any listings cc in AB to include items in the Caring Town newsletter (AL)
- Ask Zonkey if posters/ flyers can be embedded into the google calendar. Also, how best to display information/ signpost to social media for an event. Calendar to include services not just events. Can we disable 'contact in a listing' on the calendar. Can a flyer image be incorporated into the calendar event listing. (AL)
- Listings and events need to be catalogued and archived for future proofing (AL) – check more detail on what people require

Other

Logo agreed by all. Note to think about a Summer version (green and yellow, fresh) for spring next year.

Brief discussion of a Community Supper in the Civic Hall in January, funded by the Mayoral/ Paige Adams Trust budget. CH noted that clients from Totnes Caring would need transport provided.

- Research suppliers and costings for TTC December meeting (AL)

Paige Adams Trust will consider requests for funding of the Civic Hall use for warm space events. Next meeting is 27th November so any requests to be sent by 18th

- Inform contacts to send an email for the Paige Adams Trust meeting by 18th November (All)

Discussing re setting up a meeting with ■ and ■ at the Food Bank to see what their needs are and whether there's any areas of support that the steering group can provide.

- Coordinate meeting with ■ and ■ from the Foodbank to set up a meeting with JM and CM - we'll need a doodle poll for availability. (AL)

Next meetings:

November 30th 11am, zoom meeting with all partners

- Send zoom link to larger partner group (AL)

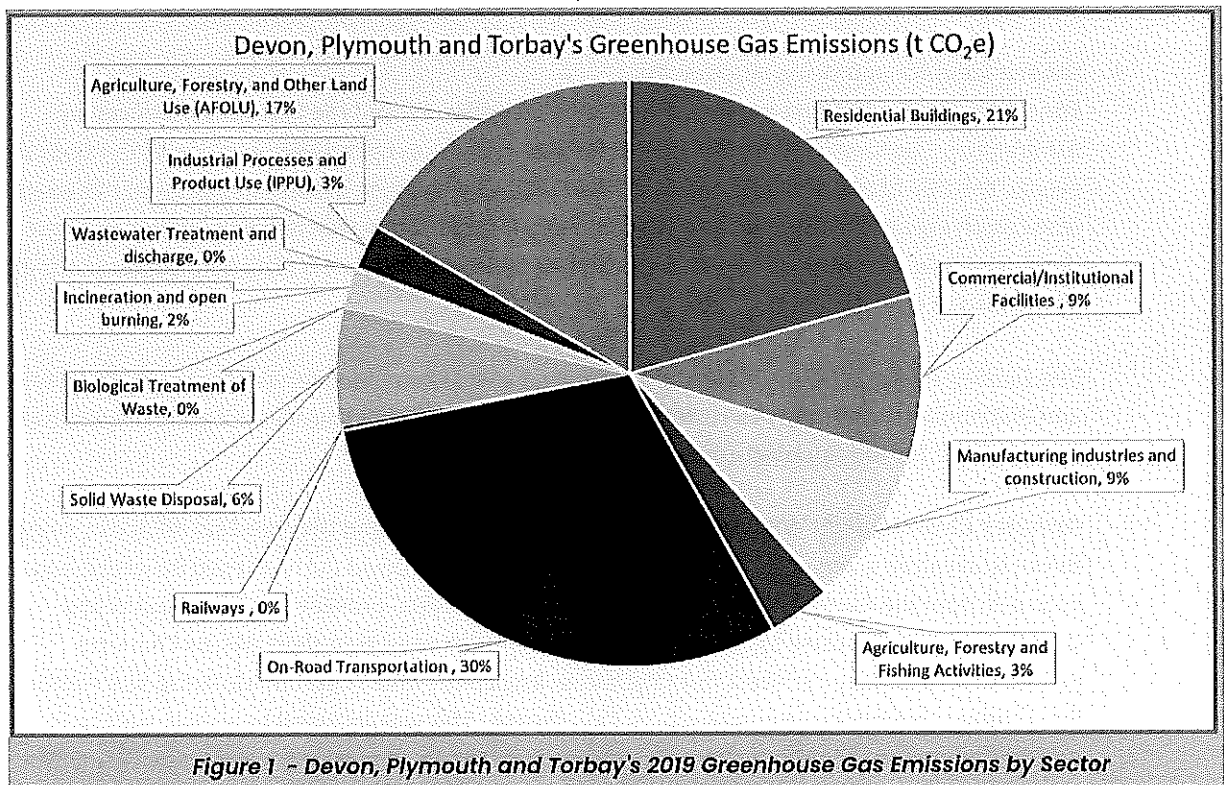
Steering group to meet early December - date TBC – to discuss events and updates before TTC office closes in December.

Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan Working Group
Notes of meeting – 25th October 2022

Present:

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson - JH(Notes), I IB(TRESOC), - ROC, I - BP,
 - FB, - TC, - RH

1. Everyone introduced themselves. Concern was raised that the circulation list might not be contacting everyone. Action JH to check
2. Devon Carbon Plan: had been released earlier in the month. The pie chart of emissions in Devon was discussed.



The largest cause for emissions 30% attributed to transportation. There was a discussion about how more freight should be switched to rail and more non-vehicular 'Active Travel' routes should be developed to encourage people to use personal transport less. Concern was expressed about the recent reductions in bus services: it was suggested that important and probably viable routes such as services to the hospital could be a way to return some services.

There was some confusion about the two different sectors labelled Agriculture & forestry. It was queried whether this included meat production. (Action JH to ask at DCC)

Regarding the permanent pasture used for cattle; if this was reduced to a more sustainable level, it was suggested that this could liberate 85% of land for trees and wildlife. Which could be win-win for reducing emissions too.

3. Details of the Sustainable South Hams events recently held had been attached to the agenda; these were outlined by JH and others who had attended the sessions and discussed by the group:

South Hams Climate Assembly in Kingsbridge: held SATURDAY 8th October

This was a very interesting and well attended gathering of local councillors and activists from local community groups interested in getting involved in local action to reduce carbon and regenerate nature. There were various special sessions on community energy and community composting schemes.

Climate Officer at SHDC, ran a short workshop using a **simple-to-use tool which maps the key areas where the highest CO2 emissions come from in South Hams Parishes**. More info at the SHDC website link:

<https://www.climatechange.southhams.gov.uk/copy-of-funding-and-help>

4. Sharing Ideas for improving biodiversity

The Gardening for Wildlife booklet, initiated by Dittisham PC and the first copy produced by Ashprington, Blackawton, Cornworthy and Dittisham parishes collectively was one of the stalls at this event. The PDF of the designed and illustrated text is being made available to other parish councils who can change the front cover to add their name instead. Staverton and Bigbury are amongst those who have done this so far. All participating parish councils are having hard copies printed and distributed to their residents.

The Gardening for Wildlife book was considered a very good idea for Totnes to go ahead with and distribute its own copy to residents. It was suggested that this could lead to a sustainable gardens trail for the town Nature Arts Trail in Teignmouth.

Greener Churchyards Workshop. Sustainable South Hams and Greener East Allington, combined forces to organise a very interesting event on 14th October.

retired Reverend and Ecologist from the Exeter Diocese 'Living Churchyards' project, presented a talk about Living Churchyards and the plans for East Allington. This was followed by a short talk by [redacted], a landscape architect from Rathbone Associates who as part of MoDWag was responsible for creating a wildlife project in Modbury Churchyard. This was followed by a short walk to St Andrew's churchyard to see the work which has just started. It was very inspiring and insightful.

Great enthusiasm for this was expressed at the CERG for the Totnes Cemetery and churchyards to adopt some of these measures to support wildlife and biodiversity.

5. **Community Composting Workshop** - South Brent 15th October. The SHDC waste team officers who addressed this workshop were very keen to support local parishes who are interested in setting up a local community scheme. There are two excellent schemes currently up and running in Ashprington and South Brent which SHDC supports and provide good models (that are well worth a visit).. This is the link to the SHDC Community Composting scheme offer and support: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/community-composting>

The model of Ashprington's Community Compost was discussed as being a good model for Totnes to look into: suggested possible sites that could be investigated:

- At the rear of the industrial area (opposite the old site of Refurnish) where there is currently underused hard standing used for parking
- Steamer Quay / Longmarsh car park
- Follaton House Car park
- A Bridgetown site is needed too (possibly somewhere near the Chicken Run).

Other points discussed:

Carbon Savvy had been an initiative outlined at the assembly meeting. This is being promoted by Zero Carbon Bigbury on Sea. This is the link for the website that helps people calculate their carbon footprint: <https://carbonsavvy.uk>

Sustainable South Hams have funded places for this. The Climate Hub in Totnes are going to run some courses (similar to Transition Streets).

The success of the **SHDC Green Homes Officer** was raised and it was queried how many households had been helped by the grant funded programme he had been managing and whether he had produced a report. Action, JH to ask at SHDC.

An enquiry was made about SHDC seeking parcels of land for Renewable energy. Action JH to investigate and share information.

Local Energy Clubs were raised and the invitation from TRESSOC to Totnes TC was asked about. Action: IB to check with TC Officer Tina who had prepared the TC assessment of the scheme.

6. The Energy Wise Show is taking place at the Civic Hall on Saturday 29th October from 12 noon to 5pm. It is expected that this will be really helpful to many people.
7. Notification of a BEIS government Net Zero public consultation had been sent by SHDC to JH. The group suggested and discussed some responses to the first few questions. Action: JH to complete the response on behalf of the group, share with the participants at this meeting and submit to the consultation. Full response submitted on behalf of the group attached below.
8. Urgent business - Totnes Town Council budget for the forthcoming year would be taking place soon. A brief discussion was held regarding the climate emergency budget and whether attendees considered it appropriate to use this budget to support the funding of some projects that had been proposed in the town:
 - Totnes Bike Hub (had applied for £3,996.00 for their Pre-loved bike project)
 - Transition Town Totnes – laptops. (had applied for £1,870 for laptops)
 - The Mansion – (had applied for £2,800.00 for electric hot water heaters).
 - Participation by Totnes reps in Sustainable South Hams events – entry & travel costs only

It was agreed that these were all worthwhile proposals for funding under the Totnes TC Climate emergency budget. Nb no actual amounts were agreed for this support in principle.

9. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 15th November 2022

