



AGENDA FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 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 **Planning Committee** on **Monday 17th November 2025** at **6.30pm** for a maximum of 90 minutes in the Guildhall for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Committee Members: Councillors L Auletta (Chair), T Bennett, S Collinson, T Cooper, J Cummings, J Hodgson, L Smallridge and M Trant.

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 October 2025 and update on any matters arising. Document attached [page 3].

3. TREE WORKS APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following tree works applications:

3a. 3267/25/TCA - T1: Plane - crown lift to give 3m clearance by tip-pruning trailing branches only. T2: Beech - crown lift to give 2m ground clearance, to reduce shading of Motte bank and reduce erosion, by tip pruning only. T3: Thuja - crown lift to give 3m clearance. T4: Thuja - crown lift to give 2-3m clearance. T5: Laurel - coppice heavy subsiding limb to north, as shown on photo, and pollard remaining stems at approximately 2-3m. to reduce shading and risk of breaking out. T6: Ash - fell due to Ash dieback. G1: x5 Sycamore and x3 Cypress - growing at bottom of motte, fell to

prevent further damage to motte retaining walls. Totnes Castle, Castle Street, Totnes, TQ9 5NU.
See

<https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/3267/25/TCA>

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following planning applications:

4a. 3238/25/LBC – Listed Building Consent for repairs o veranda trellis and roof canopy. Northgate Lodge, Castle Street, Totnes, TQ9 5NX. See

<https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/3238/25/LBC>

4b. 3145/25/LBC - Listed Building Consent for change of use to mixed use and alterations to shopfront to allow new access to proposed first floor maisonette, internal refurbishment & rear access stair & garden space. 12 High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5SB. See

<https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/3145/25/LBC>

4c. 3101/25/LBC - Listed Building Consent for proposed ATM & signage removal for bank closure. 31-33 Fore Street, Totnes. TQ9 5HH. See

<https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/3101/25/LBC>

5. REFORM OF THE LICENCING SYSTEM

To consider the Government’s recent consultation on ‘Reforming the Licensing System’ including the NALC response to the consultation (closed 6th November 2025). Document attached [page 7].

6. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT STEERING GROUP

To note the minutes from the Traffic and Transport Steering Group held on 22nd October 2025 and consider any recommendations. Document attached [page 11].

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Planning Committee – Monday 15th December 2025 at 6.30pm in the Guildhall.

S Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager

12th November 2025

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 OCTOBER 2025 IN THE GUILDHALL

Present: Councillors L Auletta (Chair), T Bennett, S Collinson (from 18.40), T Cooper, J Cummings, J Hodgson (from 18.35) and M Trant.

Not Present: Cllr Smallridge.

In Attendance: Members of the public, Cllr Beavis and 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 Auletta read out a statement about how the meeting would be conducted and recorded.

The apologies were accepted.

The Committee adjourned for the following item:

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public gave an update about the external grounds plan for Totnes House, which the Heritage Officer at South Hams District Council (SHDC) has suggested they share with the town council before submitting the application. The proposals include: the demolition of the 1980s extension and windows/doors in the existing opening to the main house; removal of much of the tarmacked area; a two-vehicle single storey garage with sloped roof; Victorian-style greenhouse; hedging; lawns; railings on the lower walls. The Committee thanked the members of the public for coming to update the Committee with their proposed plans, and the Committee will get back to them with some informal comments as part of the pre-application process.

Cllr Beavis raised the issue of the slippery surfaces in the Rotherfold where someone has fallen and been injured, requesting that the Town Council raises this with SHDC. The Officer will take this forward as part of regular Town Team meetings with SHDC.

The Committee reconvened.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 15th September 2025 and update on any matters arising.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

3. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To make recommendations on the following planning applications:

Note: Cllr Hodgson observes and does not vote on any applications which would potentially be discussed at a Development Management Committee meeting at South Hams District Council (SHDC).

3a. 2888/25/LBC - Listed Building Consent for alterations to shopfront to allow new access to proposed first floor maisonette, with internal refurbishment & rear access stair & garden space externally. 12 High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5SB.

Comment – The Committee has no objection in principle to the change of use but does have the following concerns:

- Object to the use of 'composite' framing for the shop windows. The new shop facade joinery and external doors should be constructed from timber (not aluminium composite) to ensure they are in keeping with the status of the Listed Building and Conservation Area.
- We note that no glazing bars are shown on the upper sash windows (both front and rear) in the proposed drawings. Confirmation is required that the early un-horned timber sash windows and glass are to be retained and carefully repaired. If thermal improvement is required, internal secondary glazing could be provided to comply with Building Regulations.

The Committee is grateful to the applicant for the pre-application engagement with the Planning Committee on this application.

3b. 2771/25/LBC - Listed Building Consent for internal alterations to amend layout of kitchen & reinstate internal ceilings & walls. 8 Castle Street, Totnes, TQ9 5NU.

Support.

3c. 2653/25/HHO - Householder application for extension to existing decking & fenestration alteration. 11 Priory Avenue, Totnes, TQ9 5HR.

Support.

3d. 2730/25/VAR - Application for variation of conditions 2 (approved plans), 5 (privacy screen), 6 (flat roof area) & 7 (climate emergency compliance) of planning consent 2253/24/HHO. 6 Dartside, Totnes, TQ9 5HL.

Object. The Committee has the following concerns:

- The approved plans were for a tall building and the variation for additional roof height results in a form that is too bulky and is out of keeping with other dwellings in the development. The first floor floor-to-ceiling height in the principal dwelling has been increased in this submission, and this appears to be the main cause of the need to further raise the main roof ridge (which is different to the stated need to raise the roof of the annexe building).
- The additional terracing and newly proposed large bike shed results in a greater area of impermeable surfacing. The submitted "Drainage Technical Note" was based on the previous scheme drawings and only considered an additional 15msq. of impermeable roofs, surfaces. It has not been updated.
- There is a considerable increase in areas of roof glazing which will cause significant additional light pollution in the special area of conservation along the river. The Ecology Report, prepared for the previously consented scheme, notes the need for minimum light pollution on this sensitive site. The Ecology Report has not been updated for the revised scheme.

3e. 1911/25/FUL - Change of use of from Class F1 & C3 to mixed use: Class E(shop) & C3 (dwelling). The Parlour, 43 45 High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5NP.

Comment – The Committee has no objection in principle with the proposed Change of Use, but it concurs with Historic England's concerns that the proposed Change of Use will require works that will be detrimental to the historic fabric of the building. Details of any changes required should be provided for assessment prior to determination. We also note that for the proposed Change of Use to be acceptable, mitigation for the loss of community space, also needs to be secured. The proposed additional space in Birdwood Court appears to be a suitable alternative.

3f. 2937/25/VPO - Application for modification of Section 106 Agreement on 3203/23/FUL. Land at SX 808 599, Parkers Way, Totnes.
Support.

3g. 2625/25/VAR - Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 4342/22/FUL; and 2619/25/VAR - Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 4374/22/LBC. 90 High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5SN.
Support.

3h. 2857/25/ARC - Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (windows, doors & sills) to planning consent 4374/22/LBC. 90 High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5SN.
Comment – the front door (D4) should be traditional painted timber and not a metal composite on a listed building. There are no objections to the proposed windows and doors at the rear of the building.

4. TOTNES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

To consider a review of the Totnes Neighbourhood Plan and the employment of an external consultant to undertake the work.

Cllr Auletta updated that following discussion at the Councillor Away Day, the Council may look to buy-in technical services to review the Totnes Neighbourhood Plan to identify any policies that are not in conformity with recent planning legislation changes, as well as requesting advice on the timing for review with the local plan currently being reviewed by South Hams District Council.

It was **AGREED** that Councillors would hold an informal meeting (open to all Councillors, not just Planning Committee members) by the end of 2025 to discuss the format of the brief, which can then be brought back through Committee for consideration.

The Committee voted to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

5. BICYCLE RACKS

To consider a recommendation from the Economy Working Group for the location of a bicycle rack in Totnes.

The Committee felt that the proposed location in Heath's Way Garden is too far from the town centre.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that two options are suggested to SHDC for locations for bicycles racks in Totnes: under the Civic Hall steps in the Civic Square (along the wall next to the defibrillator); and on the pavement on High Street (corner with Castle Street). See images below:



6. LICENSING ISSUE

To consider writing to South Hams District Council about the anti-social behaviour problems in Borough Park and the proximity of the 24-hour alcohol licence granted to Morrisons Garage.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it writes to SHDC's Licensing Department to formally register a complaint about the 24-hour licence granted to Morrisons Service Station. The granting of this licence correlates to an increase in anti-social behaviour problems in Borough Park and the potential selling of alcohol to underaged persons. There has been an upturn in empty alcohol bottles, broken glass (including on the new skate park area) and littering of Costa coffee cups in the park, of which the latter are only available in Totnes at the Morrisons Service Station.

If the recommendation is agreed, the letter should be copied to the local police and District Councillors.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Planning Committee – Monday 17th November 2025 at 6.30pm in the Guildhall.

Noted.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Sara Halliday
Governance and Projects Manager
October 2025

ITEM 5 – REFORM OF THE LICENSING SYSTEM

The Government (Home Office and Department for Business and Trade) has recently conducted a consultation on 'Reforming the Licensing System' (closed midday 6th November 2025). Below is the website text on the consultation (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/reforming-the-licensing-system>) and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) response.

The Government invites views and evidence to inform the development of a modern, proportionate and enabling licensing system.

This call for evidence builds on the [Licensing Taskforce recommendations and the government's response](#) and supports the government's [commitment to reduce regulatory burdens by 25%](#) by the end of this Parliament.

This call for evidence focuses on the 'on trade' in relation to alcohol sales, for example pubs, restaurants and nightclubs, and on all entertainment licensed under the Licensing Act 2003.

Who should respond

- licensed businesses and trade bodies
- local authorities and licensing officers
- police and other enforcement agencies
- cultural and community organisations
- residents' advocacy groups
- legal, planning and regulatory professionals
- public health organisations
- local news publishers
- members of the public

Introduction

The Government's licensing reforms aim to create a modern, proportionate, and enabling system that supports economic growth, revitalises high streets and fosters vibrant communities. Central to this vision is reducing administrative burdens on businesses by 25% while maintaining strong safeguards for public safety, crime prevention and public health.

The current licensing system, under the Licensing Act 2003 and supported by statutory guidance, regulates activities such as the sale of alcohol, provision of entertainment and late-night refreshment. Local authorities issue licences and enforce conditions based on 4 licensing objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm

Applications for, and variations to, licences are assessed against these objectives. The aim of the licensing system is to support vibrant local economies while ensuring communities are safe and protected, with businesses benefiting from a fair and proportionate regulatory framework. However, as the taskforce has said, over the years the balance of the system has shifted, with greater weight being given to public safety and crime prevention, under the statutory licensing objectives, and less of a focus on business resilience and growth.

Reform of the regime seeks to streamline outdated processes, improve consistency across local authorities and better integrate licensing with related regimes such as planning, community cohesion, tourism and cultural policy. It should promote fairness, transparency and responsiveness to local needs, while encouraging innovation and investment in hospitality, leisure, culture and night-time economies. Through mechanisms like a national licensing policy framework, a licensing condition amnesty and continuing the transition towards online systems, the government aims to make systems more effective and efficient, empowering local authorities and businesses alike. Reform will be shaped through broad stakeholder engagement, including this call for evidence.

Strategic initiatives such as zoning, promotion of tourism and growth, and enhanced training for licensing officers will help ensure effective delivery.

As part of our commitment to rebalance the licensing system, as reforms are implemented we will monitor their impact on the existing licensing objectives, on local authority and police resources, on public health, and on business resilience and growth.

This call for evidence focuses on those proposals where the taskforce indicated there is potential for the greatest benefit. Other proposals, including some taskforce recommendations, will be considered further in due course and consulted on as appropriate.

NALC Response

Introduction

This consultation seeks views and evidence to develop a modern, proportionate and enabling licensing system under the Licensing Act 2003. This call for evidence builds on the Licensing Taskforce recommendations and the government's response and supports the government's commitment to reduce regulatory burdens by 25% by the end of this parliament. This call for evidence focuses on the on-trade in relation to alcohol sales, for example, pubs, restaurants and nightclubs, and on all entertainment licensed under the Licensing Act 2003.

Key messages

The government should establish, once and for all, parish and town councils as full and legitimate statutory consultees in all aspects of the processes outlined in the Licensing Act, including all stages of the appeals process.

The government should add a health and wellbeing licensing objective to Section 4 of the Licensing Act 2003, which would enable licensing authorities, when determining licensing applications, to consider health and wellbeing issues as well as the existing four licensing objectives, as the current regime does not give sufficient weight to the potential health and wellbeing-related impacts of alcohol consumption.

Consultation questions

Question 1: About you. Are you responding as:
A public sector organisation.

Question 2: What is the name of the organisation/business that you are responding on behalf of?
National Association of Local Councils.

Question 3: Which of the following best describes the organisation/business you are responding on behalf of?

Community or charitable organisation.

Question 4: How many employees do you or the organisation that you are responding on behalf of have?

Small Business/Organisation - 10-49 employees.

Question 5: Do you or the organisation/business that you work for hold an alcohol licence issued for premises located in either England or Wales under the Licensing Act 2003?

No.

Question 6: Have you engaged with the alcohol licensing process previously?

No.

Question 7: Do you agree or disagree with the overarching objective of a consistent, transparent licensing system which empowers local authorities while promoting economic growth, cultural development, public safety and community wellbeing?

Agree. However, the government should add a health and wellbeing licensing objective to Section 4 of the Licensing Act 2003, which would enable licensing authorities, when determining licensing applications, to consider health and wellbeing issues as well as the existing four licensing objectives, as the current regime does not give sufficient weight to the potential health and wellbeing-related impacts of alcohol consumption.

Question 8: Do you agree or disagree that promoting economic growth should be a statutory licensing objective alongside the existing public safety objectives?

Agree.

Question 9: Do you think that the licensing regime should treat on-trade and off-trade premises differently in any respects in order to allow the differing challenges and opportunities they pose to be addressed?

Yes.

Question 10: What priority themes should be included in a National Licensing Policy Framework?

The government should add a 'health and wellbeing' licensing objective to Section 4 of the Licensing Act 2003, which would enable licensing authorities, when determining licensing applications, to consider health and wellbeing issues as well as the existing four licensing objectives. For instance, South Oxfordshire District Council regulates street trading, including food vending, which gives rise to junk food and food hygiene issues. The harms of alcohol are well known, yet government policy seeks to help licensees to sell more for longer – a better balance must be struck. Currently, licensing applications can only be judged on four licensing objectives (as per the Licensing Act 2003 Section 4), i.e. the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. Principal authorities, such as licensing authorities, have the responsibility to grant licences for the sale of alcohol, and parish and town councils have a direct interest in being consulted as part of this process. Some of the County Durham parish and town councils, especially those in larger towns, are consulted on numerous licensing applications each year. Most principal authorities will have a licensing policy in which they explain how they will judge the licensing objectives. When granting licenses to sell alcohol, there is currently no duty to consider the health/well-being impacts of alcohol consumption. There are areas/situations where there is evidence that alcohol misuse is having a

significant impact on public health and wellbeing. For example, in some areas, alcohol use is a causative factor in reducing life expectancy.

Question 11: How could the government assess whether national guidance is working effectively? Fewer people appeal decisions. The government should establish, once and for all, parish and town councils as full, legitimate and statutory consultees in all aspects of the processes outlined in the Licensing Act, including at all stages of the appeals process.

Question 19: In place of publication in print local newspapers, what alternative methods of publicising this information do you consider would be most effective in ensuring effective scrutiny, transparency and public awareness of licensing activities?

Council websites, newsletters or social media channels. The addition of a health and wellbeing licensing objective is seen as a potential addition to a larger toolkit. It would not per se resolve issues of alcohol misuse and health/wellbeing-related harm, but could be an important element of a wider set of legislation, policies and practices to try and tackle alcohol misuse and its negative impacts on communities. A stronger voice could be heard with the ability to use health data more effectively in determining applications for licensing applications.

Question 49: Are there recognised examples of effective practice in the UK that could contribute to the development of policy and guidance for local authorities?

Yes. The Local Government Association cites Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) as a statutory forum where political, clinical, professional and community leaders from across the care and health system come together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. They have been in place since 2013 and are a single point of continuity in a constantly shifting health and care landscape. It is now a time of significant and complex change with NHS reforms introducing Integrated Care Systems. HWBs need to evolve and adapt to operate within this new context. The Local Government Association has lobbied the government on health as a licensing objective several times over the last ten years. It undertook and published the results of a survey of Directors of Public Health and the Licensing Process in January 2016, which indicated a significant majority supporting a public health objective in the Licensing Act 2003 to assist them in delivering their role. Although this study is nine years old and the legislation is from 22 years ago, the legislation is, in any case, considered likely to be in need of a review, considering changing habits and behaviours.

Question 57: In your view, what impact will the proposals for reform included in this call for evidence have on public health?

The impact of the proposals will be minimal unless the government adds a health and wellbeing licensing objective to Section 4 of the Licensing Act 2003, which would enable licensing authorities, when determining licensing applications, to consider health and wellbeing issues as well as the existing four licensing objectives. Public health teams are tasked with trying to address alcohol related health harms within communities, i.e. fix problems created by alcohol misuse, whilst there is no ability to influence the granting of licenses, which lay the foundations of how easily alcohol is available.

Question 58: Which, if any, of the reforms described in this call for evidence, in your view, pose public health concerns?

Remove the newspaper advertising requirement.

ITEM 6 - TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT STEERING GROUP

No recommendations.

Traffic and Transport Steering Group Notes 6.30pm – 8:30pm Wednesday 22 October 2025

1. Introduction

Those present: Graham Bennett (GB) (Chair), Cllr Jacqi Hodgson (JH), Cllr Anna Presswell (AP), Cllr Sarah Collinson (SC), Cllr Richard Grove, Cllr Christel Goodwin, NR, GE, AF, PW, SG, RM and VW
Apologies: Cllr Luisa Auletta, Cllr Nick Roberts, JF and MF
Note Keeping: Lisa Baumbach

Members signed a letter of condolence, following the death of Cllr Chadwick shortly after his resignation from the Steering Group on health grounds.

GB reported that Cllr Bloomer had resigned, due to considerable Parish Council work pressures. He acknowledged the huge commitment Councillors show to their communities, and asked all non-Councillors present to consider occasional attendance at Parish Council meetings to make links and demonstrate support, as it seems increasingly unlikely that Parishes will be able to send reps to our meetings.

2. Meeting Notes of Previous Steering Groups

Held 23 July 2025 – Agreed, with no Matters Arising.

3. Update and items from JH's Monthly Report On Traffic & Transport Matters

• Update on new Devon County Council (DCC) portfolio roles

JH provided an update on her new role in the cabinet at DCC including her involvement with Public Transport. She updated on the challenges of rural public transport and mentioned the introduction of 110 new electric buses across Exeter, Torbay and North Devon. She reported on the new Transport Advisory Group which has come about as part of the combined Torbay and Devon Authority, and the new Bus Service Implementation Plan.

SC asked if councils could have more say in changes to routes which affect our area and if there will be seatbelts fitted in the new EV buses. She also asked about young people's discounts in order to encourage a habit of using buses.

JH explained that any proposed changes to bus routes are reviewed by County Councillors. However, decisions are also influenced by budget constraints, the ongoing challenges in recruiting bus drivers, and the level of service usage. She emphasised that routes must be well-used to remain viable. The new Bus Service Enhancement Plan (BSEP) aims to boost usage by enhancing the Devon Bus brand, which will support cross-ticketing across different operators.

• 20's Plenty

The 20s plenty campaign for Totnes has been approved and is ready to go to public consultation. The maps indicating the areas which have been approved were shared with the group. The exclusion of the old bridge, which is a dangerous pedestrian link between Bridgetown and Totnes, was noted. A firm request was made for this to be included, together with Weston Lane, the dangerous part of Plymouth Road, and also the link between Barracks Hill and Cott Road. JH agreed to pursue these.

- Cllr Hodgson also updated the group on a number of items which were detailed in her monthly report to Full Council. Details can be found in the report here.

Action – JH to find out about whether new buses have seatbelts.

Action – JH to discuss seatbelts, young people’s discounts and services with MP at meeting on Friday

Action – JH to go back to DCC and request for the old bridge to be included in the 20mph limit, along with Weston Lane, outer part of Plymouth Road, and the Barracks Hill link to Dartington.

4. Vehicle Activated Signs [TB, GE]

No updates to report. GB said he would liaise with TB in case a recommendation is required.

5. Bridge Feasibility [LA, SC]

The Bridge is an area which has been prioritised in the Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan, with funding already earmarked by the Town Council for an expert assessment of safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists. The study should indicate what options there are to make it safer, how much these options would cost and how effective they would be. A meeting is scheduled between Totnes Town Councillors and DCC and their consultants for Friday 24 October to discuss the requirements.

TTC will draw up a Terms of Reference for consultation with input from members of the community. RM was keen to ensure the views of Bridgetown residents are considered as they are arguably the most effected by accessibility on the bridge and GB encouraged their engagement.

Action: TTC To meet with DCC and Consultants.

6. Active Travel Routes [AP, NR]

- **Opening of South Hams Way** - This event was attended by over 100 people. Many of the routes already existed so it was a good example of how groups from different areas can work together to achieve more.
- **Dart Valley Cycle Trail** - report attached
- **NR provided an update on the Buliver Bridge to Littlehempston route, intended to complete the missing link in the NCN2 cycle route (Dover to St Austell).** She noted encouraging progress with South Devon Railway, who have agreed to provide full access in return for shared maintenance responsibilities with DCC. She highlighted that South West Water (SWW) has a made-up lane on the land, which could potentially be incorporated into the route, thereby reducing infrastructure costs. However, she noted ongoing challenges with DCC’s review of an access agreement submitted by SWW. Efforts are underway to finalise this agreement, with the goal of securing approval before the Development Management Committee meeting scheduled for 11 December.

There will be a public consultation meeting to gather feedback on the proposed route and address concerns raised by local residents, particularly those living along a private lane. NR discussed potential funding sources to support the construction costs, including the Active Travel England fund and a Great Western Railway (GWR) fund. She encouraged members of the group to attend the upcoming planning meeting (10am Thursday 11 December at Follaton House if confirmed in the Agenda papers issued a week before). It is possible to view the planning application with the following reference: 2929/23/FUL

In conclusion, GB noted that NR should feel free to request assistance from the group if required.

- **AP reported an interest in reinstating the route from Stoke Gabriel to Aish.** She reported on the condition of the Fleet Mill Lane which is strewn with loose rocks. DCC rate this as a category 12 lane which is the lowest on their list of priorities for maintenance. However, there is interest within the community in converting it into a pedestrian and cycle pathway.

Action – all welcome to attend a meeting about this route which will be held in the Guildhall on Thursday 23 October.

7. School Green Travel Plans [JH, AP, LA]

- Active Travel plan - received from Totnes St John's now awaiting plan from The Grove.
- School Streets – JH commented on initiatives in other areas of Devon where drivers are encouraged to not use roads in close proximity to schools during arrival and departure times. She suggested finding some areas in Exeter who are implementing School Streets initiative to see if this is something that could be used in Totnes. For example, limiting access to Weston Lane by Totnes St John's during these times, would make it much safer for children arriving to school via the 'chicken run'.

Action: JH to find out more about School Streets.

Action: AP to follow up with school active travel plans.

8. Community Matters –

- **Accessibility on Great Western Railway (GWR) trains** - AP reported on the additional pressure GWR are experiencing due to an increase of people needing accessibility support on GWR trains. This has increased from 25,000 people 35,000 over the last 6 months. GWR now have a dedicated accessibility and mobility team to meet community needs.
- **SHDC e-bike initiative** - It was noted that the e-bike hub Weston Lane has been removed due to some very disappointing vandalism to the bikes in that location. Possible new locations are being considered by SHDC.
- **High Street Traffic** - An email to the TTC offices regarding concerns over traffic on the High Street was noted. As were issues with people cutting through town on busy market days. It was noted that any solutions to this issue must work for residents and crucially market traders and businesses.
- **Pavements and dropped kerbs** – SC suggested that perhaps TTC could lead on some work to explore the state of pavements and dropped kerbs which can cause issues for wheelchairs and pushchairs. There have also been pedestrians recently who have suffered injury from uneven pavements. It was noted that one issue was reported on the DCC report it tool but wasn't dealt with because it didn't meet the minimum criteria to be fixed.

Action: GB, LA and PW will meet to discuss High Street Traffic

9. Partnerships – Totnes and Dartington – GB informed members that he has been invited to join a group focused on enhancing collaboration between Dartington and Totnes for mutual benefit. GB also noted that 'Sustrans' is now the 'Walk Wheel Cycle Trust'.

10. Next Meetings AGM/Forum and Steering Group, Wednesday 28 January 2026

GB said the meeting Minutes would be forwarded with a copy of a Draft Year Planner for 2026 for consideration by members. Improvements would be very welcome and will need thought in advance of the AGM.

Action: Members were asked to send GB any thoughts they might have on the proposed meeting structure, how well this year's structure and projects have worked and whether any new projects should be covered by the Traffic and Transport Forum and Steering Groups next year. Comments to be sent to GB by 12 November.