

AGENDA FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 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 18th December 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 20th November 2023 and update on any matters arising.
Document attached.

3. TREE WORKS APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following tree works applications:

3a. 3894/23/TPO - G1: Scots Pine - x2 crown lift to 5m from ground level, reduce laterally on NE aspect to provide 1m clearance from telephone line, reduce laterally by 1m on SW aspect to reduce overhanging neighbouring boundary to provide more natural light. 5

Redworth Terrace, Totnes, TQ9 5JN. See <https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/3894/23/TPO>

3b. 3649/23/TCA – T1: Japanese Maple - crown height reduction by 1-2m, lateral reduction on all sides by 1m, T2: Silver Birch - 2m lateral crown reduction & 3m crown height reduction, T3: Holly - Crown lift to clear the wall. 20 South Street, Totnes, TQ9 5DZ. See <https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/3649/23/TCA>

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following planning applications:

4a. 2929/23/FUL - Installation of photovoltaic solar arrays together with transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements. Land at Littlehempston Water Treatment Works, Hampstead Farm Lane, Littlehempston, TQ9 6LZ. See <https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2929/23/FUL>

4b. 3732/23/FUL, 3733/23/FUL, 3734/23/FUL & 3735/23/FUL - Provision of an agricultural storage building and engineering works to create a level yard area. Land at SX 805 583, Ashprington [consulted as neighbouring parish]. See <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/233731>

4c. 3416/23/HHO - Householder application for single storey side extension. 33 Westonfields, Totnes, TQ9 5QU. See <https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/3416/23/HHO>

4d. 2813/23/HHO - Householder application for proposed loft conversion to create additional space (part permitted development). 55 Punchards Down, Totnes, TQ9 5FD. See <https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2813/23/HHO>

4e. 3857/23/VAR - Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) of planning consent 1614/22/VAR to replace timber cladding with render. Brutus Centre, Fore Street, Totnes. See <https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/3857/23/VAR>

4f. 2868/23/HHO – READVERTISEMENT (amended plans) Householder application for demolition of extensions & construction of replacement two storey extension & single storey extension, garage conversion for ancillary accommodation & internal reconfiguration. Beech Hill, Jubilee Road, Totnes, TQ9 5BW. See <https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2868/23/HHO>

5. CASTLE STREET VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

To consider the problem of large vehicle damage to properties on Castle Street and any recommendation to Full Council. Document attached.

6. PENINSULA TRANSPORT STRATEGY CONSULTATION

To consider the Peninsula Transport draft transport strategy and make a recommendation to Full Council [consultation closes on 5th February]. Document attached and see <https://www.peninsulatransport.org.uk/peninsula-transport-strategy-consultation/>

7. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT FORUM

To note the minutes from the Traffic and Transport Forum held on 12th December 2023, including a response to the Devon County Council Public Rights of Way Consultation (deadline 22 December 2023). Document attached.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Planning Committee – Monday 22nd January 2024 at 6.30pm in the Guildhall.

S Halliday

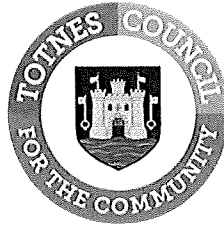
Governance and Project Manager

13th December 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 20TH NOVEMBER 2023 IN THE GUILDHALL

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

In Attendance: 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 spoke about their proposed plans for a new building in Collapark, their vision and engagement with neighbours which is to be considered under item 4a.

Two members of the public explained the background to the retrospective application to be considered under item 4b, setting out why the changes to the approved application had been made and the conversations they had had about the build with passing members of the public.

The Committee reconvened Standing Orders.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 16th October 2023 and update on any matters arising.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

3. TREE WORKS APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following tree works applications:

3a. 3521/23/TCA – T001: False acacia - Dismantle & fell to near ground level due to significant increase in level of decay. Little Priory, Fore Street Totnes.

Support.

3b. 3293/23/TCA - T1: Rowan - Fell due to tree being in decline and minor decay at base. 6 Leechwell Lane, Totnes, TQ9 5EA.

Not discussed as the decision notice was published on 16th November.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following planning applications:

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

4a. 3417/23/FUL - Proposed construction of a single dwelling and associated parking. Land at SX 796 6060, Collapark, Totnes.

Comment – the Committee supports the design but has concerns about the depth of the house (compared with the previously approved application) and overmassing at the rear of the site with the associated impact on loss of sunlight and overshadowing of neighbouring properties.

4b. 3448/23/FUL - Regularisation of applications 0332/19/FUL and 2467/21/VAR for the construction of a new two-storey dwelling (Retrospective). Garages 7, 9 & 11 Christina Park, Totnes.

Object. The Committee supports work towards Passivhaus standards but notes that no evidence has been submitted to justify the design changes made. Concerns raised in the Planning Officer report dated 24 January 2023 still stand and have not been addressed (included below):

1. The proposed changes represent poor architectural composition and detailing, finished with an unsympathetic materials palette, which would appear incongruous within the street scene contrary to the provisions of DEV10(1), DEV20(1, 2, 3, 4) and DEV23(1, 2, 3, 7) and paragraphs including but not limited to, 130 and 134 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
2. The extension of the balcony on the north elevation eastward would be likely to give rise to increased harmful overlooking of the neighbour to the east and together with the creation of a new balcony on the western elevation, would be likely to result in increased noise and disturbance at height contrary to the provisions of DEV1(1).

The Committee also has continued concerns about: the lack of an ecology report (given the proximity of the dwelling to the wildlife corridor); and the proximity of the terraces to the stream.

4c. 3203/23/FUL - Demolition of 36 two/three bed flats to be replaced with 35 new homes, consisting of one, two & three bed accommodation for social rent, as well as landscaping, car parking & associated works. Land at SX 808 599 [Parkers Way], Totnes.

Object. The Committee supports the building of social housing (if maintained at the level proposed) and the mix of 1,2 and 3 bed dwellings, the proportion of accessible homes that exceeds requirements, and the biodiversity net gain. However, the Committee has concerns about:

- Flooding (and agrees with the Environment Agency and Devon County Council Flood and Coastal Risk comments).
- Natural light – the proposed windows look very small in proportion to the wall area (and not as shown in the CGI), impacting on natural light and ventilation received into the properties and the affect on the wellbeing of the future inhabitants.
- Visual appearance – the proposed design with small windows gives a defensive appearance to the street scape.
- Impact on a wildlife corridor – any lighting on the rear of the properties and on the access road would have an impact on the wildlife.
- Loss of Green Space – from extending the built area on the main site beyond the existing footprint, and the creation of a car park on the green space on the other side of the road on Parkers Way.

- Parking – concerns that parking provision on the other side of Parkers Way is impractical and will not be utilised, as is also noted in Police comments. The previous solution of below building parking was more innovative in reducing impacts and addressing flood requirements.
- Severance of Footpath – from the plans the existing footpath at the rear of the site appears to finish on the proposed access road, with no obvious route joining up with the remainder of the existing footpath.
- Net Zero Ready – but not taking the opportunity to install it, for example no heat pump or plant room, no location of EV chargers given, PV panels on East and West profiles are insufficient for the number of dwellings.
- No affordable housing statement – clarity on any shared ownership proposals would be welcomed.

4d. 2929/23/FUL - Installation of photovoltaic solar arrays together with transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements. Land at Littlehempston Water Treatment Works, Hampstead Farm Lane, Littlehempston, TQ9 6LZ.

Cllr Hodgson declared a personal interest.

Object – the Committee requests a site visit as some areas of the scheme may be accessible however, there are concerns about the visual impact of the scheme from some natural heritage assets in the town and neighbouring parish.

The Committee voted to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

4e. 2169/23/FUL - READVERTISEMENT (revised plans) Demolition of existing foundry buildings & construction of new two storey foundry building & welfare facilities. Foundry and Fabrication Totnes Ltd, Babbage Road, Totnes, TQ9 5JD.

Support. However, the Committee's comments on the requirement for a waste audit and fumes still stand, and the Committee shares the concerns raised by the Environment Agency and Devon County Council Waste.

4f. 1816/23/FUL - READVERTISEMENT (Revised Plans) Demolition of existing utility/workshop & construction of 1 bedroom 2 storey attached dwelling with associated works. 30 Westonfields, Totnes, TQ9 5QU.

Support.

4g. 2868/23/HHO - Householder application for demolition of extensions & construction of replacement two storey extension & single storey extension, garage conversion for ancillary accommodation & internal reconfiguration. Beech Hill, Jubilee Road, Totnes, TQ9 5BW.

Support. However, the Committee would wish to check that the garage was built under planning permission and that the proposed garage conversion to be ancillary to the main dwelling.

4h. 3204/23/HHO and 3205/23/LBC – Householder application and Listed Building Consent for conversion of outbuilding to sleeping accommodation & shower room, including solar panels & alterations to garage. 2 Castle Street, Totnes, TQ9 5NU.

Support. The Committee shares the pre-application advice stating concerns about installing PV panels on a corrugated roof. The Committee also has concerns about moving the garage doors forward.

4i. 2723/23/LBC and 2979/23/HHO - Listed building consent and householder application to re-roof house & rear wing with associated works including replacement rooflights, addition of solar panels & external insulation to rear wing with a lime render finish & internal alterations including secondary glazing. 2 Plym Villas, Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5PQ.

Comment – The Committee feels that there is a lack of information on the installation of the toilet and its impact on the hallway. The Committee would request that the Heritage Officer checks that the proposed work would not compromise the internal features in any way. The Committee also ask why the rainwater pipe is located in a more visible position to the left of the door rather than to the right in a corner.

4j. 3519/23/LBC - Listed building consent to re-roof contemporary side return extension, replace rooflights, install secondary glazing throughout, install firebreak to shared attic space & internal alterations. 1 Seymour Villas, Pathfields, Totnes, TQ9 5QR.

Support, however the Committee would wish to see conservation grade rooflights used as replacements.

4k. 3235/23/HHO - Householder application for the demolition of existing outhouse & erection of new outhouse with single pitch roof & solar panels. 6 Tree Tops, Cherry Cross, Totnes Down Hill, Totnes, TQ9 5EU.

Support.

4l. 3432/23/VAR - Application for variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) of planning consent 0569/23/HHO. 11 Pampasia, Hillbrook Rise, Totnes, TQ9 5AU.

Support.

4m. 3033/23/HHO - Householder application to remove previous willow sticks fence & replace with tanalised pine fence of same dimensions & bamboo troughs along with further tree planting in garden (Retrospective). Seymour Terrace, Bridgetown, Totnes.

Cllr Allen declared a personal interest.

Support the fence being in place on a temporary basis of 6 years. The Committee would request whether the requirement to paint the fence black still stands now that it has weathered.

4n. 3466/23/ARC - Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 5 (External Attachments) and 6 (Roof Insulation) of planning consent 2527/23/LBC. Angel Yard Cottage, South Street, Totnes, TQ9 5DZ.

Support.

4o. 2991/23/LBC - Listed building consent for timber framed windows replacement. 2 Orchard Terrace, Totnes, TQ9 5EY.

Support.

4p. 2915/23/HHO - Householder application for log burner flue through flat roof. 20 Elmhirst Drive, Totnes, TQ9 5UX.

No comment provided.

4q. 3731/23/FUL - Provision of an agricultural livestock building and engineering works to create a level yard area. Land at SX 805 583, Ashprington [consulted as neighbouring parish].

It was **AGREED** that this application would be put on the December agenda.

5. **SOUTH WEST WATER CONSULTATION ON DRAFT WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN
To consider the South West Water revised 'Draft Water Resources Management Plan (2024)'
and make a recommendation (through the Town Matters Committee) to Full Council
[consultation closes on 6th December].**

It was **AGREED** that the officer would circulate the South West Water response to the Committee, highlighting the comments which are directly of relevance to this plan. Members are asked to provide comments by midday Monday 27th so that a revised recommendation can be circulated for agreement before inclusion in the draft minutes.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council the following response to the consultation:

Totnes Town Council welcome South West Water's detailed and transparent answers to the initial consultation responses and view as them as a great example of positive engagement and transparency in consultation practice. We recognise that a number of our concerns fall beyond your remit, but we thank you for your candour and the references for further reading on these matters. We are hearted to hear that you are proactively working towards a Biodiversity Net Gain baseline, and lobbying for improved foul water separation, surface water attenuation, and grey waste recycling measures in new developments.

The Council acknowledges that the problem of waste water pollution is outside the remit of this specific management plan consultation, but remains concerned about the current situation of discharges of untreated waste into the River Dart which is unacceptable from both a health and biodiversity perspective. The Council looks forward to hearing SWW's plans to bring the swiftest possible resolution of this issue.

6. **TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT FORUM**

To consider any recommendations from the Traffic and Transport Forum held on 25th October 2023 including the Green Travel Guide and agree the guide's suitability for placement on the Town Council website.

Noted. Cllr Collinson commented that the content of the Green Travel Guide is good, however it doesn't meet a number of accessibility requirements and that she will provide advice.

The Committee thanked the Sustainability Officer for all her hard work on this guide and in supporting the Traffic and Transport Forum generally and wished her well in her new job.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

To note the date of the next meeting of the Planning Committee – Monday 18th December 2023 at 6.30pm in the Guildhall.

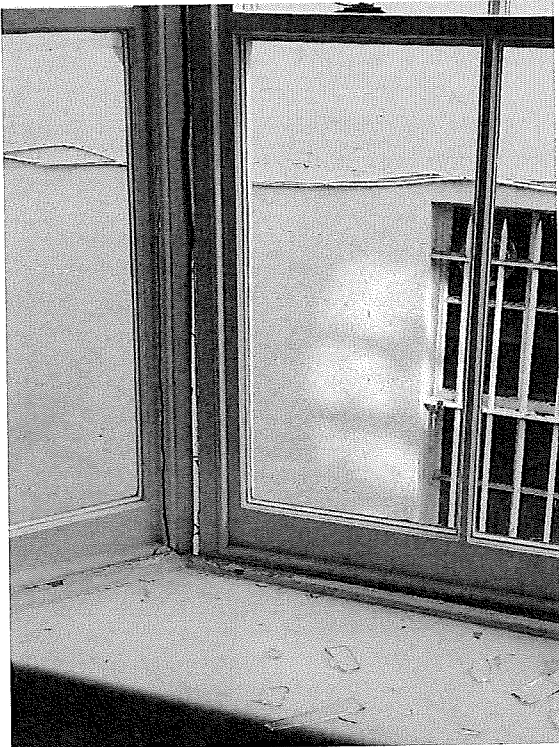
Noted.

Sara Halliday
Governance and Projects Manager
November 2023

16 Castle Street Most recent incident – 9th November 2023

The top of the delivery lorry completely knocked out the bottom of our bay window. This caused considerable inconvenience and danger not only to us but to other residents. The road was covered in rubble and broken glass. The extent of the damage to the structure of the bay was such that an officer from the fire service advised that there was a possibility of further collapse of the window box, which could injure anyone walking under it. This opinion was confirmed by a chartered surveyor. As the house is right on the street, members of the public frequently walk under the section in question, and it is also right over our front door, the only entrance and exit to the house.

I would like to note that the driver (who was very shaken up) said that he had seen the width restriction advice at the bottom of Castle Street and that his vehicle was within that restriction.



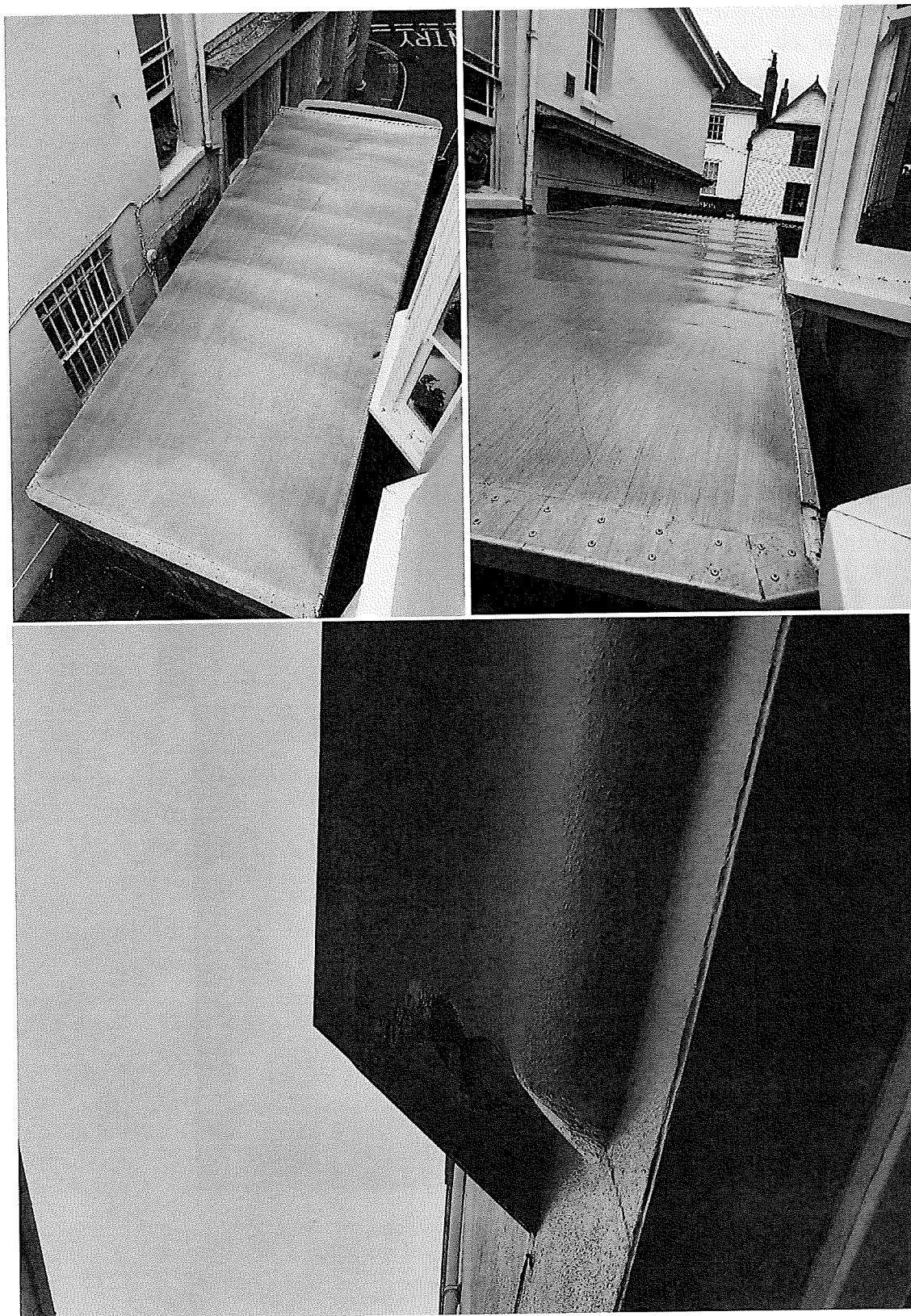
Previous incident – 20th October 2023

Very similar with top of lorry hitting window.



Previous incident – 13th December 2021

On this occasion the lorry actually became wedged between our house and the house opposite. It was stuck there for at least an hour.



Current measures

Currently, there is a width restriction advice sign at the bottom of Castle Street saying it is unsuitable for coaches and vehicles wider than 7ft6. There is also a single bollard. However, the road gets narrower as it approaches the High Street and at its narrowest point is 7ft between the kerbs. The bollard has been replaced once already while we've owned the property and is already bent again.



PENINSULA TRANSPORT: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORT ACROSS THE SOUTH WEST

Briefing note: Peninsula Transport Strategy consultation, December 2023

Peninsula Transport, the sub-national transport body for Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay councils, is running a public consultation on its draft transport strategy.

The strategy will be used to guide regional transport investment decisions through to 2050. It sets out four outcomes and a route map to achieving a strategic transport network that works for everyone – from businesses to communities and visitors.

By 2030 the desired outcomes are:

- **Easier journeys:** integrating walking and wheeling with the bus and rail network, to make getting around without a car easy.
- **Going electric:** affordable zero-emission transport through a reliable electric vehicle charging network.
- **A connected peninsula:** safe, reliable and resilient road and rail travel within the peninsula and beyond.

These outcomes will ultimately lead to the key objective of:

- **Completing the network:** improved connections within a growing and fully integrated transport network on a path to net zero.

The strategy will be the foundation of a Strategic Investment Plan which will identify and prioritise transport schemes and projects that reflect national and regional policies and best meet the needs of the user. The transport strategy does not replace Local Transport Plans developed by local authorities but provides a series of strategic objectives to guide the development of local policies.

The strategy is available on our consultation space held on www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk

CONSULTATION AND EVENTS

Our consultation is now open and we invite stakeholders to review the Peninsula Transport Strategy and feedback to Peninsula Transport through a short online survey that can be found at: https://plymouth-consult.objective.co.uk/public/transport/peninsula_transport_strategy

Webinars: Peninsula Transport will be hosting free webinars throughout January 2024, open to anyone interested in finding out more about the strategy. Dates will be released shortly any people can pre-register interest at www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk.

Share: help spread the work and share our consultation with others. Please feel free to share this briefing and the link with your networks. We are also promoting the strategy via our social media channels and would welcome your support in sharing content across your own channels.

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/peninsula-transport/>
- X (formerly Twitter): <https://twitter.com/PensTransport>

EVIDENCE BASE

We consulted on and finalised our vision, which also set out a series of high-level goals for the STB to take forward, in 2021. Since then, we have produced a comprehensive evidence base to create a

strong understanding of how the peninsula works and what will bring the biggest benefits to the region. The recommendations and priorities identified in individual pieces of technical work were brought together to define the four key outcomes set out in the transport strategy and develop a route map to achieving a better strategic transport network. Our full suite of technical works can be accessed: <https://www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk/technical-work/>

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Once the consultation closes, we will take the time to review and analyse all the responses, using the feedback to finalise the Peninsula Transport Strategy. The final draft of the Peninsula Transport Strategy will then be submitted to the Peninsula Transport Board to approve its adoption.

If adopted, we expect to publish the final strategy in March 2024. It will then be used to develop the Strategic Investment Plan and we will work with government, industry and local authorities to deliver its aims for the peninsula.

To keep up to date with the work of Peninsula Transport you can join our mailing list here: <http://eepurl.com/hynxmf>.

ABOUT PENINSULA TRANSPORT

Peninsula Transport is the sub-national transport body (STB), bringing together the five lead transport authorities in the peninsula (Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay) to work directly with the Department for Transport (DfT) on the strategic transport priorities for the region. Sub-national Transport Bodies were established as part of the Cities and Local Government Act 2016.

Formed in 2018, we are a partnership established to transform transport and boost economic growth for the peninsula. Our role is to guide and advise government on our regional transport priorities and investment by developing and then maintaining a regional transport strategy. Our work is aimed at enhancing strategic cross-boundary connectivity and complements the work of our local authorities to enhance local connectivity.

More information is available on our website, <https://www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk/>, or you can contact us by emailing info@peninsulatrtransport.org.uk



Peninsula Transport Strategy

Strategic Transport Priorities to 2050



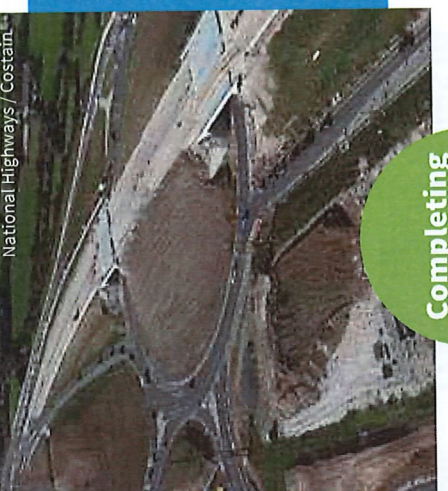
**Easier
Journeys**



**Going
Electric**



**A Connected
Peninsula**



**Completing
the Transport
Network**

National Highways / Costain

Peninsula Transport Strategy 2023-2050

A Single Voice for Regional Transport

Peninsula Transport is one of seven Sub-National Transport Boards (STBs) in England.

Working closely with local transport authorities, transport operators and key stakeholders from the private and public sector, STBs are responsible for defining and prioritising the strategic transport improvements for their area and working closely with central Government to deliver them.

We cover the entire transport system across the peninsula and beyond, providing an important link between local needs and ambitions and national policy and resources. We work with our five local transport authorities covering **Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay**; our strategic transport partners at Network Rail and National Highways; and other key stakeholders.

We have developed a long term transport strategy which responds to the unique challenges across the region and provides a framework for creating a **single integrated transport system for the peninsula** capable of meeting the Government's target for net-zero by 2050. The strategy supports the national priorities for economic growth, levelling up and reducing environmental impacts, whilst at the same time, supporting the delivery of local land use and transport plans.

The Peninsula Transport region is an amazing place to live, work and visit with considerable diversity from large towns and cities to market towns, villages and very rural locations. Good transport connections are vital for a vibrant community and sustainable growth – this strategy sets out our ambition to improve our transport system for everyone.

The seven Sub-National Transport Bodies in England



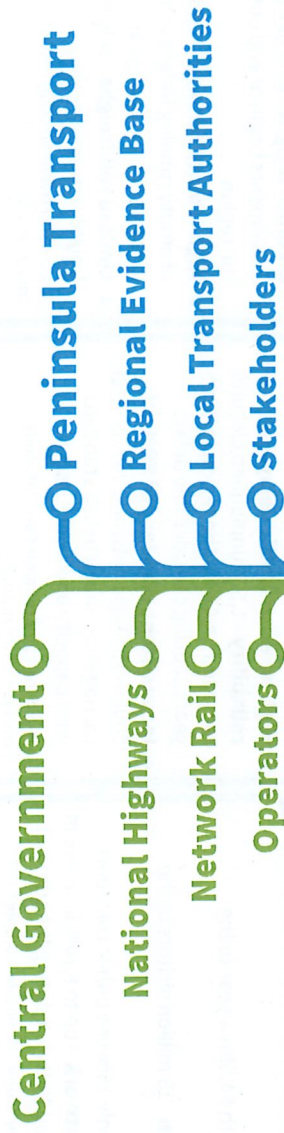
Our Journey So Far

Since the establishment of Peninsula Transport in 2018, the STB has:

- **Regional evidence base** – established a diverse and invaluable evidence base, accessible to all stakeholders and to support the case for investment
- **Great Western mainline** – successfully making the strategic case for the investment required to make the line more resilient and reliable and improve journey times between Exeter and Newton Abbot
- **Major highway improvement schemes** – gaining approval for £making the case to Government to prioritise roads investment to deliver schemes in Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth and Somerset
- **Rural transport needs** – Championed and advocated for successful funding applications for transport improvements and resilience works across the region
- **South West Freight forum** – Established, in collaboration with Western Gateway, a regional steering group with key representatives in the freight industry to drive forward improvements and initiatives in the freight transport in the southwest
- **Mobile connectivity** – Worked with Network Rail to establish a case for improved mobile connectivity across the strategic rail network in the peninsula to significantly improve journey experience.



Secretary of State for Transport at the completion of the Dawlish Sea Wall Improvements



Peninsula Transport Vision

Our Vision Goals



Peninsula Transport Strategy

Easier Journeys



Going Electric



A Connected Peninsula



Completing the Transport Network



Local Transport Plans and Policies

Our Unique Challenges

Overcoming our transport challenges will help us unlock the region's full economic potential, as well as boost its environmental and social wellbeing. This strategy is focussed on tackling specific regional challenges which currently have an impact economic growth.

Key

- = Motorway Network
- = Major Road Network
- = Strategic Road Network
- = Main Road Network
- = Rail network
- = Peninsula Transport
- = Western Gateway
- ⊕ = Main train station
- ✈ = Airport
- ⊕ = Ports

Alternative Fuel Infrastructure

The peninsula currently has 1,200 public EV chargepoints for 34,000 electric vehicle.

- **High demand for charge points** – forecast to increase 20 times by 2035
- **No ultra-low emission buses** – currently in regular public use across the region
- **No hydrogen fuel stations** – with limited infrastructure planned for buses and HGVs

Sources: *Peninsula Transport, 2023*
SW Alternative Fuels for Freight Strategy – Western Gateway & Peninsula Transport, 2023

Achieving Net Zero

The peninsula generates nearly 4,500kt carbon emissions from transport per year.

- **High level of car ownership** – second highest of all regions
- **Majority of travel to work trips by car** – around 90% of people drive
- **Highest private transport mileage per person**
- **Transport major source of pollution** – 44% of the peninsula's carbon emissions

Source: *Carbon Transition Strategy - Peninsula Transport, 2022*

Rural Accessibility

Nearly half of the peninsula population live in rural areas.

- **Less accessible public transport network** – 60% fewer bus stops in rural areas with less services per hour than urban areas
- **Lower rural affluence** – higher proportion of population in lower affluence percentiles in rural areas.

Source: *SW Rural Mobility Strategy – Peninsula Transport, 2022*

Public Transport

Half of peninsula workers travel less than 10km to work.

- **Highest bus subsidy of any region** – £28m of support provided by local transport authorities annually
- **High number of bus operators** – over 30 bus companies operate in the region
- **Inconsistent ticketing, pricing and payment options** for public transport users

Source: *Regional Evidence Base – Peninsula Transport, 2019*

Rail Connectivity

The peninsula is reliant on two strategic rail routes connecting it to the rest of the UK.

- **Slower strategic rail network** – average rail speeds are 20mph slower compared with elsewhere
- **Poor mobile connectivity** – 78km of track from Penzance to Paddington with poor/no mobile connectivity equating to 60+mins of lost productivity
- **Single-track running** – 75% of track Exeter-Salisbury is single line, limiting capacity. The majority of branch lines also single-track

Source: *Rail Strategy – Peninsula Transport, 2023*

Network Resilience

The peninsula relies on a small number of strategic links of variable standards.

- **Significant cost of network failure** – The 2014 Dawlish seawall failure incurred costs of £1.5bn to region
- **High levels of traffic delay and poor reliability** – 1,570 unplanned closures recorded on A30 in the region in last 5 years causing considerable delays
- **Inconsistent standard of SRN** – of 500km strategic network, 26% is single carriageway, much below standard with capacity and safety issues

Source: *Strategic Economic Corridor Study – Peninsula Transport, 2022*

Freight Transport

70m tonnes of freight is moved within the peninsula each year.

- **Significant levels of long distance freight** – 60% of freight movements begin or end outside the region
- **High 'empty running'** – 20m km of empty running freight vehicles in the peninsula each year
- **Limited rail freight** – only 5% of freight is moved by rail

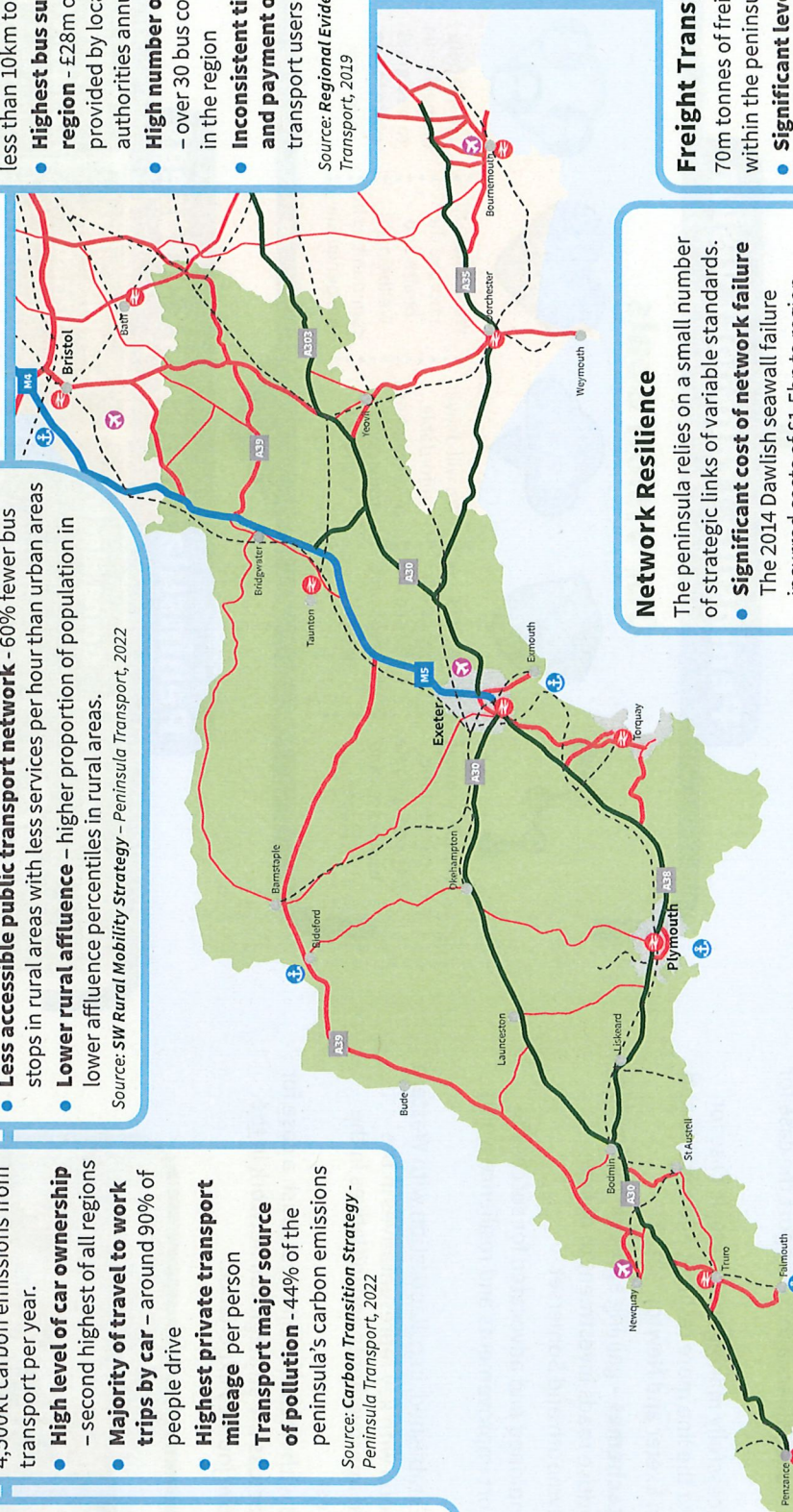
Source: *SW Freight Strategy – Peninsula Transport, 2022*

Seasonal Variation

The tourism industry is worth £4.5bn a year to the peninsula economy.

- **Major tourist destination** – 18 million visitors to the region each year
- **Majority come by car** – only 15% use public transport
- **High demand on road network** – up to a 70% increase in traffic on the Strategic Road Network during the summer

Source: *Strategic Economic Corridor Study – Peninsula Transport, 2022*



A Strategy for the User

To 2030

Making the most of what we have

Walking and Wheeling

- Walking and cycling enhancements at public transport hubs

Bus and Coach

- Integrated timetabling, ticketing and information

Rail

- Service enhancements, new stations and resilience schemes continuing to progress

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

- Expanding the EV charging network including in rural areas, to meet forecast demand

Roads

- Enhancement, safety and maintenance schemes on the major and strategic road networks

Airports and Ports

- Improved surface access to airports and ports for passengers and freight

Digital, Technology and Other Enablers

- EV demand forecasting, carbon quantification and other technical support to local authorities
- Delivery of pilot schemes in freight and rural mobility

2030 - 2035

Improved choice and better information

Easier Journeys

Completing the Transport Network

2035 onwards

Cleaner, greener and safer network

Easier Journeys

- **Information** - single source of information for all modes
- **Ticketing** - integrated across all modes
- **Standard** - consistent across the peninsula
- **Interchange** - easy and convenient between modes



Going Electric

- **EV charging** - comprehensive network, fairly priced and meeting demands of residents, businesses and visitors
- **Alternative fuel provision** - meeting the needs of commercial and business users including freight transport
- **Ultra-low emission infrastructure** - to support all bus and rail services across the peninsula



A Connected Peninsula

- **Resilient, safe and reliable road and rail links** - into and through the peninsula, including to ports and airports
- **Sustainable travel** - to the peninsula becomes the preferred choice for private journeys
- **Reliable intermodal freight connections** - available to enable freight to be moved as sustainably as possible with reliable journey times
- **HGV parking and driver facilities** - are improved and enhanced across the network



Completing the Transport Network

- **Fully integrated resilient, sustainable, safe and reliable transport network**
- **Walking, wheeling and public transport** are the preferred choice for most journeys
- **Comprehensive network of EV, alternative fuel and ultra-low emission infrastructure for journeys**
- **Strategic road and rail network** meeting the demands of a growing and prosperous region



Our Immediate Priorities

Peninsula Transport is already working with its partners to improve transport in the region. Here we set out our proposed actions for the next 12 months to implement the strategy and monitor progress towards the desired transport outcomes for the peninsula.



First Steps Towards Our Outcomes

Easier Journeys

- Develop a **regional action plan for integrating ticketing**
- **Best practice review** of bus network improvements across STBs
- Scope and seek funding for **rural mobility pilot schemes**

Going Electric

- Rollout of **EV demand forecasting tool**
- Produce an **EV Strategy and Action Plan** for the peninsula
- Establish an **EV forum** for the peninsula to engage with the EV community including operators and power distributors

A Connected Peninsula

- Facilitation of the **South West Freight Forum** to develop pilot initiatives and share industry intelligence
- Coordinate the rollout of Freight Strategy recommendations for **pilot interventions**
- **Maintain and update evidence base** to support rail network enhancements
- Prioritise enhancement of **strategic road links** to and through the peninsula

Completing the Transport Network

- Publish our **carbon emission forecasting assessment**
- Provide **analysis and data** inputs to member authority Local Transport Plans
- Establish our **Regional Centre of Excellence** to share expertise, analysis and data with partners and stakeholders
- Work with STB network to develop and share **Alternative Fuels for Freight Tool**

What's Next – Get Involved and Have Your Say

We want to hear your views on this strategy. Getting your feedback on the transport priorities for the region will help to shape our activities and focus going forward, and to develop the investment plan which will be published later in 2024. It is vital that our strategy meets the needs of those living, working, doing business and travelling within the peninsula.



Let us know what you think about the strategy to help us to reflect your needs best, before it is finalised. An investment plan will then be developed to support the final strategy – so it's important we have your views.

23

Do you agree with the four priority outcomes for the region?

Which of the outcomes are most important to you?

Are there other areas or themes that Peninsula Transport should be focusing on?



Working with:



Further details of the studies and technical work to inform this strategy can be found on the Peninsula Transport website www.peninsulatransport.org.uk

Traffic & Transport Steering Group

12 December 2023, 6.30-8pm
Guildhall, Totnes

Present

GB	GB	Totnes Ramblers (Chair)
Cllr L Auletta	LA	Totnes Town Council (TTC) (Deputy Chair)
Maiken Hutchings	MH	Sustainability Officer, Totnes Town Council (Notes)
Cllr J Cummings	JC	Totnes Town Council (TTC)
VC	VC	Kingsbridge Hill Area Residents Association
GE	GE	Plymouth Road residents
HC	HC	Cyclist

Apologies: RM, Cllr Tim Bennett, SG, Cllr J Hodgson

Recommendations

1. The SG recommends that TTC submit the draft response text found in the appendix to the Devon County Council Public Rights of Way consultation (deadline 22nd December 2023)

Actions carried across – see agenda item 4

Actions

1. ALL to give some thought to how meetings best can be structured to progress action and avoid duplication.
2. ALL to feed back to LA if willing to help with the update of the Greenways section of the Open Space, Sport, Recreation and Wellbeing (OSSRW) Policy.
3. GB/LA to add OSSRW to AGM agenda
4. MH to add DCC Environment Viewer link to notes and give pathway to get to the same view
5. JC to pass on details of the Public Rights of Way consultation to his contacts in Right to Roam campaign
6. MH to add LA comments to the draft Public Rights of Way response and add as recommended response for Planning Committee on 18th December.
7. GE/JH – suggested to liaise to facilitate a meeting to discuss options for Plymouth Road
8. ALL – If anyone wants to help with the Peninsula Transport Strategy Consultation, please contact LA. Ideally Jacqi to help given her knowledge and access to DCC.
9. VC to let us know where the sign is so that we can all submit on the Report a Problem page
10. MH to ask TTC administrator to get the Totnes – Buckfastleigh cycle route onto Planning Committee discussion

1. Organisational changes

GB welcomed the group and kicked off by noting that MH is leaving her post as Sustainability Officer (SO) at TTC. He noted the support she provides:

- Convening/recording meetings
- Policy development/Green Travel Guide
- Ad hoc timely advice in response to requests from all quarters
- Tying into TTC - organisational 'literacy', ability to 'manage sideways and up'
- Meeting Chair & Deputy before and after formal meetings.

He continued to explain that financial matters are being reviewed by TTC as part of the normal business cycle, and staffing support is being pursued with the Council.

There is likely a need to simplify the relationship between the SG and Forum, to reduce duplication of discussions. Proposals will be brought to the AGM for consideration. He asked everyone to please give some thought to how we can best structure our meetings and share ideas in the meantime.

ACTION 1: ALL to give some thought to how meetings best can be structured to progress action and avoid duplication.

GB opened it up to any questions (there were none) and thanked MH for her work.

LA added that TTC is currently engaged in strategy setting discussions. They are setting the precept for TTC's part of council tax. From that they are looking at what is left over and all the different priorities, statutory duties, etc. Discussions are ongoing on what the officer support role might look like going forward.

GB commented that it's important to recognise the work of the SO so far and the breadth of work that the SG does. We are at the centre of a series of partnership networks that we are building. There are many different things to tie together and this requires someone who understands the contents of the meetings and what the group is trying to achieve. He emphasised that this needs to be adequately conveyed in discussions that are had with TTC.

- LA noted that this is already happening and that Councillors (Cllrs) involved have been saying this to other Cllrs who do not necessarily appreciate the work that goes on here.
- VC added that while the group is obviously very voluntary, the scope and nature of the work is incredibly important to Totnes. This is one of the key things that we can actually do something about. The group is critical.

2. Open Space, Sport, Recreation and Wellbeing Policy

TTC is currently updating its OSSRW Policy. LA provided some background information to this.

The TTC administrator has suggested it be reviewed in different sections with different bits being discussed by different groups. The SG has been asked to look at Greenways. Greenways is a slightly odd term but basically it means things like public footpaths, cycle routes, etc. How we might get around and beyond town in an active travel way but also recreationally.

- The deadline for input into this is beginning of March
- It would be useful to have people's thoughts on where the missing links are, which sections are not up to scratch, which parts are people concerned about.
- S106 money doesn't get allocated to certain things because it's not recognised anywhere.

- LA is happy to meet with anyone to put heads together over a map to discuss what routes exist, what is missing, etc.
- LA noted that this needs to be added to the January AGM agenda as well.

ACTION 2: ALL to feed back to LA if willing to help with the update of the Greenways section of the Open Space, Sport, Recreation and Wellbeing (OSSRW) Policy.

ACTION 3: GB/LA to add OSSRW to AGM agenda

3. DCC Public Rights of Way consultation

GB informed the group that there is a DCC Public Rights of Way consultation currently out with a 22nd December deadline. In order for it to go through TTC Planning Committee on time it needs to go to their meeting on 18th December, the agenda and papers for which are going out tomorrow.

Given the urgency, GB has discussed with Totnes Ramblers Chair and LA and put together a draft response text. He read out this draft (included below) and invited comments.

Draft response:

- a. At 62 pages, the documentation is bewildering.
- b. There appears to be a practical disparity between:
 - i. Section 2, **Strategic Context**, which states: "At a strategic level, public rights of way and access are of great importance to: connecting people and places (including Active Travel)"
- c. and
 - i. Section 4, **Objectives and Policies**, within which reference is made to continuing the parish-by-parish review.
- d. It does seem that a parish-by-parish review is likely to be very time consuming for all at parish level, and then at County level given the massive amount of information needing to be collated (given that there are 426 civil parishes in Devon, according to Wikipedia).
- e. To make the biggest difference, in the shortest amount of time, and with the least difficulty, the review needs to look at the bigger picture, focusing on;

- i. Paths which connect places; and then
 - ii. The creation of circular walks, which will often cross parish boundaries.
- f. It will be extraordinarily difficult and/or time consuming to identify 'missing links', unless such an approach is adopted.
- g. Specifically, we note that Totnes gets a mention under B25 - as a place which is a key congestion area where the development of safe, off road links for travel are needed. We agree and would emphasise that the more notable routes which have yet to fully materialise are: Totnes to Buckfastleigh; Totnes to Stoke Gabriel; Totnes to Littlehempston; and a safe Totnes to Paignton cycle route. These could undoubtedly unlock much potential.
- h. We also support the improvement of access for people with limited mobility, by removing physical barriers under C3 and C4 (such as replacing stiles with gaps or gates).

GB additionally noted that the consultation and update is a tortuous and longwinded process – the document and the consultation.

JC – most walks involve crossing different parish boundaries. Very few walks that stay within the parish.

LA – very process driven, it's not about specific routes. Personally, she supports the draft response but would like to add two additional things:

- Firstly, we should state that they should be referring to our soon-to-be refreshed OSSRW Policy. This is where they will find the routes that we care about.
- Secondly, she came across the DCC Environment Viewer which is a great resource that we need to be referring to.
 - o <https://maptest.devon.gov.uk/portaldvl/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=82d17ce243be4ab28091ae1f15970924>
 - o Under Public Access > Statutory Registers > Highways and Landowners Statements and Declarations layer, LA noted that this does *not* represent a picture that is familiar to anyone in Totnes regarding public access to land. We need to note this in case this is what DCC are using to show 'how much' access there is.

JC – is it worth contacting someone from the Right to Roam campaign? They would have a good idea about what parts are accessible and which are not. We should at least make them aware of this consultation – they should make their own submission.

VC – is there a person at DCC that can be approached with questions or comments? GB – link via Ramblers chair that could perhaps be used.

ACTION 4: MH to add DCC Environment Viewer link to notes and give pathway to get to the same view

ACTION 5: JC to pass on details of the Public Rights of Way consultation to his contacts in Right to Roam campaign

ACTION 6: MH to add LA comments to the draft Public Rights of Way response and add as recommended response for Planning Committee on 18th December.

4. Matters Arising

GB ran through the list of actions carried across with some updates given along the way.

- Morrisons parking issue
 - RM not present to give an update. This will be sought at the next meeting.
- Green Travel Guide
 - This has now been completed – amendments made so that colours and fonts are accessible.
 - It can be found here (scroll down): <https://www.totnestowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/traffic-transport/>
 - MH commented that amendments can be made if/when needed as TTC team have access to the Canva account.
- Traffic, Transport and Pedestrian Policy formatting 'completed'
 - This can also be found on the TTC website.
 - MH commented that this is a relatively rudimentary formatting to make it more appealing than the unformatted Word document version. The text is of course identical.
 - Amendments can be made in Canva if needed.
- Bus roundtable meeting held 30 Nov 2023 with MP
 - GB and Steve had attended
 - Steve outlined new Bob the Bus bus project and made links on community bus matters.
 - Bridgetown Hill pedestrian crossing was raised. MP has since written "I have previously spoken to Devon County Council regarding installing a crossing on Bridgetown Hill to allow passengers to cross safely. Although I have been advised there are no plans at present to install a crossing, I will continue to push for this as I feel that waiting for an incident to occur before implementing road safety measures is frankly ridiculous. I will also be holding discussions in Westminster and am hoping to lead a parliamentary debate on this issue."
 - VC noted it was good to hear that the MP is taking it forward and the SG will look forward to hearing more from Steve on future meetings.
- Plymouth Road correspondence
 - Cllr Hodgson has had some correspondence with DCC on the Plymouth Road issues
 - GE present to give some comments and feedback from Community Speed Watch (CSW) group
 - Plymouth Road remains a racetrack unless there are people with hi-vis in which case people slow down.
 - CSW group do not record many vehicles going 35mph or faster because they are visible at the (police) approved locations they can operate

from. They manage one session weekly (depending on the weather) and with shorter days there is even less opportunity to operate.

- Traffic speeds past pedestrians scarily close on the foot way from Follaton Rise to its end at Follaton Old Farm junction. Pedestrians – usually the residents of properties on the narrow section – then have to cross the road to access their properties, Brook Lane and Jackmans Lane. (NB the safe access to Jackmans Lane is via Follaton Rise but the footpath is not signposted)

Affordable permanent enforcement has to be the answer. Some suggestions:

- a. VAS signs for traffic leaving the easterly end of the narrow section and in the vicinity of the junction with Punchard's Down.
- b. 2 Way viewing speed camera (like the one by Kevecs) in the vicinity of the junction with Follaton Rise. The speed camera would replace the defunct camera by the cemetery wall.
- c. Road width restrictions by "build outs" placed just to the east of Follaton Rise junction and close to the pedestrian gate to Follaton House. To include priority system. This would also enable the pedestrian walkway to be widened.
- d. Extend the southside walk way by 15 yards eastwards to enable a pedestrian crossing to permit safe crossing from the narrowing walkway on the northside. This would permit walkers to access safely Follaton House, the Arboretum and the footpath up to Jackmans Lane.

GB – suggested that it would be good to put their ideas together with Cllr Hodgson's correspondence and see where things can progress. It would be beneficial for Cllr Hodgson and the group to meet to discuss.

ACTION 7: GE/JH – suggested to liaise to facilitate a meeting to discuss options for Plymouth Road

Other actions carried across that were noted

- Managing workstreams for the future:
 - GB/LA creation of a template on how to structure action and **potential funding** – GB emphasis that we need to demonstrate real difference for Totnes on our work, giving a 'Return on Investment' in officer support!
 - In this light, GB/LA to work on re-prioritisation of Appendix B projects from Policy document for SG consideration.
 - SG comment and subsequent leadership of different workstreams will need to continue beyond AGM.
- Watching brief over status of Sn106 money:
 - GB/LA to add to template as above

- To consider a SG standing Agenda item, Sn106 opportunities and drawdown.
- VC to investigate postal workers safe route requirements (in relation to Plymouth).
- ALL to consider what the SG mission statement should be – following on from AGM due to changes.
- MH actions which will need 'picking up':
 - Chasing AM (MP) to draft letter to the DfT and circulate with the SG before Parliament returns in September.
 - For SG to get in touch with Teignbridge (or should it be Torbay?) to discuss Transport and Levelling Up funding.
 - Speak to Adrian at 20's Plenty HQ re next steps and a strategic campaign
 - Once the Action Plan and priorities have been developed, get clarification on whether it will need 'sign off' by TTC before implementation.
- LA and JH to work together on feeding into the South West Peninsula Group regarding infrastructure funding. (Meeting held 7 Dec.)

LA gave an update on the Peninsula Group

- Peninsula Transport Group have been waiting for money from government – have got a little less money attached to it but they have suddenly rushed out now their Transport consultation document
- There are 5-6 documents of 100ish pages each
- Deadline 5th Feb 2024
- There are Webinars that can be signed up for
- Critical as it is the next step on from the SRN/MRN work done and presented for MP meeting
- Will need to make a very robust response.

<https://www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk/peninsula-transport-strategy-consultation/>

ACTION 8: If anyone wants to help with the Peninsula Transport Strategy Consultation, please contact LA. Ideally Jacqi to help given her knowledge and access to DCC.

The group thanked LA for undertaking the work.

5. AOB

Highways signs

VC – highlighted graffiti on a highways sign as you enter Bridgetown. It was suggested that she use the DCC Report a Problem page.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>

ACTION 9– VC to let the group know where the sign is so that we can all submit on the Report a Problem page

Totnes – Buckfastleigh cycle route

LA noted this campaign and project.

ACTION 10 – MH to ask TTC administrator to get the Totnes – Buckfastleigh cycle route onto Planning Committee discussion

20mph

GE mentioned 20mph in Wales and that it is taking some time for the new rules to bed in.

Shared Paths

GE mentioned the issue of bikes on Shared Paths and their often lack of respect for other users. It was noted that this is a topic that often arises.

Meeting ended 20.00

Next meeting: AGM on 31st January

APPENDIX – Public Rights of Way draft response text

There are two key points that TTC would like to highlight before commenting on the consultation itself. Firstly, TTC will soon have an updated Open Space, Sport, Recreation and Wellbeing Policy. This will include all the public rights of way routes that are important to the town. Secondly, the information provided in the DCC Environment Viewer (Public Access > Statutory Registers > Highways and Landowners Statements and Declarations layer) does not represent a picture that is familiar to anyone in Totnes regarding public access to land. TTC hopes that this is not being used to assume the level of public rights of way and access locally in this parish.

- a. At 62 pages, the documentation is bewildering.
- i. There appears to be a practical disparity between:
 - i. Section 2, **Strategic Context**, which states: “At a strategic level, public rights of way and access are of great importance to: connecting people and places (including Active Travel)”
- j. and
 - i. Section 4, **Objectives and Policies**, within which reference is made to continuing the parish-by-parish review.
- k. It does seem that a parish-by-parish review is likely to be very time consuming for all at parish level, and then at County level given the massive amount of information needing to be collated (given that there are 426 civil parishes in Devon, according to Wikipedia).
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- n. Specifically, we note that Totnes gets a mention under B25 - as a place which is a key congestion area where the development of safe, off road links for travel are needed. We agree and would emphasise that the more notable routes which have yet to fully materialise are: Totnes to Buckfastleigh; Totnes to Stoke Gabriel; Totnes to Littlehempston; and a safe Totnes to Paignton cycle route. These could undoubtedly unlock much potential.
- o. We also support the improvement of access for people with limited mobility, by removing physical barriers under C3 and C4 (such as replacing stiles with gaps or gates).

