

Traffic & Transport Forum

24 May 2023, 6.30-8pm

Present:

LA – Chair

Maiken Hutchings – Sustainability Officer (SO - notes)

Cllr Tom Cooper (TC)

SG – Bob the Bus

LS – Swallowfields resident

CB – Town resident

TB – Daisy & Rainbow

RR – Upper Plymouth Road

CP – Upper Plymouth Road

FP – Upper Plymouth Road

RM – Bridgetown Alive!

RO – Totnes Trust

VC – Kingsbridge Hill Area Residents Association

PW – High St resident

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson (JH - from 6.40)

Apologies: Cllr Peters, MC, PB

Actions

1. SO to change the date on the Strategy document from 2019 to 2023
2. SO to add liaising with other councils as future agenda item
3. SO to email CB to give another link, and give him time to consider the map
4. SO to add new bridge / station road / roundabout as hotspots
5. SO to add lack of accessible crossing by KEVICCS (note: this was added previously but under the wrong layer, now corrected)
6. SO to add a hotspot to the corner on the Plains, New Walk junction
7. SO to add Puddavine as hotspot
8. SO to add Lower Collins Road as hotspot. Two way traffic, no proper footpath.
9. SO to follow up with Network Rail on underpass project again
10. SO to include Redworth Junction as one of the schemes.
11. SO to find the roundabout designs previously submitted
12. SO to add ambitions to start of Traffic Strategy as well as appendix and switch around 1 and 2 in appendix.
13. JH to speak to SHDC re getting PM2.5 measured along AQMA
14. JH to write up her notes from meeting with Puddavine Terrace residents, they can be included in these notes.
15. CP to return portable air quality monitor so that VC can borrow
16. SO to add police conversation around Access Only to future agenda to explore it further

1. Who is here and notes from last Forum

- Introductions
- Brief explanation of why this meeting is happening
 - Forum meeting on the 26th April was overtaken by Baltic Wharf discussion and the agenda items for that meeting were not covered.
 - Purpose of the meeting is to review the Strategy and hotspot map, and to discuss pedestrian footpath safety issues.
- The notes from the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate summary.

2. Traffic Strategy + hotspots map

- SO gave very brief introduction to Traffic & Transport Policy and Strategy and how we are going about the update
- Steering Group recommendation will go to Planning Committee on 19 June and then on to Full Council 3 July. Once we have an updated Strategy we will work with DCC on figuring out next steps.
- There will be a bigger consultation running over the summer which will include a transport element. TBC on what this will look like but something that we will discuss nearer the time.
- It was also noted that the Neighbourhood Plan was written some years ago and isn't necessarily reflective of current priorities. It is therefore important to have a more up-to-date document.
- In addition, the Joint Local Plan is going to be refreshed in two years' time, so it is important that we have an up-to-date doc for this.
- **ACTION:** RM asks that the Strategy date is changed from 2019 to 2023 as it gets confusing with the many updates. SO to change the date.
- Discussion around the issues of developments further afield impacting upon Totnes.
 - Would it be possible to ask for a meeting with e.g., Torbay to discuss these issues and hear what their concerns are?
 - Would it be possible to get a link person in Torbay?
 - Has the MP been contacted to help liaise with other councils? Not as far as anyone is aware. MPs don't normally get into the specifics local level like this but this is quite a big issue that might warrant it.
 - Potential to initiate communications through Neighbourhood Plan.
 - **ACTION:** SO to add liaising with other councils as future agenda item.

Hotspot map discussion

- The chair asked if anyone had any points they'd like to make re the hotspot map
 - **ACTION:** SO to email CB to give another link, and give him time to consider the map

- **ACTION:** SO to add new bridge / station road / roundabout as hotspots
 - **ACTION:** SO to add lack of accessible crossing by KEVICCS (note: this was added previously but under the wrong layer, now corrected)
 - **ACTION:** SO to add a hotspot to the corner on the Plains, New Walk junction
 - **ACTION:** SO to add Puddavine as hotspot
 - **ACTION:** SO to add Lower Collins Road as hotspot. Two-way traffic, no proper footpath.
- Discussion around consultation and whether the wider public should be consulted. Is it needed as the Steering Group is supposed to be a representative body.
 - SO highlighted that transport will be an element of the summer consultation so this should be covered then.
- Discussion around the underpass project (underpass from Plymouth-bound side of the railway station through to Castle Street)
 - Cllr Hodgson did a lot of work on this some years ago but stalled during Covid-19 / waiting for signal box to be moved
 - **ACTION:** SO to follow up with Network Rail on this again
- Discussion around the overarching aims/ambitions: improving traffic flows & reducing through-traffic and overall traffic volumes.
 - Discussion around the problem with Redworth Junction and the fact that it would work better as a roundabout. Something that has been requested of DCC several times previously. It was agreed that this junction should be included in the hotspot map and as a project in the appendix.
 - **ACTION:** SO to include Redworth Junction as one of the schemes.
 - **ACTION:** SO to find the roundabout designs previously submitted
 - Ambitions within the Strategy not sufficiently clear and need adding to the document.
 - **ACTION:** Add ambitions to start of document as well as appendix and switch around 1 and 2 in appendix.
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- Discussion around how the Strategy document works, how useful it is and how flexible it is.
 - It is useful as it states our vision, principles and objectives. It is a useful starting point to consider what projects would help achieve our aims.
 - Can be referred to when fighting case for improvements.

- It is flexible in that schemes can always be added to the appendix – this part of the document is more of a ‘living’ document.
- PW – plea / advocacy for being prescriptive → we are local and we experience the problems. We can come up with intelligent solutions. DCC expertise doesn’t necessarily trump our expertise.
- Experience is that the bulk of the money goes to the consultants - they Hoover up the money but where does it go? What do we see of it?

3. Pedestrian footpath safety issues (Cllr Hodgson)

Cllr Hodgson informed the group of a meeting she had with Puddavine Terrace residents the week prior.

- They are experiencing issues with ill health (e.g., asthma) due to the poor air quality
- They also struggle with lack of safe accessible footpaths
- JH mentioned a recent Imperial College report re air quality and its impact on asthma and inducing other long-term conditions. PM2.5 the most dangerous.
 - SHDC does not measure PM2.5s.
 - **ACTION:** JH to speak to SHDC re getting PM2.5 measured
 - **ACTION:** JH to write up her notes from this meeting and they can be included in these notes.
 - **ACTION:** CP to return portable air quality monitor so that VC can borrow

4. Plymouth Road discussion

Residents from Upper Plymouth Road highlighted the issue of through-traffic along Upper Plymouth Road and a discussion followed re the issue of enforcing the ‘access only’ of the High St.

- Enforcing access only is incredibly difficult and has been discussed at length previously.
- How do you control it when some people will have wanted to park but been unable to and so circle around? And this can be a false reason given by anyone should they be confronted (e.g., by police)?
- Some attendees asked whether the police could be asked to come and do a survey.
- They have done this previously – some stated that the police are unlikely to have capacity to do this again
 - **ACTION:** SO to add this to future agenda, exploring this further

The meeting was concluded with general agreement that the issues with traffic need to be considered holistically and that we all need to work together.

Date of next Steering Group meeting: 30th May 2023. 6.30pm here.

Date of next Forum meeting: 26 July 2023

End of meeting: 20:05