



AGENDA FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 28TH JULY 2025 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 **Town Matters Committee** on **Monday 28th July 2025** at **6.30pm** for a maximum of 90 minutes in the Guildhall for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Committee Members: Councillors N Roberts (Chair), L Auletta, C Beavis, J Chinnock, S Collinson, J Cummings, D Peters, A Presswell and T Robshaw.

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 DEPUTY CHAIR

To confirm the election of a Deputy Chair for the Committee. No document.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 23rd June 2025 and update on any matters arising. Document attached [page 3].

4. STRATEGY DELIVERY WORKING GROUPS

To consider any recommendations and note the minutes from the following (document attached, page 6):

- a. Community Working Group, 15th July 2025, item 6 – Community Mapping Brief.

5. OPEN SPACES, SPORTS, RECREATION AND WELLBEING PLAN UPDATE

To consider updates:

- a. to sections 4.1 – Outdoor Sports Facilities and 6 – Improved or New Facilities (Projects) (document attached, page 8); and
- b. on any general matters linked to the Open Spaces, Sport Recreation and Wellbeing Plan (standing item). No document.

6. UNIVERSAL TOILETS

To consider the matter of universal toilets. Document attached [page 18].

7. CAMPING ON LONGMARSH

To consider the problem of camping on Longmarsh. No document.

8. TRANSITION TOWN TOTNES LETTER OF SUPPORT

To consider a request for a letter of support for Transition Town Totnes. Document attached [page 20].

9. LINK COUNCILLOR REPORTS

To consider link councillor reports from Committee members. Verbal update.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 22nd September 2025 at 6.30pm.

Sara Halliday
Governance and Projects Manager
23rd July 2025

USE OF SOUND RECORDINGS AT COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The open proceedings of this Meeting will be audio and video recorded. If members of the public make a representation, 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 Chairman of the respective Committee of their intention to record proceedings.



DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2025 IN THE GUILDHALL

Present: Councillors N Roberts (Chair), L Auletta, C Beavis, J Chinnock, S Collinson J Cummings, D Peters and A Presswell.

Apologies: None

Not Present: Cllr Robshaw

In Attendance: C Bewley (Finance and HR Manager).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council.

Cllr Roberts read out a statement about how the meeting would be conducted and recorded.

There were no apologies.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Collinson raised the issue of the public and Civic Hall toilet facilities following the Supreme Court ruling on gender recognition under the Equality Act 2010 and how single sex toilets might discriminate against the trans community. Some facilities will need to be made available that are for universal use. One solution would be the use of disabled toilets for both purposes but it was suggested that signage would need changing to show this. This solution could mean more use of disabled toilets that would then not be so readily available for the disabled. Cllr Presswell will consult South Hams District Council to see how they are responding to the ruling. It was **AGREED** that officers contact NALC to see what the advice has been issued and that the item will be added to the next agenda for formal discussion.

Cllrs also raised the issue of camping on Longmarsh and the lack of sanitary facilities there. It was **AGREED** to put this on the next agenda.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

To elect a deputy chair for the Committee.

To was **AGREED** to invite Cllr Robshaw to take the deputy chair role, with Cllr Collinson as a reserve if he declines.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 24th March 2025 and update on any matters arising.

The minutes were **AGREED unanimously** as an accurate record of proceedings. Matters arising:

Item 4 – Devon Wildlife Trust Atlantic Rainforest Project.

- a. It was **RESOLVED** that the Atlantic Rainforest project at Bowden Pillars Farm is added to the Open Space, Sports, Recreation and Wellbeing Plan as an accessible natural space. [Note: This has been actioned – new serial F14 - with the website version updated].
- b. It was **RESOLVED** that it supports in principle any future request from Devon Wildlife Trust to erect specific signage on Kingsbridge Hill about the Atlantic Rainforest Project, and that accessible features should be considered (for example an audio description, raised images, braille description). [Note: Devon Wildlife Trust have been emailed to update them on this position and Cllr Auletta has been liaising.]

Item 7 – Community Awards. It was **RESOLVED** to agree two winners for the individual award, two winners for the group award and one winner for the lifetime achievement award, as outlined in the confidential report.

4. STRATEGY DELIVERY GROUP AND WORKING GROUP

To consider any recommendations and note the minutes from the following (documents attached):

a. Economy Working Group, 10th June 2025.

Noted.

b. Environment and Public Realm Working Group, 28th May 2025.

Noted.

3a. Water Meadow: To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Council supports the idea in principle subject to further detail and information. However, the Working Group does have some concern about the salinity of the site and the proximity to the main road for the area's safety for use as a forest garden for school children/young people.

6. Delivery Plan: PRD2.C Longmarsh, PRD2.E Seagull Survey, PRD2.G Entry to Fore Street Sign and PRD2.H Castle Street Bollard – it was **AGREED** that these items are removed from the delivery plan as they are complete/no longer to be pursued.

5. DEPUTY MAYOR CHAINS

To consider a request for the Deputy Mayor chains to be removed for the engraving of a name.

It was **AGREED** by majority to reject the request for several reasons but principally because it starts a tradition that cannot be maintained due to the finite number of links. However, it was **AGREED** that the Environment and Public Realm Working Group are asked to look at possible options of formally recording deputy mayors (for example a book or a formal listing kept in the Guildhall) as well as the hanging of photos of previous Mayors on the Council Chamber walls.

6. COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

To:

a. Consider the findings of the community composting survey (document attached); and

The Council position is unchanged – it continues to support the idea of community composting in principle but cannot give full support until a viable site has been identified.

Discussions included:

- Alternative composting may be just as attractive for the public and it wouldn't be used much if the site was too remote.
- Concern that the survey showed a low number willing to volunteer with the project so that could make it unworkable.
- The need for the Committee to review the proposal again when the site was found and more detail is provided on how it would work.

b. Note that the proposed composting site at Follaton House is no longer an option.

Noted.

7. LINK COUNCILLOR REPORTS

To consider introducing link councillor reports as a standing item to the Town Matters agenda.

It was **AGREED** that link councillor reports will be added as a standing item to the Town Matters agenda.

8. OPEN SPACE, SPORTS, RECREATION AND WELLBEING PLAN UPDATE

To update on any general matters linked to the Open Space, Sports, Recreation and Wellbeing Plan (standing item).

Cllr Auletta updated that she has produced a map which shows the open spaces. It was **AGREED** that the table in the plan needs updating as the status of some projects has changed.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 28th July 2025 at 6.30pm.

Noted.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Christina Bewley
Finance and HR Manager

ITEM 4 - STRATEGY DELIVERY WORKING GROUPS

See recommendation for Town Matters under item 6 Community Mapping Brief.

Community Working Group Notes

Date: Tuesday 15th July 2025

Time: 5.30pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Present: Cllrs Bennett, Chinnock, Collinson, Hannam, Presswell

Apologies: Cllrs Trant, Cooper and Robshaw

Officers: Town Clerk

Other Attendees: Cllrs Hodgson, Auletta, Peters

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Jill Hannam was nominated as Chair of the Working Group. Cllr Tim Bennett chaired this meeting due to logistical issues on the day, with Cllr Hannam to assume the role at subsequent meetings.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- **Skyrise Festival** – This took place over the weekend and was well attended. Members commended it as a successful and positive community event.
- **Christmas Lighting Contractor** – A new contractor (also working in Dartmouth) has now been appointed and is liaising with the previous provider. Some remedials have been done on Plains lighting, possible further minor needed. Plans for festoon lighting under the Butterwalk are not feasible this year, but options are being explored for future displays. A small-scale proposal for solar festoon lighting at the Morrison's roundabout is under consideration, costed at approx. £60. Members supported this in principle.

3. Draft Youth Strategy

- The draft document from Caring Town and TRAYE was welcomed in principle. Members agreed the consultation work was a good start, highlighting key issues including mental health, affordability, and the need for youth spaces.
- **ACTION:** The Town Clerk and Cllr Chinnock to draft constructive written feedback for Caring Town, offering a meeting to discuss next steps before any formal adoption or youth engagement.

4. Skate Park Project – Update

- Construction is underway and progressing well, with completion expected within six weeks. Members noted positive feedback from the community.
- Some tensions were acknowledged with the Rugby Club over footprint and consultation, but it was confirmed the design aligns with the proposed plan.
- A desire was expressed to:
 - Improve path accessibility, especially around the site.
 - Explore enhancements to Borough Park as a broader public space, not solely a sports facility.
- **AGREED:** Further dialogue with South Hams District Council (SHDC) and stakeholders needed regarding park use, pathways, and public access. It was noted that a separate working group (Environment & Public Realm) is already reviewing Borough Park, and duplication should be avoided.

5. Follaton Play Park – Verbal Update

No significant updates at present. Cllr Bennett will continue to liaise with community contacts on this issue.

6. Community Mapping Brief

- Feedback received from Caring Town, Citizens Advice, Totnes Caring and SHDC officers was explained by Cllrs Bennett and Chinnock.
- Key points:
 - General support for the mapping concept.
 - Concern that local capacity might be overlooked in favour of external providers.
 - Need for clarity on aims, scope, and ownership of the final output.
- **RECOMMENDED to Town Matters:**
 - A Task & Finish Group will be recommended to Town Matters to oversee revision of the brief, incorporating feedback and aligning with strategic priorities (including potential multi-year funding and support models).
 - The Town Clerk, Cllrs Bennett, Peters, Beavis, and Chinnock (and others as needed) will participate.
 - The group will also review how this links with youth service planning to avoid duplication.

7. Odd Object Competition

- Organiser is stepping back due to health reasons. Members thanked them for their continued support.
- Cllr Matt Trant and Cllr Bennett to support poster delivery and shop sign-ups.
- **NOTE:** A new organiser will be required for 2026. This to be revisited in the new year.

8. Heritage Festival – Update

- Programme is being finalised and interest from partners is growing. The event is on track and well supported.
- A positive update was noted.

9. Christmas Light Installation

Already discussed under matters arising.

10. Budget Review

The current Community budget for 2025/26 was noted. Underspends are likely in:

- **Town Lighting** (£5,000)
- **Bunting** (£2,500)

NOTE: £5,000 originally allocated in 2024/25 for Community Mapping remains unspent. This may be reallocated from underspends or general reserves depending on the final scope of the audit.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Proposed: Wednesday 17th September at 6.00pm, Council Offices – to be confirmed as this may clash with Foundation Governors' meetings. The Clerk will check availability and propose alternatives.

ITEM 5 – OPEN SPACES, SPORTS, RECREATION AND WELLBEING PLAN

The Committee is asked to consider updates to the following sections:

- Section I – Outdoor Sport Facilities following a meeting with a representative of Totnes and Dartington Football Club on 10th July 2025; and
- Section 6 – Improvements/new facilities (projects) to reflect recent and ongoing works.

I. Outdoor Sports Facilities				
Purpose: Formal facilities for participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis and bowls.				
Type of open space and policy standard	Owners	Quantity shortfalls/deficiencies	Quality shortfalls	Access shortfalls
I1. Borough Park: 2 x grass rugby pitches (T) + 200 members: juniors from under 7s to seniors, men's and women's teams.	SHDC (existing ground lease for club house)	2.86 hectares Rugby clubhouse also provides post-match facilities to the Hockey Club and the men's and women's skittles league.	Playing Pitch Strategy identifies extension to clubhouse for changing, improved pitch maintenance and drainage, and provision of portable lights for training. Club has also identified levelling of second pitch, new goal posts and path maintenance as potential projects.	Ongoing discussions with SHDC for a lease on the pitches. Hope to offer walking rugby in 2024.
I2. Borough Park: 4 x tennis courts (T) 160 adults and 140 junior members as well as a public pay to play facility.	SHDC (existing lease with club)	Insufficient club house space – rely on the bowls club.	Insufficient club house space – only 1 toilet, no separate male and female changing areas, no storage. Planning permission received for an extension to address these needs. + Has resurfaced its courts and upgraded floodlights in the last 4 years.	The path to the tennis court used by wheelchair tennis players is unsafe and needs to be re-laid/levelled – someone has tipped out of a chair. + The club provides wheelchair tennis facilities and has links with Bidwell Brook and Lifeworks to provide accessible tennis.

Outdoor Sports Facilities I3. Borough Park: bowling green (T) Looking to increase membership and encourage younger players into the game – currently around 70 members.	SHDC (existing lease with club)	Help tennis club in providing space for meetings.	Conservatory roof needs upgrading.	
I4. KEVICC Elmhirst Site (T): 1 x adult rugby pitch, 1 x NTW (non turf wicket) (redundant). The 'Governors' Field' grass pitches are used by Totnes and Dartington Football Club for junior football training and matches, and senior training.		Although legally not publicly accessible, potential loss of this site would result in inadequate playing field provision in the town.	Drainage problems. The use of the 'Governors' Field' for junior training and matches is limited in winter for this reason.	This is the school playing field, there is no public access for use.
I5. KEVICC Elmhirst Site (T): All Weather Pitch (hockey first surface) All weather pitch, Hockey: over 400 players from juniors through to seniors. Ashmoor Hockey Club also uses the pitch. Pitch is used by Totnes and Dartington Football Club for training only (surface not suitable for matches).			No changing facilities on site. Portaloos for players. The rugby clubhouse is used for hockey post-match socials. This is not acceptable for a hockey team in a national league using the pitch.	There is community use of the All Weather Pitch.
I6. KEVICC Redworth Site (T): 1 x adult football/rugby pitch, 1 x junior football, 1 x NTW	Education South West		Poor drainage recorded at both pitches and both pitches rated poor. No community use recorded on either pitch since 2018 1 x NTW – condition not known; think usable.	

			Playing Pitch Strategy identifies the improvement of the grass pitches for football and rugby and the need to maintain the non-turf cricket wicket.	
17. KEVICC Kennicott Site (T): 1 x junior football pitch used by Totnes and Dartington Football Club (T&DFC)	Education South West		Not currently in use. There have been historic issues with rabbit damage to the playing pitch surface. However, TDFC believe this has improved, so a cut back around the area and regular grass maintenance will bring the pitch back into use for the 2027 season	
187. Vire Island Boule Pit (T)	SHDC	None.	May require periodic resurfacing and edging.	Ramp access onto Vire Island and flat access from a tarmac path over grass to the edge of the boule pit.
198. Landing Stage for Canoe Club (T)	Dartington Estate	Landing stage used by Totnes Canoe Club as well as paddle boarders and swimmers.	Erosion around the landing stage. Temporary repairs in 2023 have reduced the width by half. A replacement landing stage is required.	
Information on facilities in neighbouring parishes: Dartington - Football pitch (grass) and club with boys under 5 to 10s, girls 5-11, age group U11-U18, mens team; cricket pitch and club with Juniors 5-8, 8-11 and 11+ and 2 x adult teams. Total membership of the football and cricket clubs (players and non-players) 600 plus (including over 60 volunteers) and clubhouse shared by both the clubs. The FA have identified Totnes as a high priority for a new 3G/4G AWP and as such some Grant funding could be available.				

Section 6. What improved and/or new facilities are needed to meet existing quantity/quality/accessibility shortfalls, and anticipated future demand from additional housing development

Shortfall/ Issue	Site/location /facility name	Project description	Evidence of need and community support	Site/facility owner, project lead and partners	Perceived obstacles	Cost	Funding	Target for completion
Civic Square surface and appearance (ref D1)	Civic Square	Design improvements which address: uneven surface and drainage; seating; planters; bins for recycling waste; appropriate commercial waste storage. CCTV required – anti-social behaviour issues.	Design improvements to the square are an agreed priority for the town, as the area adds to the vibrancy of the town and its economy. Sustained public complaints about the uneven surface and general appearance of the square for over 5 years.	SHDC	Sufficient funding for a long-term solution guided by a holistic design vision.			URGENT SHDC have plans to repair the road section in autumn 2025.
Vision for Borough Park (ref G1)	Borough Park	Bringing municipal park elements into Borough Park through an integrated design and planting enhancement.	Borough Park is predominantly used for sporting activities which limits public use when in progress. This has been a request through the community conversation and public interactions with Cllrs.	SHDC	Leadership to make sure that the Borough Park Users Group is regularly convened.			
Multi Use Games Area (ref H11)	Borough Park	Resurface to provide level space	Puddling on the existing surface which prevents use by younger children.	SHDC	Levelling and resurfacing of the MUGA surface.			
Path condition (ref G1)	Borough Park	Levelling and resurfacing of paths to improve accessibility and prevent flooding	Drainage issues and surface water puddling hampers use/safe usage, particularly for those with accessibility needs.	SHDC	Tree roots – maybe paths need relocating within an integrated design.			
Static gym stations (ref I)	Borough Park/Vire Island	Measured trim trail utilising existing park and recreational area for fitness and wellbeing.	Members of the public have requested.	SHDC				
Skate Park (ref H10)	Borough Park	New Skate Park	Community has supported the proposed plans and locations through public consultation	SHDC	Funding the design aspirations.	£320 K	SHDC, TTC and crowd funding	Work is underway - Late summer 2025

Shortfall/ Issue	Site/location /facility name	Project description	Evidence of need and community support	Site/facility owner, project lead and partners	Perceived obstacles	Cost	Funding	Target for completion
Parkour facilities (ref H)	Borough Park	Introduction of obstacles – potential for the old skate park to be used for parkour.	Potential for integration with the skate park, subject to consultation.	SHDC				
Play facilities (ref H6)	Borough Park	Renewal/replacement of equipment to improve offer.		SHDC				
Rugby Club facilities (ref I1)	Borough Park	Extension to clubhouse for changing, improved pitch maintenance and drainage, provision of portable lights for training	Representations made at the Borough Park Users Group meeting by the club rep.	SHDC/Rugby Club				
Tennis Club facilities (ref I2)	Borough Park	Need for clubhouse and suitable changing facilities.	Representations made at the Borough Park Users Group meeting by the club rep.	SHDC/Tennis Club	Drainage/SUDs on the site is posing an issue.			
Bowls Club facilities (ref I3)	Borough Park	Conservatory roof needs replacing	Representations made at the Borough Park Users Group meeting by the club rep.	SHDC/Bowls Club				
Lack of Football Pitches (ref I)		Informal football pitch with goal posts.	There is no public football pitch provision in Totnes. An informal facility is required.		Lack of suitable space accessible to the town.			
KEVICC Elmhirst Site all weather pitch facilities (ref I5)	KEVICC	Clubhouse/changing facilities required. Future resurfacing will be required.	Much used facility by hockey and football club. Very limited on-site facilities for club use. Representations made at the Borough Park Users Group meeting by the club rep.	KEVICC/Dartin gton Hall Trust	Site ownership		Originall y S106 and Sport England funded	
Pavilions Leisure Centre (ref J1)	The Pavilions	Internal refurbishment required.	Public representations to Town and District Council by the community.	SHDC/Fusion	Funding			

Shortfall/ Issue	Site/location /facility name	Project description	Evidence of need and community support	Site/facility owner, project lead and partners	Perceived obstacles	Cost	Funding	Target for completion
River landing Stage (ref I8)	River near Swallowfield s	Platform is rotting and replacement needed.	Widely used by all ages in the local community for swimming, canoeing, paddle boarding, etc.	Dartington Trust	Geographical location – Totnes or Dartington - and ownership.			
Path condition (ref E18)	Riverside Path, rear of Industrial Estate	To find a long-term solution to mitigate the effects of soil erosion/tidal river impact on this section of the path.	Previous site visit by town council, Totnes Ramblers and DCC Public Rights of Way officer.					
Footbridge failure (ref E18)	Footpath 17	Replacement of failed footbridge, accessible to all	Current design is not wheelchair/push chair accessible. Opportunity to rectify this shortfall.	DCC	Funding			
Outdoor Table Tennis (ref H)	Central town location	Permanent outdoor table tennis (e.g. the concrete style)	Identification of project has come from local residents	Community to lead, SHDC would own	Funding	Up to £5K		
Lack of facilities for visiting boats and motorhomes (ref K1)	River/Steam er Quay	Provision of water, shower and toilet emptying facilities near Longmarsh Car Park or on Steamer Quay.	Public complaints about motorhome users emptying toilets into the hedges at Longmarsh or into the river.	SHDC	Funding			
Galleon (ref H3)	Steamer Quay	Structure is in need of repair or replacement with bespoke structure. Potential to expand the play offer into the existing area.	Much loved and well used community play space alongside the river. Support from local community group to keep this local landmark in use.	SHDC and Bridgetown Alive!	Viability of sustainable repairs of the existing structure. Replacement may need to be considered.	In exce ss of £20K	Partial funding allocate d by SHDC.	Refurbishm ent completed in Spring 2025
Older children play facility		Facility provision for 10-16 year olds	Facilities for this age group is under provisioned.					

Shortfall/ Issue	Site/location /facility name	Project description	Evidence of need and community support	Site/facility owner, project lead and partners	Perceived obstacles	Cost	Funding	Target for completion
(ref H)								
Natural Spaces (ref F)		Seek opportunities for additional land purchase Deficiency of natural space/town parkland within the town.			Deficiency of natural space/town parkland within the town.			
Use of Castle Meadow (ref F5)	Castle Meadow	Investigation of better use of the Castle Meadow space.	Maximising accessible green spaces in the town.	Totnes Town Council	Access, scheduled ancient monument status of part of the site			
Insufficient allotments to meet demand (ref A)		Seek opportunities for additional land purchase for allotments.	Size of the Totnes Allotment Association waiting list for plots.					
Effective use of ground which is unsuitable for food cultivation (ref A4)	Smithfields Garden Plots	Community Gardens (non- growing space unless in raised beds, may include wildlife and tree planting)	Public complaints about tidiness of the site, weeds, unauthorised extension of residential gardens into the area.	SHDC	Clearance of ground; Appropriate reinstatement of boundary fencing; Community support for scheme.			
Safer pedestrian and cycle links within Totnes (ref E and E2)	New footpath between Harpers Hill and Follaton Arboretum	Existing permissive Field entry at Colwell Community Orchard SX7972 6021, cross Broomborough Drive and then fields to SX7893 6041	Rolling countryside and avoids busy Plymouth Road	Within Totnes			ELMS ?	
Safer pedestrian	A385 between	Reduce speed limit from 60mph to 40 mph to reduce	Improves safety at the Gerston Cross road crossing	Within Totnes				

Shortfall/ Issue	Site/location /facility name	Project description	Evidence of need and community support	Site/facility owner, project lead and partners	Perceived obstacles	Cost	Funding	Target for completion
and cycle links within Totnes (ref E and E2)	Gerston Cross and Ashprington turn	risk to those coming from Jackman's Lane or Harpers Hill via Green Lane to Bowden Pillars and on to Fishchowter's lane						
Safer pedestrian and cycle links within Totnes (ref E9)	Harpers Hill - Totnes bridleway 7	Improve surface to enable access for less able walkers and cyclists from SX7981 6021 to SX7922 5967	Provides a safer route to Harberton for cyclists	Within Totnes. Work with P3 rep				
Safer pedestrian and cycle links within Totnes (ref E and E2)	New footpath between Smithfield and Lower Copland Lane	Improve the existing path under the railway line and on to Mill stream. A new bridge is required over the stream. The current path to Copeland Lane has a good surface	Improves access to green space and provides a new route from Follaton towards the station	Totnes and Dartington				
Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbourin g parishes (ref E4 and E23)	Improveme nts to the round trip route to Ashprington via NCR and footpath 2/8	A – NCR. Replace poor surface near Ashprington and convert gates to cattle grids to avoid the need for cyclists to dismount B – Ashprington footpath 8, replace stiles with gaps or gates C – Convert the permissive path to a PROW between Footpath 8 and the drive to Sharpham house (SX8196 5813 to SX8214 5757 via	Makes it easier to cycle and walk to Ashprington and back by separate footpaths and cycle routes	Totnes and Ashprington. Work with Ramblers on item C. FP2/8 is part of JMH and Dart Valley Trails				

Shortfall/ Issue	Site/location /facility name	Project description	Evidence of need and community support	Site/facility owner, project lead and partners	Perceived obstacles	Cost	Funding	Target for completion
		SX8248 5788) PROW between Footpath 8 and the drive to Sharpham house (SX8196 5813 to SX8214 5757 via SX8248 5788)						
Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbouring parishes (ref E and E2)	Create a new bridleway to Littlehempston using the SDR bridge	Secure access to the SDR bridge. Create a new path from SX8033 6114 to the bend in the private road at SX8026 6151 and then along the private road towards Gratton's Farm at SX8086 6238	There is currently no direct, off road route from Totnes to Littlehempston and on to Newton Abbott	Totnes and Littlehempston. Work with Totnes Ramblers.				
Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbouring parishes (ref E and E2)	Improve the surface of the path from Bourton to Littlehempston	Improve the surface of UUCR305 from SX8109 6099 towards Coombe Park, taking the left fork at SX8109 6099 and on to A381	Provides a cycle route from Totnes to Littlehempston	Totnes, Berry Pomeroy and Littlehempston. Part of JMH Trail				
Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and	Create a new bridleway through the Dartington Estate	The proposed route, based on historic evidence is from the gates at SX7989 6147, along Park Road and Warren Avenue then a track to	This route is regularly used, but is not a PROW. Potential new cycle route to Buckfastleigh	Totnes, Dartington and Totnes Ramblers				

Shortfall/ Issue	Site/location /facility name	Project description	Evidence of need and community support	Site/facility owner, project lead and partners	Perceived obstacles	Cost	Funding	Target for completion
neighbourin g parishes (ref E and E2)		SX7939 6345, a path to SX7910 6361 and a track to the road at SX7848 6356						
Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbourin g parishes (ref E and E2)	Create a new footpath along the river Dart within the Dartington Estate	The river path currently exists between SX7999 6191 and SX7941 6344. These 2 points link with the above project 8	This scenic route is regularly used, but is not a PROW	Totnes, Dartington and Totnes Ramblers			ELMS ?	
Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbourin g parishes (ref E and E2)	Improve the current track from Bridgetown to Aish	Improve the surface of UUCR307, perhaps by creating a new zig zag path down from Bridgetown to Fleet Mill and then up to Aish	Provides a cycle route from Totnes to Stoke Gabriel and on to Torbay	Totnes, Berry Pomeroy and SG Cycle group			ELMS ?	

ITEM 6 – UNIVERSAL TOILETS

Note from Cllr Collinson to the Town Matters Committee on recent ensuring equitable access to public toilets for all, following UK Supreme Court ruling on the terms “woman” and “sex”

Background:

In April 2025, the UK Supreme Court ruled that the terms “woman” and “sex” as used in the Equality Act 2010 refer specifically to biological sex. This ruling has clarified the legal interpretation of sex-based rights in the UK, affirming that protections and provisions for 'women' in certain contexts apply to biological females only. While the ruling does not override the protection of transgender individuals under the Equality Act, it does have significant implications for access to single-sex services and spaces—such as public toilets, changing rooms, and refuges.

Issue:

One of the unintended consequences of this ruling is the potential exclusion of transgender women—particularly those who have legally transitioned and hold a Gender Recognition Certificate—from women-only spaces. This creates a legal and social environment in which transgender individuals may be denied access to facilities aligned with their gender identity, increasing the risk of public humiliation, confrontation, or harm. Non-binary individuals, who do not identify as male or female, face similar exclusion as gendered facilities do not accommodate their identity. In addition, the ruling places a burden on service providers and local authorities to determine how to comply with legal guidance while also upholding principles of dignity and inclusion.

Response of the Equality and Human Rights Commission:

The EHRC is the regulator of the Equality Act 2010. Following the UK Supreme Court ruling, the EHRC is reviewing its guidance following a recent public consultation, including updating relevant sections of its code of practice for services, public functions and associations. A full draft of the updated code will be submitted to the government for Parliamentary review and subsequent approval by government. It is not clear what the intended timescale is for this review and update of the code. Once approved, the code will have legal status as the guide on how service providers, associations and public functions can meet the duties set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Possible expansion in provision of universal toilets going forward:

Universal or all-gender toilets provide a pragmatic and inclusive design solution that accommodates everyone, regardless of gender identity. These facilities are typically single-occupancy spaces that ensure privacy and safety for users. Their implementation addresses a wide range of accessibility and inclusion challenges, including:

- Ensuring safe and dignified access for transgender and non-binary people.
- Meeting the needs of parents with young children, people with personal assistants or carers, and individuals with disabilities.
- Reducing waiting times and overcrowding often seen in gender-segregated facilities.
- Providing a clear alternative that avoids the legal ambiguity surrounding access to single-sex spaces.
- Demonstrating a commitment to equality, human rights, and public health within public service delivery.

Implementing universal toilets does not mean replacing all gendered facilities. A mixed model can be used—where gendered toilets remain available, but universal options are added. This approach offers choice and mitigates concerns from all user groups. It can be achieved cost-effectively by retrofitting existing single-stall toilets or through new designs in public and commercial developments. Clear

signage, thoughtful design, and public communication are essential to ensure acceptance and effective use.

While local councils must ensure adherence to legislation, they also have a duty to safeguard the dignity and wellbeing of all residents and visitors. By introducing or expanding universal public toilets, councils can promote a more inclusive, respectful, and practical approach to public infrastructure—benefiting not just transgender and non-binary individuals, but a wide range of people in the community.

For consideration by Totnes Town Council while awaiting the updated EHRC code of practice:

There is no indication currently of how soon the updated EHRC code of practice will be reviewed and approved at national level. In the meantime, equality duties continue to apply to all people with protected characteristics, including transgender people.

As a low-cost and pragmatic approach to ensuring equitable access to public toilet facilities to all, TTC could request SHDC that it consider extending the provision of RADAR keys to transgender people on request.

It is important to note that the use of RADAR keys and their management is primarily a policy matter for local authorities. The Equality Act 2010 mandates reasonable adjustments to make facilities accessible, but the specific implementation, including the use of RADAR keys, often falls under local council discretion.

ITEM 8 – TRANSITION TOWN TOTNES LETTER OF SUPPORT

Transition Town Totnes have sent the following email (extracts only) to the Council: “Transition Town Totnes have been approved to join the [1% for the Planet](#) network as an environmental partner which has been quite a rigorous process! One item we still need to supply to the scheme administrators is a 'Support letter from a large or primary community your organization serves or collaborates with.' I was wondering whether this was something that Totnes Town Council could provide for Transition Town Totnes?”

The Committee is asked to consider the Clerk’s draft letter of support and make a recommendation to Full Council:

Totnes Town Council is pleased to provide this letter of support for **Transition Town Totnes (TTT)**, a long-established and valued community partner which continues to contribute significantly to the vitality, resilience, and sustainability of our town.

Since its inception, Transition Town Totnes has helped establish Totnes as a beacon of community-led environmental action. Its work reflects the shared values of collaboration, sustainability and local empowerment that our Council is proud to promote. TTT’s initiatives have delivered tangible local benefits and national recognition, rooted in Totnes’s historic identity while preparing us for a more resilient and connected future.

Some notable TTT projects that have benefitted the town include:

- **The Climate Hub** – an education and community space which helps the community engage with issues, solutions and possibilities
- **Incredible Edible Totnes** – edible planting around town, free to all
- **30 x 30** – inspired by the global commitment to protect and conserve 30% of the Earth for nature by 2030
- **The Reconomy Centre & Local Entrepreneur Forum** – An incubator space for local entrepreneurs and flagship event supporting community investment in local enterprises.
- **Transition Streets** – bringing neighbours together to work on practical changes they can make in their lives to live more sustainably
- **Community Resilience Forums** on topics such as ‘Climate Change & Mental Health’
- A bi-annual **Energy Wise Show & Open Eco Homes**

These and other projects have consistently demonstrated the value of bottom-up community action and the importance of long-term, place-based work. TTT’s approach encourages civic engagement, strengthens our local economy, and supports climate and ecological goals that align with the Town Council’s declared Climate Emergency.

We understand that TTT is in the process of registering as an environmental partner with the **1% for the Planet** network. We are confident that they will be a valuable and credible addition to that community. Totnes Town Council considers Transition Town Totnes to be a key stakeholder in the town, and we regularly engage with the organisation in various forums and through project-based collaboration.

We offer our full support for TTT’s application and commend their ongoing efforts to strengthen our community’s resilience, inclusivity and environmental responsibility.