

## AGENDA FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

### MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 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 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023** at **6.30pm** for a maximum of 90 minutes in the Guildhall for the purpose of transacting the following business:

**Committee Members:** Councillors T Bennett (Chair), G Allen, L Auletta, S Collinson, T Cooper, J Cummings, J Hodgson and L Smallridge.

#### 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 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and update on any matters arising. Document attached.

#### 3. TREE WORKS APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following tree works applications:

3a. 2742/23/TCA - T1: Pittosporum Tenuifolium - Fell tree due to being unmanageable and potential to cause damage by the aggressive root system. 7 Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5PH. See <https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/232742>

#### 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following planning applications:

4a. 2169/23/FUL – Demolition of existing foundry buildings & construction of new two storey foundry building & welfare facilities. Foundry and Fabrication Totnes Ltd, Babbage Road, Totnes, TQ9 5JD. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/232169>

4b. 2790/23/FUL - READVERTISEMENT (revised application form) Re-development works include internal refurbishment of site facilities block and installation of solar panels, replacement service points, installation of new barrier system, conversion of existing grass pitches into 47no.all-weather serviced pitches, a new tractor store & prefabricated reception building. Quay Caravan Club Site, Steamer Quay Road, Totnes, TQ9 5AL. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/222790>

4c. 2800/23/HHO - Householder application for side extension adjoining west elevation of existing house & extension to west side of existing raised deck. 29 Pathfields, Totnes, TQ9 5TZ. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/232800>

4d. 2289/23/HHO - Householder application for construction of single storey side extension to existing dwelling. 20 Denys Road, Totnes, TQ9 5TJ. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/232289>

4e. 2838/23/HHO - Householder application for construction of single storey extension, demolition of existing outbuilding & structures, replacement with new flat roof & proposed porch (part-retrospective). 41 Higher Westonfields, Totnes, TQ9 5QY. See

<https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/232838>

4f. 2724/23/LBC - Listed Building Consent for removal of a small area of render on external wall, repoint with lime mortar, replace an oak lintel in the garden wall & repoint as necessary, fit a lead flashing to head of garden wall below the tie-bar & a lead cap to the top of the garden wall, cut back render on south facing wall to 100mm minimum above the paving level as an evaporation band, repair window, remove internal damaged plaster & re-plaster with lime mortar. 4 Gothic House, Bank Lane, Totnes, TQ9 5EH.

See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/232724>

4g. 1962/23/HHO - Householder application for proposed conservatory. 45 Smithfields, Totnes, TQ9 5LR. See

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/231962>

4h. 2634/23/VAR - Application for variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) 13 (use of proposed space) of planning consent 56/1714/98/F. The Forge, Collins Road, Totnes, TQ9 5PJ. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/232634>

#### 5. TELECOMMUNICATIONS SITE

To consider the application for proposed development of a telecommunications site on Babbage Road (reference 2603/23/PAT). Document attached and see

<https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/232603>

#### 6. TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT AND PEDESTRIAN POLICY

To consider the updated Traffic, Transport and Pedestrian Policy and make a recommendation to Full Council. Documents attached.

7. NALC RESPONSE TO LOCAL PLANS CONSULTATION

To consider any Council response to the National Association of Local Councils' response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) consultation on Local Plans, and make any recommendation to Full Council. [Note DLUHC consultation closes on 18 October 2023]. Document attached and see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-consultation-on-implementation-of-plan-making-reforms>

8. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT FORUM

To consider any recommendations from the Traffic and Transport Steering Group held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and Forum held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Documents attached.

9. DEPUTY CHAIR

To consider the position of Deputy Chair to the Planning Committee. No document.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Planning Committee – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6.30pm in the Guildhall.

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*The Council 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.*

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11. PLANNING APPEAL REPRESENTATION

To nominate an individual to be the Council's representative under Rule 6 status for Council participation in two planning appeal cases linked to the Former Dairy Crest Site (legal). No document.

S Halliday

Governance and Project Manager

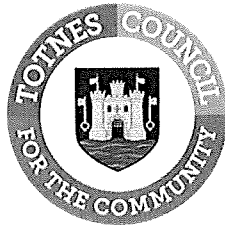
13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 IN THE GUILDHALL

Present: Councillors T Bennett (Chair), G Allen (from 1840), L Auletta, S Collinson (from 1835), T Cooper, J Cummings, J Hodgson and L Smallridge (from 1840).

In Attendance: Four members of the public, Cllr Beavis, 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 Bennett read out a statement about how the meeting would be conducted and recorded.

There were no apologies.

*The Committee will adjourn Standing Orders for the following items:*

#### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public asked if the Committee had received a response to the questions it raised during the Carless presentation for application 4021/21/VAR at the May committee meeting. Councillors confirmed that they have, and it was agreed to email the response to the member of the public as well as posting it on the Town Council website. The member of the public mentioned further concerns about the application and it was suggested that they register their comments via the South Hams District Council planning website.

*The Committee reconvened Standing Orders.*

#### 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**To approve the minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and update on any matters arising.**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

#### 3. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**To make recommendations on the following planning applications:**

*Note: Cllrs Allen and Hodgson observe and do not vote on any applications which would potentially be discussed at a Development Management Committee meeting at SHDC.*

3a. 1811/23/FUL – Replacement of single storey conservatory with traditional building. China Blue Devon Ltd, Station Road, Totnes, TQ9 5JR.

Support. However, the Committee would not wish to see any external lighting without an amended application.

3b. 1670/23/HHO – Householder application for replacement of all existing doors and windows. 7 Grove Mews, Totnes, TQ9 5GT.

Cllr Cummings declared a personal interest.

Object. The Committee would wish to see painted timber as per the existing windows, not the introduction of UPVC windows so close to the conservation area.

3c. 2127/23/LBC – Listed building consent for hidden roof access velux. Flat 5 Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes, TQ9 5BA.

Support in principle, but the Committee is concerned about the lack of detail about the interior of the roof space and any historic features and would welcome heritage officer comment on any internal impact.

#### 4. GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY TICKET OFFICE CONSULTATION

**To consider the Great Western Railway consultation on changes to ticket offices and any response (consultation closes 26th July 2023).**

The Committee discussed the impacts of ticket office closure to various user groups, the negative impacts of the office's loss and also the potential positives of more staff presence on the platform. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Bennett would draft up a response to the consultation and circulate to the Committee for comments and agreement outside of the Committee.

#### 5. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT FORUM

**To consider any recommendations from the Traffic and Transport Forum Steering Group held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

*The Committee suspended Standing Orders to enable an update and comments with the Chair of the Traffic and Transport Forum.*

The Chair of the Traffic and Transport Forum explained how he saw his role with the group and outlined some of the work that is ongoing. Councillors thanked the Chair and the Sustainability Officer for their work, and highlighted the good work done on the hot spots map, the problem with the lack of dropped kerbs in the town for mobility scooter users, and the hope that neighbouring parishes will get more involved with the meetings.

*The Committee reconvened Standing Orders.*

Noted. There were no recommendations.

#### 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

**To note the date of the next meeting of the Planning Committee – Monday 18th September 2023 at 6.30pm in the Guildhall, with a provisional date of 21st August 2023 (if required).**

Noted.

Sara Halliday  
Governance and Projects Manager  
July 2023

**Totnes Town Council Administrator**

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**From:** Planning <Planning@swdevon.gov.uk> on behalf of Planning  
**Sent:** 01 August 2023 11:12  
**To:** Totnes Town Clerk  
**Cc:** Cllr Georgina Allen; Cllr John Birch; Cllr Anna Presswell  
**Subject:** Planning application notification (ref: <2603/23/PAT>)

**Please reply to:** Case Management Team (DM)  
**South Hams** - [dm@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:dm@southhams.gov.uk)  
Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes. TQ9 5NE  
**West Devon** - [dm@westdevon.gov.uk](mailto:dm@westdevon.gov.uk)  
Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, PL19 0BZ

Totnes Town Council  
The Guildhall Offices  
5 Ramparts Walk  
Totnes  
Devon

Our ref: 2603/23/PAT  
TQ9 5QH Date: 1 August 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1990**

**Applicant:** Atlas Tower Group

**Application Number:** 2603/23/PAT

**Proposal:** Application for prior notification of proposed development for proposed 24/7 telecommunications cell site (Installation of a 22.5m lattice tower, 3 no. antenna apertures, 4 no. 600mm microwave transmission dishes and 8 no. equipment cabinets inside an 11.6m x 6.5m compound enclosed by a 1.8m high chain link fence with gate and development ancillary thereto) by telecommunications code systems operators

**Location:** Head Ruddy, Babbage Road, Totnes, TQ9 5JA

We have received the above application, and are emailing you to notify you of the application for your information only.

The details can be viewed on the relevant council's website within 24 hours of receiving this communication by clicking the link below:

[www.southhams.gov.uk](http://www.southhams.gov.uk)

[www.westdevon.gov.uk](http://www.westdevon.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Case Management Team**  
Development Management



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## CLlr briefing note for updated Traffic Policy

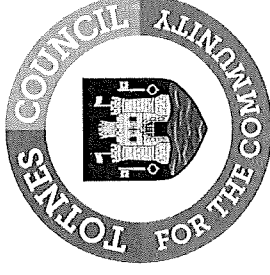
I suggested an update to the schemes listed in the Appendix of the original document. Members of the Traffic & Transport Steering Group felt that the policy text itself could also do with an update and we have been working on this since March. There have been a number of changes and iterations; it might therefore be worth having the 'old' version to hand for comparison.

Please note that this is an *unformatted* version. Layout/formatting will be made more visually appealing and readable once final text agreed. However, if you do spot any glaring mistakes, please do highlight these.

### Key changes

- Addition of 'pedestrians' and removal of 'strategy' from title
  - It was felt that there was not enough strategy aspects within the document to justify calling it one
- Restructuring of layout; some sections have been moved and renamed
  - Rephrasing of principles and strategy into aims, objectives and key actions
- Addition of an 'implementation' section
- Separate Equality Act section; previously this text was dispersed across several sections
- Addition of executive summary
- All projects in Appendix B placed in the same table (removal of reference to short, medium and long term); it is suggested that a decision around what should be where to be decided during prioritisation with DCC
- Inclusion of reference and link to Hotspot Map
- Addition of projects to appendix





Totnes Town Council

# Traffic, Transport and Pedestrian Policy 2023

≡ *Draft, for Steering Group and then Cllr approval*

NB: This is an unformatted version – numberings may be slightly inconsistent.

## Executive Summary

- Totnes is situated at the junction of roads linking Torbay, Plymouth, Exeter, Newton Abbot, and Kingsbridge/Dartmouth. The town is a significant pinch-point as the Brutus Bridge is the only substantial river road crossing for traffic travelling between Plymouth, the southern South Hams and Torbay. Developments within and around Totnes, especially Torbay, have an impact on town traffic.
- This document is intended to outline Totnes Town Council's (TTC) position relating to traffic, transport and pedestrians in the town and neighbouring parishes. It outlines our vision, three key aims, three core objectives, and fifteen key actions.
  - Our vision is to ensure: sustainable and accessible travel for all; safe and healthy streets; and a pleasant, prosperous and vibrant town.
  - Our three key aims are: access for all; sustainability; and community engagement.
  - We have outlined three core objectives with 15 linked actions to achieve these. The three core objectives are:
    - a) Increase, and improve access to, active travel
    - b) Reduce the volume of through-traffic in the town centre
    - c) Enable traffic to move through town along the A385 and A381 as efficiently as possible
- The Traffic & Transport Forum have created a 'hotspot map' that helps to identify problematic areas in town. It seeks to highlight issues rather than suggest solutions. It has helped to inform this Policy.
- Appendix B contains an overview of current and potential projects that will help us achieve our aims and objectives, and which are supported by TTC Councillors. This will be updated regularly so the public can follow developments and as new projects are identified.

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## 1. Introduction

This document is intended to outline Totnes Town Council's (TTC) position relating to traffic, transport and pedestrians in the town and neighbouring parishes (see Appendix A for a map of geographic boundaries). The Traffic, Transport and Pedestrian Policy will be referred to in this document as 'the Policy'.

The Policy explains TTC's vision, aims, core objectives and key actions. It also contains a list of current and potential projects aimed at delivering these. All action must align with efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change and the ecological crisis, as explained in the Devon Carbon Plan.

Reference should be made to this Policy alongside other planning guidance when considering all future plans and developments in the town. Decisions made should be in keeping with these principles. This information will help inform Devon County Council (DCC) and South Hams District Council (SHDC) in the context of considering travel schemes submitted for s106 grant funding which would benefit the Totnes area.

This Policy has been drafted within the context of several transport plans as listed in section 2. It will be reviewed every three years. Information on the associated schemes listed in the Appendix and other relevant transport plans will be updated every six months.

## 2. Relevant Transport Plans

### **Devon Carbon Plan, 2022**

<https://devonclimateemergency.org.uk/view-devon-carbon-plan/>

### **Devon County Council Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy**

Draft, consultation document

<https://devoncc.sharepoint.com/sites/PublicDocs/Corporate/HaveYourSay/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FPublicDocs%2FCorporate%2FHaveYourSay%2FTransport%2FEV%20charging%20strategy%2FDevon%20EV%20strategy%20consultation%20draft%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FPublicDocs%2FCorporate%2FHaveYourSay%2FTransport%2FEV%20charging%20strategy&p=true&ga=1>

### **Devon County Council Transport Infrastructure Plan: Delivering Growth in a low carbon environment**

March 2020, prepared by DCC

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s30349/Transport%20Capital%20Programme%20Reportv%20-%20Appendix%20II.pdf>

### **Clean Air Strategy 2018**

Prepared by South Hams District Council

[https://www.southhams.gov.uk/media/3014/2018-Clean-Air-Strategy/pdf/Clean\\_Air\\_Strategy\\_2018.pdf?m=637922753090270000](https://www.southhams.gov.uk/media/3014/2018-Clean-Air-Strategy/pdf/Clean_Air_Strategy_2018.pdf?m=637922753090270000)

### **Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan, 2014-2034**

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/adopted-plymouth-and-south-west-devon-joint-local-plan>

### **Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP 3), 2011-2026**

Devon County Council

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/traffic-information/transport-planning/devon-and-torbay-local-transport-plan-3-2011-2026/>

### **Totnes: Movement, safety and pedestrian comfort in the town centre**

July 2012, prepared by Hamilton-Baillie Associates Ltd for the Totnes on the Move Community Board, in association with Jacobs UK Ltd on behalf of Devon County Council.

*Note: This report focuses on Shared Space which the government placed a moratorium on in 2018.*

Document not available online but can be requested from TTC Sustainability Officer: [greentravel@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:greentravel@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk)

### **Totnes Transport Strategy**

December 2012, prepared by Jacobs for Devon County Council

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/A385TotnesCorridorStrategyReport.pdf>



### 3. Glossary

<b>Active Travel</b>	Making journeys in physically active ways, such as walking, wheeling and cycling.
<b>DCC</b>	Devon County Council
<b>HATOC</b>	Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (Devon County Council)
<b>SHDC</b>	South Hams District Council
<b>The High St</b>	Refers to Fore St, High St & the Narrows
<b>The Policy</b>	Traffic, Transport and Pedestrian Policy
<b>Through-traffic</b>	Refers to traffic that is purely passing through town
<b>Cut-through traffic</b>	Traffic that passes through smaller residential streets that has neither an origination nor destination point in that neighbourhood
<b>Town Centre</b>	See map in Appendix A
<b>TTC</b>	Totnes Town Council

*Final version to link words in body with glossary.*

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#### 4. Current situation & key issues

- a. Totnes is situated at the junction of roads linking Torbay and Plymouth (A385), Exeter (A384), Newton Abbot (A381) and Kingsbridge/Dartmouth (A381). The Brutus Bridge is the only substantial river road crossing for traffic travelling between Plymouth, the southern South Hams and Torbay. It is therefore a significant pinch-point.

When the Brutus Bridge was built in 1982 it was met with objection: it was felt it should have been constructed further upstream, in line with the Kingsbridge Hill Western By-pass, in order to take through-traffic away from the town centre. Its present location has failed to achieve this, and traffic congestion in the town continues to be an increasing problem and a source of considerable frustration.

- b. The 2012 Totnes Transport Strategy states that approximately 70% of traffic on the A385 is through-traffic. More up-to-date data is needed, both of traffic volumes/speeds and pollution – these must monitor side routes as well as the A385 due to the impacts of satnavs.
- c. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in the number of private cars due to developments in Torbay, Teignbridge, and the South Hams. An increase in delivery vehicles is also expected. In addition, tourism leads to considerable surges in traffic numbers during the holiday seasons.
- d. Public consultations and workshops have shown that there is a desire amongst the community for a reduction in cut-through traffic in town and that this must be considered holistically. Cut-through traffic impacts not only the High St but also other roads. Any action taken must consider the interplay between these.
- e. The A385 through Dartington and Totnes has been a designated Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) since 2008 due to high levels of nitrogen dioxide. More information about AQMAs can be found here: [southhams.gov.uk/article/3902/Air-Quality](https://southhams.gov.uk/article/3902/Air-Quality)
- f. There are significant constraints on the uptake of cycling locally due to high volumes of traffic on narrow roads and a lack of safe cycling infrastructure. The Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 3 acknowledges the need to create a fully linked up local cycle path network. This needs to extend to outlying villages, particularly since the surge in e-bike popularity has made commuting by bike more viable over longer distances and hilly terrain.

- g. There has been a long-standing controversy about the presence of cars on the High Street. This is in part due to the narrowness and absence of pavements in certain sections which makes access for shoppers and other pedestrians difficult and unsafe, especially for those with additional needs. This has been exacerbated by continuing increases in cut-through traffic. On the other hand, there are valid questions around maintaining accessibility to shops, particularly for those with mobility issues and for deliveries.
- h. This Policy acknowledges the need for: continued access for emergency and delivery vehicles and community transport; the need for easy access for pedestrians, particularly disabled access; the need for adequate vehicle access and parking overall in the town to support trade; and a desire to improve the pedestrian experience in the town centre and other streets in the locality.
- i. Most homes in the centre of Town do not have their own off-street parking and must therefore park in car parks or on-road.
- j. The last 20 years have seen significant changes in driver behaviour. The introduction of satnavs has had a particular impact, increasing traffic along smaller and residential roads. Excessive traffic along residential routes impacts on day-to-day wellbeing and the right to peaceable living for residents: noise and air pollution; risk of harm from aggressive/speeding drivers and behaviours if challenged; fearful experiences of crossing key walking/wheeling routes. A map has been created to identify key traffic/safety hotspots across town ([rb.gy/c6w7l](http://rb.gy/c6w7l)).

## 5. Public Sector Equality Duty

The Town, District and County Councils are bound by the Public Sector Equality Duty which requires due regard to be given to: the need to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics, taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people, and encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low. Protected characteristics include age, disability and maternity and pregnancy.

Totnes Town Council will always strive to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, advance good relations between those sharing protected characteristics and those who do not. Decisions relating to this Policy will be informed by transparent and appropriately rigorous equality impact assessments and the Council will always investigate how negative impacts may be mitigated (Equality Act 2010).

## 6. Vision

Sustainable and accessible travel for all | Safe and healthy streets | A pleasant, prosperous, and vibrant town.

## 7. Aims

### a. Access for all

Our primary aim is to address the travel needs of:

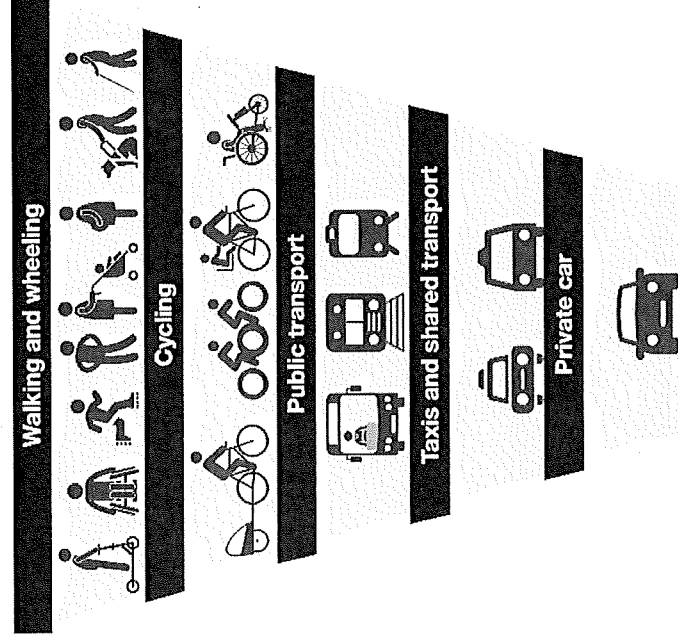
- i. Residents in Totnes and its 15-parish hinterland who depend on the town for provisions, services, and employment.
- ii. Those with additional travel needs or who experience greater barriers in safely accessing and using pedestrian infrastructure. This could be for reasons of age, disability, or other protected characteristic; income; or who through choice do not have access to private transport.
- iii. Businesses and their customers who need access to premises, including organisations and companies providing services and deliveries to the town.
- iv. People who come from a wider area and who contribute to the local economy.

### b. Sustainability

We will:

- i. Promote the reduction of fossil fuels in meeting transport needs.
- ii. Reduce the need to travel by motorised vehicle.
- iii. Prioritise and promote transport based on the hierarchy illustrated in **figure 1**.

Figure 1: Transport hierarchy (Source: Transport Scotland)



**c. Community Engagement**

We will:

- i. Consult and engage widely with residents on transport proposals that will affect travel, parking, and traffic in and around Totnes.
- ii. Give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty by designing consultation and engagement activities to be accessible to all, based on universal design and reasonable adjustment principles.
- iii. Work in partnership with community groups that have a transport remit, statutory authorities, and other relevant authorities.
- iv. Link with Neighbourhood Plans to create and propose implementation of strategic sustainable transport measures.

## 8. Objectives & key actions

Our core objectives are to improve health, wellbeing and air quality by:

- increasing, and improving access to, active travel
- reducing the volume of cut-through traffic in the town centre
- enabling traffic to move through town along the A385 and A381 as efficiently as possible

Below are 15 key actions that will underpin these objectives. These are of equal importance as no one on its own can achieve the desired outcomes.

### Key actions

- 23
- 8.1** Require comprehensive transport assessments and mitigating green travel plans/measures for all planning developments that are likely to generate significant amounts of travel, or where there may be local traffic problems associated with a planning application. In addition, monitor these plans and hold developers to account for their implementation.
  - 8.2** Engage and collaborate closely with SHDC, DCC and other councils/stakeholders to ensure they fully understand the issues and contexts of Totnes, and how measures/developments elsewhere directly and indirectly impact the town. Seek to hold others to account for policies or decisions that can be expected to impact negatively on traffic volumes and congestion in the town.
  - 8.3** Advocate for effective action to improve the air quality in Totnes and surrounding area and to address unlawful levels of air pollution in the Totnes Air Quality Management Area by the relevant duty-bearers.
  - 8.4** Encourage more walking and cycling in the town and surrounding parishes by promoting proposals that improve and extend the footpath and cycleway network, as well as any other relevant projects such as cycle infrastructure, quiet lanes, and so forth.
  - 8.5** Support improvements to the safety, accessibility, and experience of pedestrians across town, with particular attention to roads and routes that are disproportionately affected by cut-through and through-traffic and particular attention to the access and safety of people with protected characteristics. For instance, through safety improvements to existing paths, opening cut-throughs, making space for

separated cycle paths, connecting quiet roads to walking routes, leisure amenities, and the surrounding parishes.

- 8.6 Support the expansion of car clubs, and car and bike sharing.
- 8.7 Support and expand local community transport to provide sustainable travel within town as well as to and from communities surrounding Totnes.
- 8.8 Support proposals that improve accessible and reliable public transport. Seek to protect and improve local and national rail and bus routes through lobbying DCC, government, rail and bus companies, and the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 8.9 Promote transport exchange hubs which support public transport and other sustainable modes. This requires a strategic integrated initiative in association with neighbouring areas and private transport providers.
- 8.10 Support and propose schemes to reduce and limit the negative impacts of through-traffic in town, taking a holistic approach that considers not only the A385 and High St but the town as a whole.
- 8.11 Support suitable traffic reduction and speed restriction measures in and around the town, ensuring the town is properly consulted. Proposals need to ensure lengthy traffic jams at key spots are avoided so that Totnes doesn't become a 'no go' zone for visitors and shoppers.
- 8.12 Support our traders, residents, and visitors with measures to ensure adequate parking and easy access to the town centre.
- 8.13 Support SHDC and DCC in the suitable expansion of electric vehicle chargepoints.
- 8.14 Support schools and other organisations to develop green travel plans if they do not already have them, and work with them to implement these.
- 8.15 Consult with residents through the TTC community engagement policy and debate at the Traffic and Transport Forum.



## 9. Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

### a. Statutory authority

While TTC can seek and promote traffic projects and schemes, all projects relating to roads must be approved by DCC as the local Highways Authority. DCC have a statutory duty to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP). The current LTP 3 2011-2026 can be found via the link in section 2.

TTC must therefore liaise closely with DCC to progress projects that require DCC support. This is primarily done through the DCC Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) for the area: the South Hams HATOC. These meetings take place approximately three times a year.

### b. Progressing action

TTC primarily develops and progresses actions relating to the schemes outlined in Appendix B through the Traffic & Transport Forum and Steering Group, as well as through projects led by the Sustainability Officer. The Forum is an advisory group to TTC and TTC Councillors ultimately decide whether to support the recommendations they make.

The Hotspot Map is a live document used to identify priorities and how they change over time. This can be found here: [rb.gy/c6w7l](http://rb.gy/c6w7l)

### c. Reviews and updates

This Policy will be reviewed and evaluated every three years. Information on the associated schemes listed in Appendix B and other relevant transport plans will be updated every six months.

### d. Infrastructure Levy

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill was introduced to Parliament on 11 May 2022. In this Bill the government intends to replace section 106 agreements and the existing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) with a new Infrastructure Levy which is aimed to help councils to bring forward more affordable housing. The thresholds and rates of the new Infrastructure Levy would be set in charging schedules set and raised by local planning authorities (rather than nationally), meaning that rates would be tailored to local circumstances. It is noted that some aspects of this Policy may need updating to reflect this new situation if the Bill becomes legislation.

## Appendix A: Maps of geographical boundaries and road networks

Figure 2: Map illustrating boundary of 'Town Centre'.

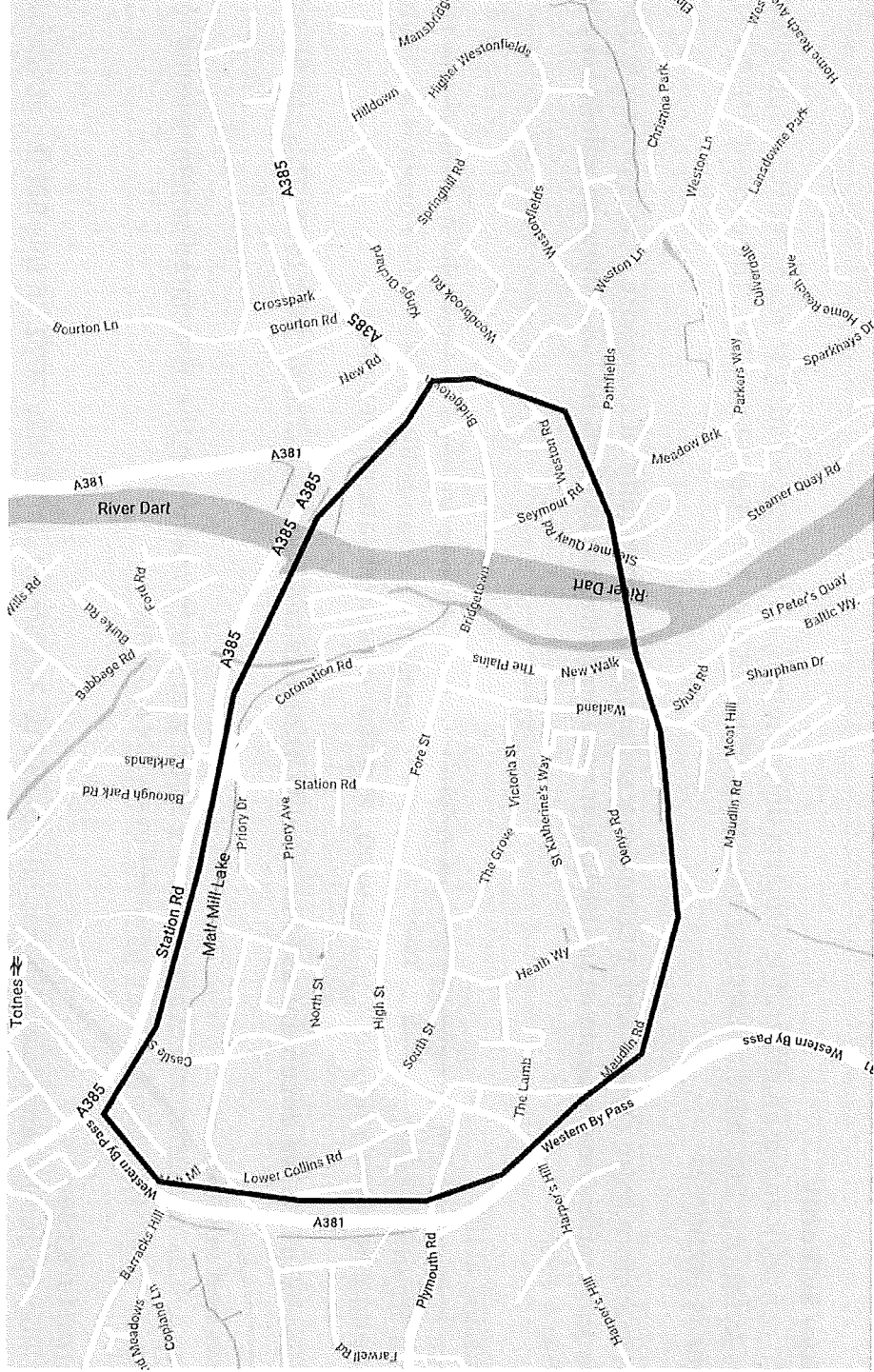


Figure 3: Map illustrating boundary of area and key villages

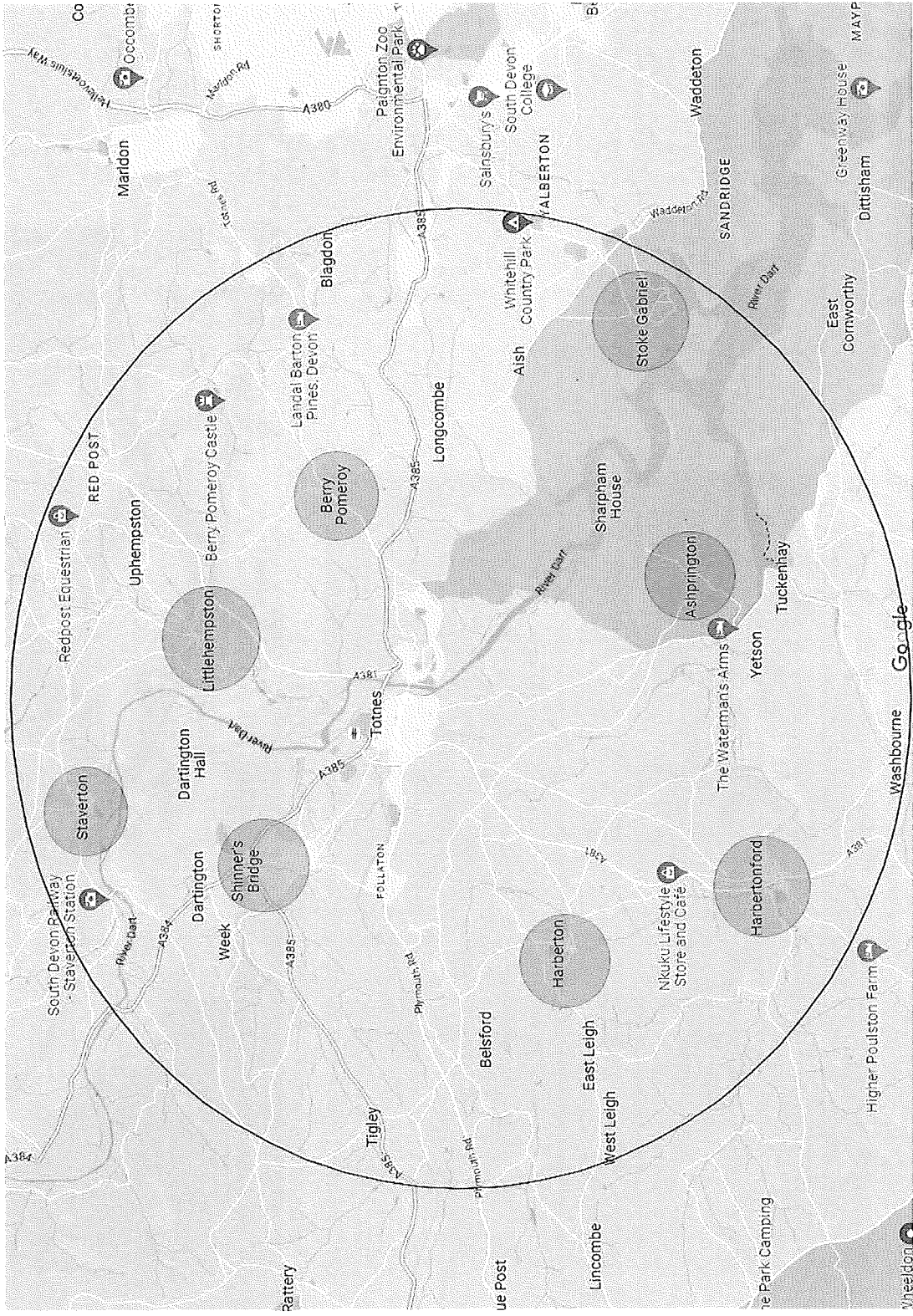


Figure 4: Strategic road network around Totnes (Source: National Highways)

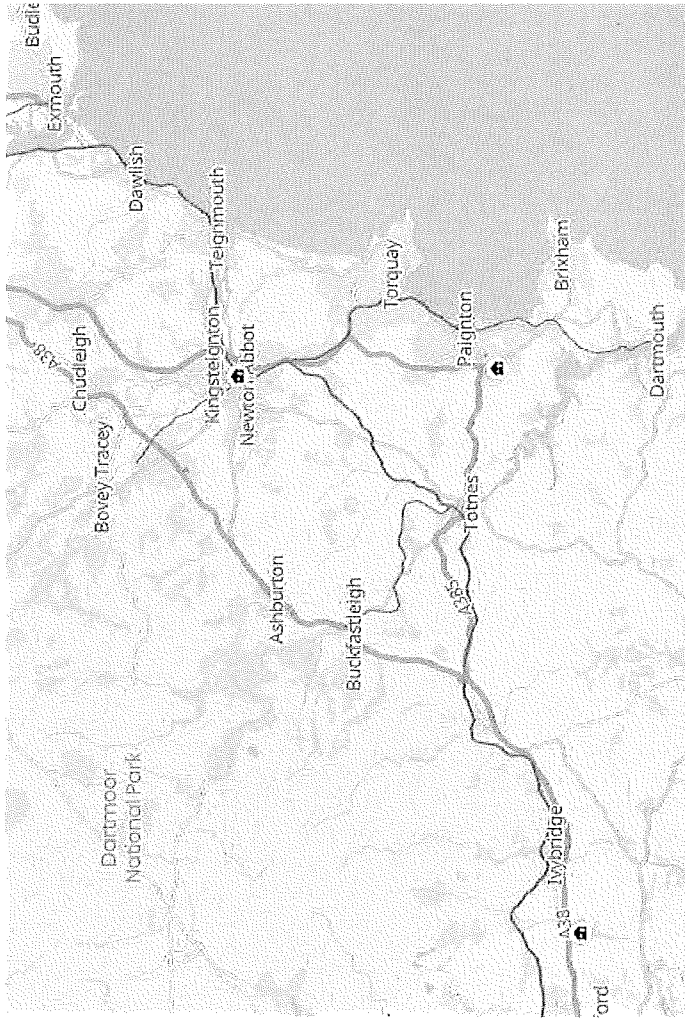
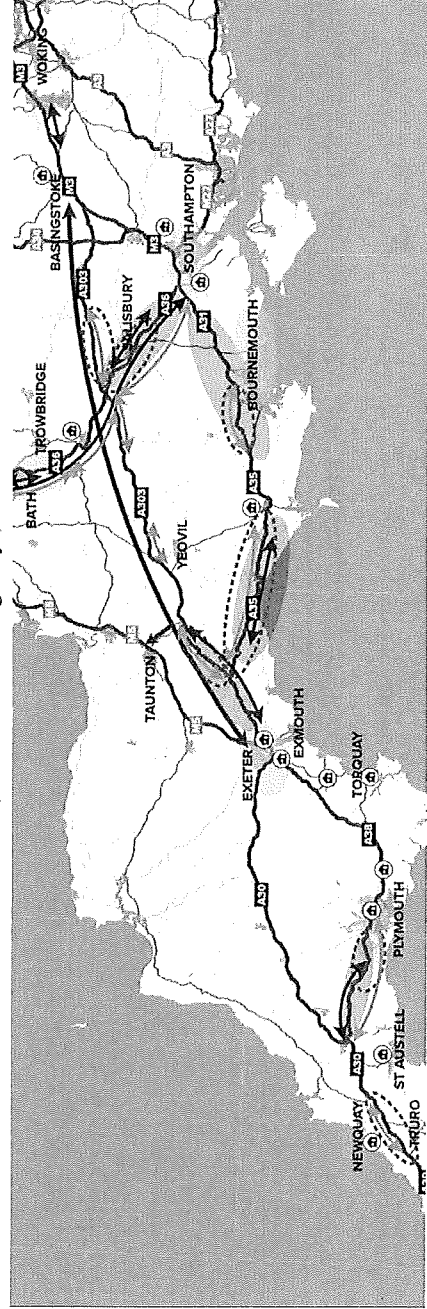


Figure 5: Strategic road network in the South West (Source: National Highways)



## Appendix B: Current and potential schemes, projects and issues

Our core objectives are to:

- 1) Increase active travel
- 2) Reduce the volume of through-traffic in the town centre
- 3) Enable traffic to move through town along the A385 and A381 as efficiently as possible

Some of the schemes that might achieve these ambitions may not yet be known – new projects will be added as they emerge. The hotspot map will be used to reconfirm priorities as time goes on and contexts change.

*Projects not listed in any particular order. Projects will be prioritised at a later stage with DCC guidance.*

Projects & schemes					
Number	Scheme	Feb 2023 update comments / notes	Linked key action	Status	Priority level (TBD)
1	<p><b>Engagement with DCC and other councils/stakeholders</b></p> <p>Collaborate closely with DCC and other councils/stakeholders to ensure understanding of issues in Totnes and ensure a holistic approach.</p>	N/A	8.2	Ongoing	
2	<p><b>E-bikes</b></p> <p>Needs to be a commercial venture.</p>	<p>Year-long e-bike trial to commence in 2023 in collaboration with Exeter-based social enterprise, Co Bikes. Funding awarded (to Co Bikes) by SHDC Climate Infrastructure Fund, GWR and TTC. Start date TBC.</p>	8.3, 8.4	To start in 2023	

		Challenges in finding a suitable location for a charged docking station.			
3	<b>Community Transport: Bob the Bus:</b> Promotion and publicity to encourage more passengers, to widen the demographic appeal and further extension of the service.	TTC in regular dialogue with Bob the Bus to support both financially and with officer time.	8.7	Ongoing	
4	<b>Explore possibility of produce a 'Walking and Wheeling Safety Audit'</b> of Totnes as a whole. To help inform future improvements, such as adding more zebra crossings.	Expanded from walking safety audit to incorporate accessibility and cycling. Needs to link closely with A10. Important to liaise with DCC prior to any work. To include potential for additional pedestrian crossings, such as on Bridgetown Hill (which is particularly pertinent with recent bus route changes.)	8.4, 8.5	TBC / 2023	
5	<b>Support and collaborate with Totnes Bike Hub</b>	TTC have supported TBH via grants and through officer time.	8.4	Ongoing	
6	<b>20mph speed limit zones in all town and village centres</b> (including arterial routes that traverse these centres) where this measure has been sought by the local Parish Councils &/or Neighbourhood Plan Groups. (and A385)	DCC in charge as Highways Authority. In March 2022 TTC applied to DCC to be a part of new pilot schemes – submitted expression of interest for gaps in 20mph zones to be plugged. Unsuccessful but DCC will be adding more schemes in 23/24. Hopefully DCC will learn from Cornwall Council's pilot schemes that are proving very popular.	8.4, 8.5	Ongoing	

			Sustainability Officer actively pursuing this through supporting a Devon wide campaign.			
7	<p><b>Monitor and publicise air quality data.</b></p> <p>Both along AQMA and elsewhere in town.</p> <p>Work with residents/traders/schools to install air quality monitors widely across town.</p>	<p>Air quality monitor (IQAir AirVisual Pro) being installed by Town Maintenance Officer on High St in February 2023.</p> <p>Three mobile monitors available to borrow from TTC.</p>	8.3	<p>TMO to install 15 March 2023</p> <p>Data will be available to view online when fully installed</p>		
8	<p><b>Cycling infrastructure improvements</b></p> <p>Bike parking</p>	<p>Bike parking map created and continuously added to.</p> <p>New bike racks.</p> <p>Covered bike parking.</p> <p>Potential for storage lockers.</p>	8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6	Ongoing		
9	<p><b>Support local schools and organisations to develop Green Travel Plans</b></p>	<p>Sustainability Officer and TTC Councillor collaborating to engage with schools.</p>	8.14	Ongoing		
10	<p><b>Hotspot map</b></p> <p>Expand and share more widely the hotspot map, which identifies problematic areas in town. Be mindful of ensuring a wide range of views are considered so that problematic areas aren't ignored.</p>		8.2, 8.15	Ongoing		
11	<p><b>Consultant assessment</b></p> <p>Explore possibility of TTC commissioning an expert consultant's assessment of traffic issues and options for the town. This would incorporate the hotspot map</p>		8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.10, 8.11	Yet to be explored		

	as part of the brief and be linked to the overarching ambitions.				
12	<b>Pedestrian crossing at the Lamb</b>	HATOC currently investigating how TTC could go about funding it separately from DCC. See HATOC minutes from 4.11.2022.	8.4, 8.5	Ongoing	
13	<b>Explore possibility of pedestrian crossing at top of Bridgetown Hill</b>  This is mentioned in the SHDC Clean Air Strategy 2018 (pp. 7 & 38).  With the changes to the GOLD bus route (route no longer through Bridgetown) this is needed more than ever to ensure safe crossing for those using bus stop on hill.		8.4, 8.5	Start date TBD	
14	<b>Kingsbridge Hill proposal</b>  Ending through-traffic, via low-cost change of road layout.  Moving location of 40mph speed limit sign near top of hill below Windrush, to new position at T-junction with Western Bypass at top of hill.	Kingsbridge Hill Area Residents Association (KHARA) are pursuing the possibility of closing off the top of the hill to traffic from one direction, making the top one-way only. Supported by Traffic & Transport Forum in April 2022 meeting.  DCC Cllr Hodgson requested it be put on HATOC agenda July & November 2022 but denied by DCC.  Campaign is ongoing.	8.4, 8.5	Ongoing	
15	<b>Explore options for Plymouth Road</b>  Lack of safe routes into town for Follaton residents due to lack of pavements and	No action since 2019/2020. Still a real issue, however, and recommend it is kept in. Lack of safe routes into town for Follaton	8.4, 8.5, 8.11	Ongoing	



	<p>crossings, particularly at each end of the road.</p> <p>Drivers often go too fast, speed camera not in operation.</p> <p>Potential for more pedestrian crossings.</p>	<p>residents, with many vehicles going very fast.</p> <p>Widening the road at the cemetery would 1) cost a lot, 2) is unlikely to get Highways support and 3) only speed traffic up rather than slow it down.</p>			
<p>16</p>	<p><b>Explore options for St Katherine’s Way/Heath Way/the Lamb route</b></p> <p>High volume of traffic, especially during rush hour. Some problematic areas for walkers/wheelers, especially by St Katherine’s Way/Heath Way corner, and outside Grove School.</p> <p>Suspected air quality issues – data required.</p> <p>Desire to encourage more active travel, especially schoolchildren.</p>	<p>8.4, 8.5, 8.11</p>			
<p>17</p>	<p><b>Electric vehicle chargepoints Support</b></p> <p>DCC/SHDC with charging point rollout where possible, and direct residents to funding opportunities</p>	<p>EV chargers can be found at Morrisons, Victoria St car park and Pavilions Long Stay.</p> <p>SHDC and DCC main drivers here – DELETTI project currently being implemented, new charge points being installed at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heaths Nursery car park, Tothnes</li> </ul>	<p>8.13</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steamer Quay, Totnes</li> </ul> <p>Should be completed early 2023.</p> <p>DCC has also created an EV charging point strategy. Limited ability for TTC to take action due to lack of land. Can support via directing residents/businesses to apply for funding.</p>		
18	<p><b>Painted cycle lanes</b></p> <p>Coronation Road from the traffic lights by the Mill to the bus stops and outside the Seven Stars Hotel.</p> <p>The cycle lanes are short and narrow and vital to cyclists transiting the town centre. Both lanes need to be wider and extended from the Plains through to the Morrisons petrol station.</p>	<p>The cycle lanes need resurfacing in bright tarmac. The faded road markings need replacing as they put cyclists at risk.</p>	8.4	Start date TBD
19	<p><b>Redworth Junction</b></p> <p>Explore options for improving Redworth Junction. It currently impedes traffic flows through town.</p> <p>A roundabout has previously been suggested – further research required.</p>		8.10, 8.11	
20	<p><b>Cycle Network improvements</b></p>	<p>Current projects include:</p>	8.4	Ongoing

	<p><b>Strategic routes:</b>                  Totnes – Riverford – Buckfastleigh                  Totnes – Stoke Gabriel                  Totnes – Littlehempston</p>	<p><b>Totnes-Buckfastleigh</b>                  Feasibility study being created by Sustrans for cycle route between Dartington Hall and Buckfastleigh via Riverford (paid for by Riverford).                  Expected completion date: April 2023</p> <p><b>Totnes – Stoke Gabriel – Paignton</b>                  Feasibility study created, however landowner issues need resolving.</p> <p><b>Totnes to Littlehempston</b>                  Setbacks in 2019 mean campaign has been relatively quiet recently.</p>			
<p>21</p>	<p><b>Totnes Rail Pedestrian and Cycle Path Underpass</b>                  Route from rail station under Station Road bridge to Castle Street and with an extension through to Lower Collins Road. Initial discussions with Network Rail have been positive but would need to await their programme of relocation of signal boxes (estimated 2021/2). Requires works to connect to both Castle Street and Collins Road.</p>	<p>Attempts made in early 2022 to contact Network Rail to discuss this further but with no success.</p>	<p>8.4, 8.5</p>	<p>Dormant</p>	
<p>22</p>	<p><b>Western Bypass at Cistern Street</b>                  Explore options to improve pedestrian safety when crossing road across to Harper’s Hill.</p>	<p>No action. Traffic island/refuge still needed</p>	<p>8.5</p>	<p>Dormant</p>	

35

23	<p><b>Seven Stars Roundabout and The Plains</b></p>	<p>Safety issues with the area. Natural crossing point is not where the dropped kerbs are and there have been several accidents (particularly with older people) falling into the road.</p> <p>Also issues with fading road markings for cyclists heading onto Coronation Road.</p> <p>Potential for some simple, low-cost options to mitigate issues.</p>	8.4, 8.5	Start date TBD
24	<p><b>Transport hub</b> – keep in mind when opportunities arise with new land/developments</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	8.9	Ongoing

25 AUGUST 2023

## PC2-23 | LOCAL PLANS

### Summary

Local plans are generally produced by local planning authorities (LPAs) but local (parish and town) councils have a huge interest in them and such plans are directly linked to neighbourhood plans which many local councils produce. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have issued a consultation seeking views on proposals to implement the parts of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which relate to plan-making, to make plans simpler, faster to prepare and more accessible.

The main consultation document can be downloaded [here](#). The consultation closes at DLUHC on 18 October, 2023.

### Context

The consultation seeks insight on:

- how local plans (and minerals and waste plans) can be made simpler to understand and use.
- how local plans (and minerals and waste plans) can be positively shaped by the views of communities about how their area should evolve.

NALC will be responding to this consultation as many local councils will have an interest in feeding in their own views on how the local plan making process can be reasonably made more efficient without the government seeking to implement wildly unrealistic timeframes, also ensuring that the golden thread between timescales required to update and make local plans and those required to make and update neighbourhood plans, is retained undamaged.

### NALC's current policy positions

- The government has said it wants to see local planning authorities reviewing their local plans every five years. NALC will be arguing very strongly that this is an impractical requirement that places impossible pressures on LPAs and on neighbourhood planning groups whose plans are aligned to the local plans. A review every 10 years would be demanding enough. The emphasis should be on the quality and the soundness of the

plans and not on the speed with which it might be possible to produce them.

- NALC will support a planning system which incorporates a significant role for local councils. It will not support any diminution of local councils' statutory right to comment on planning issues at all stages of their evolution, whether they be development planning matters or spatial planning policies.
- NALC will support a soundly based planning system which represents the most reliable tool for the sustainable allocation of land, and which represents the three pillars of sustainability equally, i.e., social, economic, and environmental factors.
- NALC is arguing for the complete removal of the whole concept of National Development Management Policies (NDMPs) which will have the effect of unjustly trumping any local or neighbourhood plan.

### **Consultation Questions**

The main consultation questions NALC will be responding to in this consultation are as below and NALC seeks the views of county associations and member councils in response to these questions to help inform its own submission to DLUHC:

#### **Chapter 1: Plan content**

**Question 1: Do you agree with the core principles for plan content? Do you think there are other principles that could be included?**

**Question 2: Do you agree that plans should contain a vision, and with our proposed principles preparing the vision? Do you think there are other principles that could be included?**

**Question 3: Do you agree with the proposed framework for local development management policies?**

**Question 4: Would templates make it easier for local planning authorities to prepare local plans? Which parts of the local plan would benefit from consistency?**

**Question 5: Do you think templates for new style minerals and waste plans would need to differ from local plans? If so, how?**

## Chapter 2: The new 30-month plan timeframe

**Question 6: Do you agree with the proposal to set out in policy that planning authorities should adopt their plan, at the latest, 30 months after the plan preparation process begins?**

**Question 7: Do you agree that a Project Initiation Document will help define the scope of the plan and be a useful tool throughout the plan making process?**

## Chapter 3: Digital plans

**Question 8: What information produced during plan-making do you think would most benefit from data standardisation, and/or being openly published?**

**Question 9: Do you recognise and agree that these are some of the challenges faced as part of plan preparation which could benefit from digitalisation? Are there any others you would like to add and tell us about?**

**Question 10: Do you agree with the opportunities identified? Can you tell us about other examples of digital innovation or best practice that should also be considered?**

**Question 11: What innovations or changes would you like to see prioritised to deliver efficiencies in how plans are prepared and used, both now and in the future?**

## Chapter 5: Evidence and the tests of soundness

**Question 14: Do you think this direction of travel for national policy and guidance set out in this chapter would provide more clarity on what evidence is expected? Are there other changes you would like to see?**

**Question 15: Do you support the standardisation of evidence requirements for certain topics? What evidence topics do you think would be particularly important or beneficial to standardise and/or have more readily available baseline data?**

**Question 16: Do you support the freezing of data or evidence at certain points of the process? If so which approach(es) do you favour?**

## Chapter 7: Plan examination

**Question 22: Do you agree with our proposals to speed up plan examinations? Are there additional changes that we should be considering to enable faster examinations?**

**Question 23: Do you agree that six months is an adequate time for the pause period, and with the government's expectations around how this would operate?**

#### **Chapter 8: Community engagement and consultation**

**Question 24: Do you agree with our proposal that planning authorities should set out their overall approach to engagement as part of their Project Initiation Document? What should this contain?**

**Question 25: Do you support our proposal to require planning authorities to notify relevant persons and/or bodies and invite participation, prior to commencement of the 30-month process?**

**Question 26: Should early participation inform the Project Initiation Document? What sorts of approaches might help to facilitate positive early participation in plan-preparation?**

**Question 27: Do you agree with our proposal to define more clearly what the role and purpose of the two mandatory consultation windows should be?**

**Question 28: Do you agree with our proposal to use templates to guide the form in which representations are submitted?**

#### **Chapter 9: Requirement to assist with certain plan-making**

**Question 29: Do you have any comments on the proposed list of prescribed public bodies?**

**Question 30: Do you agree with the proposed approach? If not, please comment on whether the alternative approach or another approach is preferable and why.**

#### **Chapter 13: Community Land Auctions**

**Question 39: Do you have any views on how we envisage the Community Land Auctions process would operate?**

**Question 40: To what extent should financial considerations be taken into account by local planning authorities in Community Land Auction pilots, when deciding to allocate sites in the local plan, and how should this be balanced against other factors?**



## **Chapter 14: Approach to roll out and transition**

**Question 41: Which of these options should be implemented, and why? Are there any alternative options that we should be considering?**

## **Chapter 15: Saving existing plans and planning documents**

**Question 42: Do you agree with our proposals for saving existing plans and planning documents? If not, why?**

### **Your evidence**

Please email your responses to this consultation to [chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk) by 17.00 on 22 September 2023. County associations are asked to forward this briefing onto all member councils in their area.

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## Totnes and District Traffic & Transport Steering Group

19th July 2023, 6.30-8pm

Guildhall, Totnes

### Present:

GB	GB	Totnes Ramblers (Chair)
Maiken Hutchings	MH	TTC Sustainability Officer (notes)
RM	RM	Bridgetown Alive!
SG	SG	Bob the Bus
SM	SM	South St Transition Street
Cllr J Hodgson	JH	Totnes Town Council
VC	VC	Kingsbridge Hill Area Residents Association
Cllr L Auletta	LA	Totnes Town Council
TB	TB	Daisy & Rainbow Childcare
SC	SC	Inclusive Totnes
HC	HC	Cyclist

Apologies: Cllr D Peters, CP, GE

### Recommendations

No recommendations

### Actions

- o MH to resend information on the SRN consultation to SG members
- o LA and JH to liaise with GB in preparing their sections for the MP meeting
- o MH to check whether LA or JH need any support with their sections for the MP meeting
- o MH to add AM response to agenda. Allow plenty of time for discussion.
- o MH to add boundary overview to meeting papers
- o MH to add station ticket office closures to the MP agenda
- o MH to make space in MP agenda for AM to introduce himself
- o MH to finalise MP agenda, share with GB/LA/JH, then with AM and SG
- o LA to do some research into the South West Peninsula group.
- o JH to send agenda for next meeting of Peninsula meeting which is next week
- o MH to liaise with TTC officers on progressing the Policy through committee as planned
- o MH to update Policy information for Planning Committee / Full Council to include two separate votes, one for policy and Appendix A and one for List of Projects (Appendix B)
- o MH to find links to police accident data online and to share the DCC scoring criteria for 20mph schemes
- o MH to send reminder of dates for future meetings in next email to SG

## 1. Welcome

GB welcomed everyone and ran through the agenda for the evening. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a deputy chair and to agree an agenda for the meeting with the MP in August.

## 2. Election of Deputy Chair

TB nominated LA as Deputy Chair. No other nominations were received. LA unanimously elected

## 3. Agenda for meeting with the MP

GB explained that he had taken the liberty of setting down a proposed agenda for the meeting. Chairing this type of meeting is difficult and so he wished to be as prepared as possible. He said he was very open to suggestions on how to improve the agenda.

Before running through his proposed agenda, he outlined what he sees as the core objectives of the meeting:

- Establishing the potential for future meetings
- Establishing partnerships

He also outlined the two-pronged approach that the SG are currently pursuing

- A set of issues that we are developing through the Policy update that we will be taking through with DCC
- Other issues of what is happening on our doorstep, particularly with regards to Torbay. Idea is to build good rapport/relationships with other areas.

The group wondered whether there is a regional grouping of MPs for this area and whether we are able to link in with this group. It was noted that the Great South West All Party Parliamentary Group exists.

There was some discussion around **the SRN consultation response suggestion to lever money towards easing the flow of traffic**. This is important because without that, it will constrain economic development (workforce recruitment, etc) in Torbay. There is a need for solid transport links and Totnes is a major pinch-point and constraint that no one is looking at currently. This is affecting the economic potential for the area, as well as public health. We are in an unsustainable pressure cooker (Totnes-wide, not just the A385).

- *Supporting Totnes with transport would support Levelling Up in Torbay.*

### **GB presented a suggested agenda for the meeting**

GB noted that one of the key things Totnes would like to see is greater recognition of the issues we face and additional resources to deal with these. He felt like this was the substantive major issue to address and it seemed right to use the recent Strategic Road Network consultation as a starting point. It would be good to get AM's acknowledgement that there is an issue there.

SC expressed support for that approach. The issues that are raised by the SRN consultation link to the more immediate, local issues anyway because of the impacts on Totnes. GB noted that Torbay is extraordinary. During winter it's like Exeter, but in the summer it becomes almost as big as Plymouth.

It was agreed that LA would explain the SRN consultation issues and JH would explain the policy background. Each would have 5 minutes to do this.

**ACTION:** LA and JH to liaise with GB in preparing their sections for the MP meeting

**ACTION:** MH to add AM response to agenda. Allow plenty of time for discussion.

**ACTION:** MH to add boundary overview to meeting papers

**General agreement that we need to have a clear ask from him.** What are the levers that we would like him to go away and pull? For example, liaising with other MPs. We are dealing with the 'smaller things' but we need help with the wider issues that we have no power over (e.g., overall traffic, developments, public transport).

RM expressed uncertainty around what it is that we want to achieve with the MP. We don't want to get in the way of Levelling Up, etc. We DO want to engage with the issues around the pinch-point. Questioned why the bypass question cannot be raised again.

- o LA said that it would be helpful not to speak about specific solutions during the meeting. We want to try to get more funding but there is a lot of disagreement around the solutions, even just within this group.
- o There was general agreement that we should be painting broad strokes and not discuss specific solutions.

### **Ticket office closures**

SC brought up the issue of the closing of station ticket offices. AM has launched a campaign to retain them and it could therefore be useful to discuss this during the meeting. It was suggested this be added to the agenda.

**ACTION:** MH to add station ticket office closures to the MP agenda

**ACTION:** LA to do some research into the South West Peninsula group.

**ACTION:** JH to send agenda for next meeting of Peninsula meeting which is next week

**ACTION:** MH to make space in MP agenda for AM to introduce himself

#### 4. Traffic and Transport Forum agenda

MH ran through a list of potential agenda items

- Transport Policy progress update
- Hotspot map: suggestions for additional layers
- SRN consultation update
- Planning application updates (which are in, stages they are at, etc)
- Parish council engagement
- ZEST guest speakers

Regarding the hotspot map, a few suggestions arose for new layers: problem areas for those with mobility issues (including dropped kerb problems); issues for cyclists; school runs; public transport

It was suggested that we add the following to the agenda:

- Speed cameras in town
- 20's Plenty for Devon campaign update

The meeting also noted the intention for the Forum meeting to be "hybrid" (Zoom & in person) and for the MP meeting to be in-person only, for which SC and TB gave their apologies.

#### 5. AOB

##### Transport Policy discussion

The group realised that the Transport Policy hadn't been on the agenda for the most recent Planning Committee as originally thought. There was some discussion on whether an extraordinary meeting could be held so that it could still go to September Full Council.

**ACTION:** MH to liaise with TTC officers on progressing the Policy through committee as planned

It was agreed that Full Council should vote on the Transport Policy and Appendix schemes separately, i.e., that there are two votes, one to adopt the Transport Policy and one to adopt the annex.

**ACTION:** MH to update Policy information for Planning Committee / Full Council to include two separate votes, one for policy and Appendix A and one for List of Projects (Appendix B)

**SHDC green travel survey**

There was some brief discussion around the work SHDC is currently doing on active travel strategy. Someone had seen a map of road accidents in Totnes and it appeared Totnes was a hotspot. It was noted that this information is publicly available via the police. There was also some discussion around the scoring used by DCC for the 20mph zones.

**ACTION:** MH to find links to police accident data online and to share the DCC scoring criteria for 20mph schemes

**ACTION:** MH to send reminder of dates for future meetings in next email to SG

***End of meeting 20:05***





## Totnes & District Traffic and Transport Forum

26 July 2023, 6.30pm  
Guildhall, Totnes

### Present

Graham Bennett	GB	Totnes Ramblers (Chair)
Cllr L Auletta	LA	Totnes Town Council (Deputy Chair)
Maiken Hutchings	MH	TTC Sustainability Officer (Notes)
Cllr J Hodgson	JH	Totnes Town Council (& Devon County Council)
Cllr A Presswell	AP	South Hams District Council
	RM	Bridgetown Alive!
Cllr T Cooper	TC	Totnes Town Council
Cllr J Cummings	JC	Totnes Town Council
	TB	Daisy & Rainbow Childcare
	VC	Kingsbridge Hill Area Residents Association
	TP	Follaton/Plymouth Road resident
	TM	Follaton resident
	GE	Follaton/Plymouth Rd resident

Apologies: CP (Upper Plymouth Road), JS (The Narrows)

### Actions

- MH to liaise with JH on the Policy timeline.
- MH to add suggested layers to hotspot map
- MH to find information on accidents and add as layer to hotspot map
- MH / GB / LA to consider reconfiguration of colours / categories of the hotspot layer
- MH to share hotspot map link again with notes:  
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1uVPMH7saf5mCGkaap1doGsi2OtcFZDc&usp=sharing>
- MH to include an updated Transport Policy and prioritisation timeline in the next email to the SG
- MH to find information on legalities around town councils installing VAS signs
- JH to report the areas to DCC for maintenance cuts.
- MH to share the DCC Report It page with notes:  
[devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/](https://devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/)
- MH to give VC portable air quality monitor and to locate the second one to give to Tim from Plymouth Road/Follaton.
- Plymouth Rd/Follaton residents to discuss whether they would like a representative on the Steering Group. MH to liaise with them before a September meeting.
- MH to add linking in with postmen/women safe route requirements (in relation to Plymouth Road) as a future agenda item
- VC to investigate postmen/women safe route requirements (in relation to Plymouth Road)
- MH to liaise with JH and Adrian at 20's Plenty on how to support JH with show of support at DCC Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

- JH to create a poster / comms material / petition for 7<sup>th</sup> September event. JH to keep everyone posted.
- AP to try to press on SHDC for action to support 20's Plenty for Devon.
- MH to share 20's Plenty webinar recording again: <https://youtu.be/9omRjFn6hp8>
- MH to get map off JH of neighbouring districts
- MH to add 'parish council engagement' to future agenda

## 1. Welcome

GB welcomed the group and gave a brief explanation of what the Traffic & Transport Forum does as an advisory body to the Town Council.

## 2. Transport Policy and hotspot map

MH gave brief update on the Draft Traffic, Transport and Pedestrian Policy and the delay getting it through Committee. The Draft Policy was supposed to go through Planning Committee at their meeting in July but due to some inbox errors, this was missed. The Draft Policy will now go to Planning in September and then on to Full Council in October. MH will be circulating the Draft Policy to all Town Cllrs next week, inviting feedback, with the hope that any issues can be ironed out before it goes to Committee and it will go through smoothly.

VC asked whether this new timeline means we will 'miss the boat' with budgets at DCC. JH said that the sooner Draft Policy goes to DCC the better. MH noted that the projects in the overview (Appendix B) have not been prioritised yet so we would not be able to tell DCC what we want budgets for specifically.

**ACTION:** MH to liaise with JH on the Policy timeline.

### Hotspot map

MH introduced the hotspot map and asked for suggestions for additional layers. Layers that have been suggested are: problem areas for mobility scooters/wheelchairs, dropped kerb problems, cyclist problem areas, school runs, public transport routes.

GE commented that Plymouth Road sees a lot of accidents but they often don't get reported (JC added that if the Police attend a site, they fill in detailed report forms which are publicly available). They have dealt with overturned vehicles, vehicles in hedges, etc. It was suggested that an accidents layer be added.

**ACTION:** MH to add suggested layers to hotspot map

**ACTION:** MH to find information on accidents and add as layer to hotspot map

**ACTION:** MH / GB / LA to consider reconfiguration of colours / categories of the hotspot layer

**ACTION:** MH to share hotspot map link again with notes:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1uVPMH7saf5mCGkaap1doGsi2OtcFZDc&usp=sharing>

RM asked for some clarity on all the meetings, what is it we are hoping to achieve with the hotspot map, meetings with DCC, etc?

- The hotspot map is a mapping tool for our own benefit – to help think holistically and to help inform current and future projects
- Meeting with DCC is part of a longer-term strategy to collaborate better with them and for them to guide in how to determine our priorities.
- We have updated the Traffic & Transport Policy and, once adopted by Full Council, will meet with DCC to get guidance on how to determine our priorities, i.e. what are their assessment criteria, how do they want us to go about it (so that they will accept the results).
- Doing the prioritisation will enable us to make the most of future funding opportunities, such as s106.
- JH also commented that we should keep raising issues and potential solutions with DCC despite their current financial issues

VC asked whether the prioritisation stage is a Steering Group task and whether an updated list of proposed steps could be shared.

- It will be managed by the SG
- Steps/timeline:
  - Traffic Policy adoption: Planning Committee 18<sup>th</sup> Sep, Full Council 2<sup>nd</sup> October
  - Meeting with DCC to get guidance on how to prioritise projects, what their criteria is: Autumn 2023 (no date set yet)

**ACTION:** MH to include an updated Transport Policy and prioritisation timeline in the next email to the SG

### **3. Forum attendees reports of local concerns**

#### **Plymouth Road / Follaton issues**

Main issue the residents highlighted was excessive speeds along Plymouth Road and particularly along the narrow stretch at entrance to town (approx. from Follaton Lodge to 46 Plymouth Road).

Various issues were raised during the discussion

- What sort of enforcement is possible when people break traffic rules? What can be done about it?
  - DCC uses SCARF (Speed Compliance Action Review Forum) assessments for speed complaints. *See Appendix for an info sheet.*
    - The issue with these is that they look for the percentage of compliance (in this case with 30mph). The mean or average speed and the 85th%ile speed (the speed at which 85% of drivers travel at or below) are used to determine if there is a speeding issue. This is a problem as it can be hard to get action – and for many places, 30mph is simply much too fast for the conditions.
- Residents have been in communication with the Police who have said the speed is excessive and would support installation of Vehicle Activated Signs.
  - However, again, 30mph along the narrow stretch is much too fast, given there are often pedestrians. This links with the 20's Plenty for Devon campaign (see next agenda item)
  - The Forum/Steering Group would certainly support VAS, and highly likely Totnes Town Council would too. However, there are some questions around whether TTC are able to install them themselves.

**ACTION:** MH to find information on legalities around town councils installing VAS signs

- Residents are setting up a Community Speed Watch
- Nighttime speeds along the road are shocking with lots of motorbikes and racers
- Speed cameras
  - Could the speed camera from Follaton Cemetery be moved closer?
- During rush-hour, often standing traffic = air quality issues
 

**ACTION:** MH to give VC portable air quality monitor and to locate the second one to give to Tim from Plymouth Road/Follaton.
- Vegetation blocks many of the signs. This is generally a DCC and landowner issue.
 

**ACTION:** JH to report the areas to DCC for maintenance cuts.

**ACTION:** MH to share the DCC Report It page with notes:  
[devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/](http://devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/)
- Delivery drivers call the road “the Road of Death” – could this be a group to try to link in with? Postmen and women – there must be certain requirements for safe routes for them, and they are heavily unionised. Is this an avenue that could be pursued?

**ACTION:** MH to add linking in with postmen/women safe route requirements (in relation to Plymouth Road) as a future agenda item

**ACTION:** VC to investigate postmen/women safe route requirements (in relation to Plymouth Road)

- AP suggested “Dead slow blind corner” signs. Other suggestions of chevrons, or traffic calming measures.
- JH and LA had a meeting with Puddavine residents some months ago. One solution that came up was residents giving up some of their gardens/hedges to allow for a wider pavement. This could be something the Plymouth Road residents could consider.
  - GE commented that in his land there’s a brown strip on the deed to retain the land.
  - There was previously a proposal to put pavement into the side of the bank but it didn’t happen, probably due to cost. This is still a problem really - the cost would be quite high to implement, but still worth pursuing.

GB concluded that there is a big issue around *community safety and traffic flows*. We need to be taking these to DCC. He thanked the Plymouth Road/Follaton residents for attending the Forum. He suggested that someone from their group should join the Steering Group as a representative for that area.

**ACTION:** Plymouth Rd/Follaton residents to discuss whether they would like a representative on the Steering Group. MH to liaise with them before a September meeting.

#### 4. 20’s Plenty for Devon campaign

Campaign to get DCC to change their default speed policy from 30mph to 20mph to enable places that would like 20mph to get it much easier and cheaper. They generally propose signage changes only (i.e. no traffic calming) to make it more affordable – if 20mph is the norm then people come to expect it.

However, so far DCC is lagging behind other places that are implementing it. DCC’s current system is slow and expensive – only 4 places have been allowed to get 20mph zones this year.

- JH brought a motion to DCC to change its policy – the motion is coming back at the Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 2.15pm.
- Could the power of people be brought to this meeting? Can we get people to turn up waving banners, show how much support there is for this?

**ACTION:** MH to liaise with JH and Adrian at 20’s Plenty on how to support JH with show of support at DCC Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**ACTION:** JH to create a poster / comms material / petition for 7<sup>th</sup> September event. JH to keep everyone posted.

**ACTION:** AP to try to press on SHDC for action to support 20's Plenty for Devon.

**ACTION:** MH to share 20's Plenty webinar recording again: <https://youtu.be/9omRjFn6hp8>

## **5. Parish council engagement**

This is Totnes & District Forum – we need to engage better. There are issues elsewhere that need to be addressed. What can we do to engage better?

Perhaps having a different location for a meeting - liaise with local parish and hold Forum meeting there? Or hold topical events, e.g., one meeting on a specific area and inviting representatives from that area to join. Due to limited time left in the meeting the group was unable to discuss further but it was agreed to add this to a future agenda item.

**ACTION:** MH to get map off JH of neighbouring districts

**ACTION:** MH to add 'parish council engagement' to future agenda

Next Forum meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Meeting end: 20:00**