**Draft Steering Group meeting notes**30.11.22
Guildhall, 18:30 - 20:00

*Present:*

John Scanlan - Chair

Cllr Hodgson

Luisa Auletta - resident rep, Moorashes

Maggie Cornhill – Chamber of Commerce

Steve Grove – Bob the Bus

Cllr Cummings

Cllr Bennett

Maiken Hutchings - Sustainability Officer (SO - notes)

Apologies received from: Graham Bennett, Cllr Jo Sweett, Vivienne Carnt

# Welcome and who is here

# Recap on process so far (SO)

* June 2020 – discussions with DCC on traffic calming on High St
* January 2022 – DCC proposal for narrowings/humps
	+ Public consultation Jan-March, mixed response, no general support
* DCC request that TTC organise a stakeholder meeting with facilitators independent of the Council
* Meeting held 13 September 2022 – facilitators sent back report in October
* Attendees of stakeholder session invited to comment on report
* Today’s meeting is to agree on any red lines (as requested by DCC and not covered in the stakeholder meeting) and comments for DCC to consider.

SO reiterated that this is “the start” of the conversation (that has been going on for decades) and no decisions have been made. We need a steer from DCC on what next steps are.

# Red lines

* SO invited attendees to comment on what they perceive their group’s red lines to be, if any.
* There was general discussion around how to define red lines and what these might be
	+ Red lines: key thing(s) that your group wouldn’t find acceptable
	+ CoC highlighted that they wouldn’t support any form of road closures at any time of day (*this has since been amended by the CoC Exec to: “While the majority of retailers in the town centre are seriously adversely affected by road closures, the Chamber would not support them occurring.  Whilst always being ready to consider them, after consultation, for special one-off events”)*
	+ LA asked the CoC whether any research has been done on shopping and travel habits
		- CoC commissioned research during the 2013-2016 road reversal ETO, however, much has changed since then and so it would be worthwhile having new research
		- Question raised whether this could be an as from DCC as a next step
* CoC outlined some of the other measures that they thinking should be addressed before bigger infrastructure schemes are trialled
* Signage issue needs resolving or at least trying
* Lobbying for better public transport
* School buses
* Safe walking and cycling routes for kids to school
	+ Bridgetown Bridge highlighted by attendees as particularly dangerous for walkers and wheelers
* Park and Ride
	+ SG commented that so far P&Rs haven’t been financially viable and any future P&Rs need to include fully detailed and complex planning
		- There are issues with frequency – and long bedding in times
* Would it be better to frame things around green lines – what we would like – rather than red lines, what we don’t want?
* Need for a holistic vision rather than piecemeal work
	+ Congestion is an issue across town, not just on the High St
	+ Agreement that there needs to be a wider conversation around through traffic in the whole town and any changes should not displace traffic onto smaller roads
* Any proposals should be amenable to public transport and active travel
* Signage improvements should be explored
* What should next steps be?
	+ It was suggested that we could benefit from research into shopping habits, travel habits, what makes an attractive and vibrant town centre – to get a better idea if its viable to make any changes to traffic flows
	+ It would be good to get a sit-down meeting with DCC
		- To ask what they see as the next steps and to get a steer from them on what we can get on with
	+ It would also be good to have a meeting with SHDC, Gemma Bristow (Active Travel Lead – in charge of LCWIP creation) prior to a DCC meeting

**Totnes & District Traffic and Transport Steering Group comments for report overleaf:**

1. **Holistic view**
	1. There are serious traffic problems beyond just the High St and Fore St. Congestion is a town-wide problem that needs serious consideration – Totnes is a pinch-point for traffic going to Torbay/Kingsbridge/Dartmouth and hugely affected by developments outside of the town.
		1. This seems to have been one area of consensus at the stakeholder meeting
	2. Need for a wider plan for the town
2. **CoC view:** "While the majority of retailers in the town centre are seriously adversely affected by road closures, the Chamber would not support them occurring.  Whilst always being ready to consider them, after consultation, for special one-off events “
3. **New measures should promote active travel,** and not result in displaced traffic onto other roads in town
4. **Totnes would like a steer from DCC on next steps**
	1. It was agreed that a meeting with DCC would be beneficial to open dialogue and find out what some viable short-term and longer-term next steps could be

**End of meeting 20:05**