31 January 2024

**Traffic & Transport Forum AGM**

AGM Notes

1. **Introductions**

Those Present: GB (chair) Cllrs Auletta, Presswell, Hodgson, Cummings, Collinson, Beavis, Cooper, Bennett and Roberts; plus PW, MC, VC, CE, RS, CP, RM, HC, AF (7:30pm)

**Apologies:** GE, SG and JF.

**Note keeping**: LB

Note of sincere thanks was unanimously agreed to MH for all the work she did with this group when she was in the role of Sustainability Officer.

**What is the Forum and Steering Group?**

GB summarised the role and workings of the Forum and the Steering Group, and noted the circulated Terms of Reference with their Values of ‘Respectful’, ‘Partnership’, and Progress’**.**

1. **Minutes of previous AGM**

* Agreed
* No matters arising

1. **Report from the Chair**

The following items have been reported to the Council Matters Committee, and to the Planning Committee.

1. The Traffic, Transport and Pedestrian Policy has been updated with its ‘hotspots’ map showing problem areas in Totnes. This will provide a point of reference for the assessment of Planning Applications, including future funding opportunities. Specific urgent highway problems can be reported to DCC by following this link: https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/map/map\_src/drm/
2. Significant traffic & transport challenges from planned developments across Torbay have been identified. Concerns have been highlighted to Peninsula Transport and lobbying is being carried out to address these concerns.
3. The Green Travel Guide has been published and is now available on-line at: <https://www.totnestowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Green-Travel-Guide-2024.pdf>

Looking ahead, each of these have important work demands:

1. **For the Traffic, Transport and Pedestrian Policy:**
   * Work on accessibility map layer for kerbs, feint lines etc.
   * Review Appendix B of the Policy – potential projects and identifying funding for them.
   * Respond to Planning Applications which will impact on Traffic & Transport e.g. the Baltic Wharf development.
2. **For ‘Peninsula Transport’:**
   * Campaign for funding to address Totnes traffic problems from the planned growth of Torbay and Plymouth Freeport.
   * Respond to the On-Line Consultation on the Peninsula Transport Strategy,
3. **For Green Travel Guide:**
   * Ensure people with disabilities are supported
4. **Open Spaces, Sports, Recreation and Wellbeing Review:**
   * Identify Greenways that are important for walking and cycling to feed into TTC and SHDC strategies.
5. **Meetings -** Minimise duplication, maximise capacity/performance.

A new programme of meetings was agreed as set out in Agenda Item 9.

1. **Election of Steering Group Members**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Councillors** (max 4: 2TTC, 1SHDC, 1DCC) | | | |
| Group Name | Nominee | Proposed by | Approved |
| TTC | Cllr Auletta | Self | Y |
| TTC | Cllr Cummings | Self | Y |
| SHDC | Cllr Presswell | Self | Y |
| DCC | Cllr Hodgson | Self | Y |
| **Local Residents** (max 5: from different parts of town, 1 per area) | | | |
| Kingsbridge Hill Resident and Kingsbridge Hill Area Residents Association representative | VC | Self | Y |
| High Street Resident | PW | Self | Y |
| Plymouth Rd/Follaton Resident | GE | Self | Y |
| Baltic Wharf Resident | AF (Agenda 10) | Self | TBC by Strg Grp |
| Vacant | Vacant |  |  |
| **Key Sectors** (max 5: education, disability, cycling, walking, health etc) | | | |
| Inclusive Totnes | Cllr Sarah Collinson | Self | Y |
| Education | Cllr Tim Bennett | Self | Y |
| Cycling | HC | Self | Y |
| Vacant – TQ9 P’ship? | Vacant – TQ9 Partnership? | Enquiries to be made |  |
| Vacant | Vacant |  |  |
| **Community Groups** (max 5: Bob the Bus, Bike Hub, Transition Town, etc) | | | |
| Totnes Ramblers | GB | Self | Y |
| Bob the Bus | SG | Self | Y |
| Bridgetown Alive | RM | Self | Y |
| Transition Town | G E-D? | Pending confirmation | TBC |
| Vacant | Vacant |  |  |
| **Surrounding Villages** (max 5) | | | |
| Dartington | Cllr Nick Roberts | Self | Y |
| Vacant (4) | Vacant(4) | Enquiries to be made |  |
| **Businesses** (max 5: 1Chamber, 2Independent, 1Ind’ Est’, 1 Market) | | | |
| Chamber of Commerce | MC | Self | Y |
| Independent Traders: High St, Fore St, Narrows | Vacant |  |  |
| Vacant |  |  |
| Industrial Estate | Vacant |  |  |
| Market Traders | VW | Self | Y |

**Action:**

* LB to share the minutes of this group with local parishes.

1. **Election of Chair and Vice Chairs**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Nominee** | **Proposed** | **Seconded** | **Agreed** |
| **Chair** | Graham Bennett | VW | Cllr Sarah Collinson | Y |
| **Vice Chair** | Cllr Luisa Auletta | Cllr Anna Presswell | VW | Y |
| **Vice Chair** | Cllr Anna Presswell | GB | Cllr Luisa Auletta | Y |

**\*\*\*End of AGM\*\*\***

1. **Changing Context**
2. **Cllr Auletta’s Report**

* The TTF has been given the Greenways section of the TC's Open Space Sports and Recreation policy document to review. It is important that TTC updates relevant policies before the Plymouth / South Hams Joint Local Plan is updated to maximise on S106 funding as and when it becomes available.
* TTC hope to access Levelling Up Funding via the Peninsula Transport Sub-national Transport Body to carry out improvements to the A385 as it passes through Totnes. A response to the PT's current strategy consultation will be produced to highlight the issues facing Totnes due to the lack of investment in the A385.
* Currently, the Peninsula connectivity map does not identify the A385 as part of the strategic spine. The ECS Technical Study states that the number of vehicles using the A385 is approx 10,000 vehicles per day. However the Department for Transport's traffic counts on the Totnes railway bridge - show levels to be 21,000 vehicles average annual daily flow. This will only get worse as the population growth for Torbay is estimated at 12%.
* Investment is needed in Totnes to improve junctions to smooth traffic flow on the A385 whilst decreasing severance by improving pedestrian and cycle links across the main road.

SC commented that LA and GB should seek meetings with individuals at PT to share this information before anything is signed off. Don’t just wait for the deadline.

**Action:** Individuals can respond to the Peninsula Transport Strategy consultation which can be found here: <https://www.peninsulatransport.org.uk/peninsula-transport-strategy-consultation/>

The draft text for the TTC response, to be considered for adoption by the February Full Council meeting can be found here for reference (see page 16): <https://www.totnestowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Full-Council-Papers-5-Feb-24.pdf>

1. **Cllr Presswell’s Report**

* A behaviour change study is taking place at SHDC to identify the barriers to cycling such as logistics, safety etc.
* A Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is being developed in South Hams, which has identified 29 Cycling routes. These will be audited and plans put in place to overcome barriers. This should be complete by March 24 at which point, the findings will be shared with the public in a consultation. The most deliverable improvements will then be identifies, for implementation by March 25.

1. **Cllr Hodgson’s Report**

* Budget constraints are preventing progress in many areas.
* Potholes are increasing due to flooding, larger, heavier vehicles on the roads and sub-standard attempts to repair holes by contractors in the past.
* Moving forward DCC hope to work more collaboratively with Town and Parish Councils.
* Active Travel routes – The plans to create a route going through Littlehempston is looking more positive.
* There are fewer bus routes but since Covid, far fewer people are using busses, so people need to ‘use it or lose it’.

SC asked if DCC might be able to make more use of their resources if they look at potholes from the perspective of pedestrians rather than drivers.

1. **Review for the Future**

the intention for the Steering Group’s first meeting is to review how we work and where we should focus our attention in the year ahead. This will include Appendix B and matters raised in the Chair’s Report.

1. **2024 Meetings**

|  |
| --- |
| 31 January - **AGM** |
| Early March - **Steering Group** Working Meeting |
| 24 April - **Forum** (1 topic, receive issues), break, **Steering Group** |
| June – if needed **Steering Group** Working Meeting |
| 31 July - **Forum** (1 topic, receive issues), break, **Steering Group** |
| Early October – if needed **Steering Group** Working Meeting |
| 31 October - **Forum** (1 topic, receive issues), break, **Steering Group** |

1. **Wrap up**

* **Baltic Wharf Planning application**

AF, who is working to support action by local residents to object to the current plans at Baltic wharf, shared some of his findings. Of note to this group is the increase in traffic to the area which has 324 parking spaces included in the proposal.

**Action:** Members have been asked to submit comments on the plans for this proposal. Further information will be circulated.

* **Request from JF for letter of support.**
* The meeting agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that a letter of support is issued to John Forte for the proposed Totnes to Buckfastleigh cycle trail. Please see proposed wording below.

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