

23 July 2025

Traffic and Transport Forum

Meeting Notes

1. Introductions:

Those present: Graham Bennett (GB) (Chair), Cllr Luisa Auletta (LA), Cllr Jacqi Hodgson (JH), Cllr Anna Presswell (AP), Cllr Tim Bennett (TB), Cllr John Cummings (JC), Cllr Chris Beavis (CB), Cllr Ashton Chadwick (AC), AF, WR, JB, PW, VC, SG, HC, BC, RM, RH, HH, CH

Apologies: RG, NR, VW, GE, Cllr Sarah Collinson

Note keeping: Lisa Baumback

GB welcomed all and explained the roles of the Forum and Steering Group.

2. Meeting Notes of Previous Forum (held 29 January 2025)

Agreed.

Action from Matters Arising - RG's notes on 5 ways to implement something that will work to slow traffic for those communities that don't have 20mph speed limits - to be circulated with the Meeting Notes.

3. County Councillor on Highways Matters

- **Totnes' Bid to Devon County Council (DCC) for 20's Plenty for 2025**

The bid for 20's plenty in Totnes was approved by DCC earlier this year. It was approved because under the previous system, Totnes scored highly due to meeting certain safety criteria. A map is being drawn up ready for public consultation to indicate all the proposed areas that could have the new speed limit applied, a draft of which had been received by JH that morning.

Under a new system, which has just been approved by DCC, Town and Parish Councils are permitted to submit proposals for 20mph zone in any area where people work, live, play or go to school without having to score highly on safety grounds. However, Town and Parish Councils or communities will need to fund this, which could cost £15,000 to £40,000 depending on the size of the area. It is recommended that these communities do a public survey before committing to costly design work, to maximise the chance of a detailed proposal gaining approval when going to public consultation later in the process.

- **The Bourtons Speed Limit on A381**

A previous request for the speed limit gateway on the A381 to be extended to just beyond the Bourtons was discussed with officers at DCC earlier this week. There will now be two bus stops placed in this area so it is more likely that a reduction in the speed limit will be applied. The limit is likely to be 40mph. Devon County Council Officers have to refer to a nation-wide traffic manual when making their assessments.

4. Community Matters for Highways

- **Fishchowters Lane Extension**

JB requested support from the Traffic and Transport Forum with regards to an extension of 250m to Fishchowters Lane near the top on Bowden Pillars Land over land which is now leased by the Devon Wildlife Trust, and tabled some illustrations of his proposals.

Cllr Auletta pointed out that this extension would encourage both cyclists and walkers to use the same route which would be unsafe on such a steep gradient, and contrary to current policy on shared use. It was noted that DWT are looking to provide a cycle path around the edge of their top field to provide an alternative cycle route into town from Bowden Pillars via Kingsbridge Hill and this is supported.

Fishchowters Lane is maintained by DCC so they could be asked to consider that link but finding funding for such a project may be challenging.

Action: Cllr Hodgson will enquire about this.

- **Safety on Kingsbridge Hill**

VC asked if the change of management at DCC would give Kingsbridge Hill Residents Association an opportunity to revisit the Kingsbridge Hill proposal which is low cost. She was concerned that a 20mph zone still won't be enough to make it safe for pedestrians. Cllr Hodgson pointed out that submitting a proposal will be possible but there should be a survey first of all the residents and it would need to be self-funded. A consultant would need to be employed by the community and DCC have a list to choose from. It would be for the community to brief the consultants so they can then go on to make their recommendations.

Action: JH will share the link for making the proposals with VC.

- **Overgrown vegetation**

CB raised the issue of overgrown vegetation near the traffic lights between Totnes and Dartington which obscures the view of the traffic lights. JH advised that this should be reported on the DCC Highways website's "report a problem" page. CB also noted that white lines on the Newton Abbot road have now become overgrown with grass. If this was cut back it would make the road wider and safer. JH advised about the cyclical maintenance programme at DCC and encouraged CB to use the online "report a problem" page for this as well.

- **Traffic on Totnes High Street.**

RH advised that Totnes and District Society (TotSoc) have recently carried out a survey among its members who have all identified the number of cars using and passing through the High Street as a concern. TotSoc are requesting that this issue is revisited. They understand that some access is required for deliveries etc but issues of safety and air quality remain a problem.

Ideas for specific changes were voiced, and PW suggested a working group to look at this issue again. GB said it was important that any changes should support the business community and its need to grow footfall, enhance the visitor experience, and ensure community safety, and suggested this issue is taken into the Steering Group for further consideration.

5. Next Meeting, assumed 28 January 2026 with the AGM – to be confirmed