



AGENDA FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2026 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 September 2026** 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, C Beavis, J Chinnock, S Collinson, J Cummings, D Peters, A Presswell, E Price, N Roberts 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 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 27th July 2026 and update on any matters arising. Document attached [page 3].

3. STRATEGY DELIVERY WORKING GROUPS

To consider any recommendations and note the minutes from the following:

- a. Community Working Group, 8th September (document attached, page 6).
- b. Economy Working Group, 15th September 2026 (to follow).
- c. Environment and Public Realm Working Group, 16th September 2026 (document attached, page 8).

4. ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE RANGE EXTENSION CONSULTATION

To consider a proposal to extend the age range of St John's CE Primary School from 4-11 years to 2-11 years and any recommendation for the Council's response to the consultation. Document attached [page 10] and see [Totnes St John's CE Primary School: Proposal to Extend the Age Range from 4–11 to 2–11 Years and Integrate Daisy Pre-School - Have your say](#)

5. BURKE AND WILLS DISPLAY

To consider the current Burke and Wills display in the Guildhall. Document attached [page 14].

6. PLANT-BASED COUNCIL CATERING

To reconsider the Council's pledge in favour of plant-based food at Council events. Document attached [page 14].

7. EMERGENCY PLAN

To update on preparation of the Town Council's internal Emergency Plan. Verbal update.

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

To review the projects to identify any potential S106 investment and update on any general matters linked to the Open Spaces, Sport Recreation and Wellbeing Plan (standing item). Document attached [page 15].

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 23rd November 2026 at 6.30pm.

Sara Halliday
Governance and Projects Manager
23rd September 2026

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.

ITEM 2 – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES



DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE MONDAY 27TH JULY 2026 IN THE GUILDHALL

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

Apologies: Councillor T Robshaw.

In Attendance: Heritage Trust representative 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 Roberts read out a statement about how the meeting would be conducted and recorded.

The apologies were accepted.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 22nd June 2026 and update on any matters arising.

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

Item 2. Chair of Committee – It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Roberts is the Chair of the Town Matters Committee for 2026/27.

Item 4b. Economy Working Group: Heritage Festival Road Closure - It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council:

- supports and funds a road closure for the Heritage Festival on 19th September 2026, timings to be confirmed; and
- collects feedback from the whole community (market traders, businesses/Business Forum, visitors/members of the public) of their experience on the day, with the Economy Working Group to draw up suitable questions to gather the data required to inform the Shop and Stroll project.

Item 4c. Environment and Public Realm Working Group: Castle Meadow – It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Transition Town Totnes is consulted and offered a trial area in Castle Meadow (in a suitable location) for the 30x30 project.

Item 6. Lamp for Peace and UNICEF Children's Day - It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council uses the lights in the trees on The Plains, alongside social media posts to communicate the reason for the lights on the day or day before the date, for the following events: Totnes Pride, 26/27th September 2026 (colour: rainbow); Lamp for Peace, 11th November 2026 (colour: red or a flame effect); UNICEF World Children's Day, 20th November 2026 (colour: pale blue); International

Disability Day 3rd December 2026 (colour: purple); For the November 2026 events, invite the local schools to draw doves that can be hung in the trees by the Town Council as a way of engaging and educating local children on the significance of these events.

Item 6. Application for an alcohol licence for The Ruby Chinese Takeaway at 5 Christina Parade, Totnes, TQ9 5UU – It was **RESOLVED** by majority that the licence application is supported.

It was **AGREED** to bring forward item 5 as a representative of the Heritage Trust was now present. The Committee voted to suspend Standing Orders to enable the representative to speak.

5. WILLS PROJECT

To consider potential locations for the Wills project display in the Guildhall to inform planning pre-application engagement by the Heritage Trust.

The Heritage Trust representative explained that the Trust wish to make a pre-application for Listed Building Consent for the exhibition. This will enable a site meeting to take place with the South Hams District Council (SHDC) Heritage Officer to get advice on the location of the display, size, appearance and any fixings. The Heritage Trust believe that this information is necessary to: firstly, see if a display is possible in the Guildhall; and secondly, to determine what information it may contain for the size that will be permitted. Cllr Auletta offered to be present at the site meeting to provide feedback to the Committee.

The Committee discussed a range of points including:

- how much interest there is in the current Burke and Wills display;
- the current location being unsuitable in terms of location and space available and that one of the ancillary spaces may be better suited to give sufficient room for a full explanation of events;
- if the museum had been approached to house the display;
- the constraints of the Guildhall and Museum only being accessible to the public for part of the year and therefore an information board near the Wills memorial may be more appropriate;
- the requirement of any new display to reflect cultural sensitivities and for the wording to be checked by a professional working in this area; and
- that any proposed display, materials and content/wording would need to be approved by Totnes Town Council,. The Heritage Trust confirmed that this would be required if they are applying for grant funding for the exhibition.

The Committee voted to return to Standing Orders.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

- it supports the submission of a pre-application for Listed Building Consent (with all necessary documents to be prepared by the Heritage Trust) to SHDC to determine what type of display is possible within the Guildhall;
- a Cllr is present at the site meeting with the SHDC Heritage Officer; and
- the preference is for any potential display to be housed in the current Women's Cell or ancillary areas to the main Guildhall and Council Chamber.

It was **AGREED** that the proposal to remove the current display will be considered at the September Committee meeting.

3. STRATEGY DELIVERY GROUP AND WORKING GROUP

To consider any recommendations and note the minutes from the following:

There was discussion and concern that there are cross-cutting issues across the working groups which the Council could improve its handling of. The Committee **AGREED** that this should be discussed at the Councillors Strategy Setting Day in September 2026.

a. Community Working Group, 29th June 2026.

Noted. No recommendations to consider.

b. Economy Working Group, 14th July 2026.

Noted. No recommendations to consider.

c. Environment and Public Realm Working Group, 15th July 2026.

Noted. No recommendations to consider. It was **AGREED** that the Friends of the Dart update to Committee in September 2026 would be an opportunity to consider the Council's position on water quality.

4. COUNCIL AWARDS

To consider the current Council Awards policy and whether changes should be made for 2027.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

- a celebratory event replaces the current individual and organisation awards (no change to the honorary freeman or Judy Westacott award); and
- the details are determined by the Community Working Group.

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

To update on any general matters linked to the Open Spaces, Sport Recreation and Wellbeing Plan including an update on the greenways map (standing item).

Cllr Presswell updated that SHDC are requesting regular updates on the Pavilions Leisure Centre.

There was discussion about the use of S106 funding in Bridgetown, particularly given the local government re-organisation announcement and proposed boundary lines. With limited funding available, small project ideas included: gravel for paths that are muddy in wet weather; signage for the accessible path in Longmarsh. It was **AGREED** that the OSSRW Project Plan would be discussed at the next meeting to identify potential investment opportunities in Bridgetown.

7. LINK COUNCILLOR REPORTS

To consider link councillor reports from Committee members.

Cllr Peters updated on a meeting with Devon and Cornwall Police in August 2026 and the need for the community to report criminal and anti-social behaviour and graffiti, to provide an accurate picture of the problems in Totnes to ensure that appropriate policing resources can be allocated.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 28th September 2026 at 6.30pm.

Noted.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

S Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager

July 2026

ITEM 3 – STRATEGY DELIVERY WORKING GROUPS

3a. Community Working Group, 8th September 2026

No recommendations for the Town Matters Committee.

1. Apologies and attendance

Cllrs Bennett, Robshaw, Presswell and Chinnock

Also present: Town Clerk and Cllr Beavis

Apologies accepted from Cllrs Hannam, Trant and Collinson

2. Notes of the previous meeting and matters arising

Noted.

3. Community and Grant Budgets Review

Noted – amended estimated budget at the end of these notes. 2027/28 allocations will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Odd Object Competition

It was agreed to allocate £44 additional funding to cover the costs arising from increased participation.

5. Community Awards Review

Members wanted to use the event as a thank you and a celebration of the VCSE sector. It was suggested that the Clerk work the following points up into a final proposal for consideration at the next meeting:

- Partner with Caring Town – Tim is going to ask Trustees if they are happy to take this on. We would help with funding and it would be branded with both the Town Council and Caring Town logos. Caring Town are considering renaming/rebranding so this couple double as a launch for that.
- Invite all VCSE groups on the list asking if they wish to attend. Once we have a rough idea on response, we can cap representatives as needed. Invite all our members, our District members and a plus one.
- Hold the event in June/July time – looking back at previous years and ahead to the next
- Hire a couple of young people to take photos of projects and VCSE groups to have displayed as a slide show – and for use in Council communications
- Hold the event in the Civic Hall
- Catering – get someone in to do the catering, finger buffet, soft drinks
- Bar – Tim is going to ask [REDACTED] if he would run a community bar
- Mayor to do introductions and thank you etc.
- Entertainment – mixed views on this, it would be nice to have something but it will be budget dependant.

6. Community and Town Council Events

- Volunteer Fair in the Civic Hall – members are asked to pop in on Saturday to this event if possible.
- Heritage Festival road closure arrangements – members are asked to be a visible presence in the town on the day. It is important to ask visitors about their experience and whether the road closure has added value. Kayleigh will also be circulated a survey after the event.

- Christmas Lights programme – noted with thanks. Members were supportive of the introduction of projection and remedial works done to the curtain lighting.
- Christmas Light Switch On event – members were informed about the brass band disbanding. Members asked if there was an alternative we can book but that is going to depend on budget and timings.
- Christmas Late Night Shopping Markets – noted.
- Any other relevant community event updates. – positive feedback from the Bouncy Inflatable sessions at the Pavilions, also from the youth work and engagement that received previous funding. Formal feedback and updates will be collated later in the financial year.

7. Any other community-related updates

- It was agreed the Clerk will contact Devon Community Foundation about an evaluation process for the larger strategic grants. Further detail on budgets and grant funding going forward will be considered by the Cllr away day later in September but it was felt important to have a smaller grant fund and a larger strategic fund, for award earlier in the financial year.
- It was agreed to add 'Healthy Neighbourhoods' to the next agenda

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8th October at 3pm in the Meetings Room

Community Budget	Budget	Actual	Expected year end	Notes
Creditor b/f		-50	-50	
Newsletter, publicity, Annual meeting	2500	31	1000	estimated
Defibrillator Pads and batteries	500	0	500	estimated
Christmas Light Switch On additional	700	0	700	Agreed
Christmas Lantern Parade	2300	2300	2300	Agreed
Bunting	3000	550	3000	Estimated
SHDC events fee	0	83	83	
Community Grants (June 26)	5000	8110	3555	Agreed
Additional Community Grant allocation (July 26)	7000		4860	Agreed
Overspend on Larger Strategic Grants (Sept 26)	0	0	2077	Agreed
Odd Object	0	0	144	Agreed
Volunteer Fair Civic Hall Hire	0	0	120	Agreed
TOTAL	21000	11024	18289	
Currently unallocated				2711

3c. Environment and Public Realm Working Group, 16th September 2026

Recommendations for the Town Matters Committee:

3b. EPR04: Climate and Ecological Emergency – To **RECOMMEND** to the Town Matters Committee that the Town Council approaches Bridgetown Alive! to co-host a screening of the Peoples Emergency Briefing in St John’s Church in mid-November (or alternatively January/February 2027). It was **AGREED** to get costings for the hire of St John’s Church for a screening and potential dates.

3c. PRD2.J: Plymouth Road Phone Box - To **RECOMMEND** to the Town Matters Committee that the Council installs and maintains two defibrillators – one in the adopted telephone box on Plymouth Road and one on the Follaton Shop (subject to agreement of the shop/building owner). If the Committee is supportive of the idea, then their recommendation to Full Council should include approval for the purchase of two IPAD SP1 defibrillator [the same model as the two existing TTC maintained defibrillators) and locked cabinet bundles (£1245 +VAT each) and signage to convert the telephone box (£85 +VAT), total cost £2575 +VAT.

6. Delivery Plan Review. Foundry and South West Water - To **RECOMMEND** to the Town Matters Committee that the Council writes to SHDC Environmental Health about the complaints related to these two locations and requesting that they provide sound and data collection for both sites. Cllr Robshaw has offered to the draft letter following the Town Matters Committee.

DRAFT Environment and Public Realm Working Group Notes from 16th September 2026

Present: Cllrs Hodgson (Chair), Auletta, Collinson, Cooper, Peters and Robshaw.

Apologies: None

Also Present: Sara Halliday (Governance and Projects Manager)

1. South Hams District Council (SHDC) Environmental Health to attend to chat about air quality.

Unfortunately, a SHDC Environmental Health Officer was unable to attend the meeting, and it is hoped that they will be able to make the November date.

2. To agree the notes of the last Working Group.

The notes were **AGREED**. The Town Maintenance Team are requested to paint over the areas of white paint on Eastgate now that the correct paint has been received from the Estate Office.

3. Strategic Plan Objectives. To consider the following:

a. Totnes Welcomes Careful Drivers Signage – It was **AGREED to:**

- Request that the Town Maintenance Team cuts back vegetation around and below all ‘Welcome to Totnes’ signs in June/July 2027; and
- Pause the idea of entrance signage to the town until after the 20mph areas and vehicle activated signage have been installed, and consider a potential future rebrand.

b. EPR04: Climate and Ecological Emergency – To **RECOMMEND to the Town Matters Committee that the Town Council approaches Bridgetown Alive! to co-host a screening of the Peoples Emergency Briefing in St John’s Church in mid-November (or alternatively January/February 2027). It was **AGREED** to get costings for the hire of St John’s Church for a screening and potential dates.**

c. **PRD2.J: Plymouth Road Phone Box** - To **RECOMMEND** to the Town Matters Committee that the Council installs and maintains two defibrillators – one in the adopted telephone box on Plymouth Road and one on the Follaton Shop (subject to agreement of the shop/building owner). If the Committee is supportive of the idea, then their recommendation to Full Council should include approval for the purchase of two IPAD SP1 defibrillator [the same model as the two existing TTC maintained defibrillators) and locked cabinet bundles (£1245 +VAT each) and signage to convert the telephone box (£85 +VAT), total cost £2575 +VAT.
It was **AGREED** to look at training if the defibrillator purchase and installation is approved.

4. **Community Grant Applications.** – To **RECOMMEND** to the Council Matters Committee that the Totnes Trust application is not funded given the uncertainty over future public access of the site; and to make the Totnes Trust aware of the grants page on the Town Council website that may have grants for public art and sculpture.

5. **Budget.**

a. **review the Environment and Public Realm budget expenditure.**

Noted.

b. **Consider the budget for 2027/28.**

Environment/Public Realm PROPOSED 2027/28	
Totnes Gardens	£3500
Public Art / Graffiti management (e.g. railway bridge painting)	£10000
Town Centre Improvements (e.g. VAS hire/purchase, cooler roofs for bus shelters, wild areas – Castle Meadow and Cemetery, 'replacement 'Welcome to Totnes' signage)	£20000
Grants	£5000
TOTAL	£38500

6. **Delivery Plan Review**

Noted. Cllrs raised:

- Continued interactions with the foundry over odours and noise; South West Water about noise from the water treatment works - if SHDC Environmental Health are able to attend the November meeting these points can be discussed with them. To **RECOMMEND** to the Town Matters Committee that the Council writes to SHDC Environmental Health about the complaints related to these two locations and requesting that they provide sound and data collection for both sites. Cllr Robshaw has offered to the draft letter following the Town Matters Committee.
- The internal emergency plan, suggesting that an informal session for all Cllrs is held before the plan goes to the Council Matters Committee in November; and
- Noise disturbance from Tuesday evening motorbike meetings on Steamer Quay. The Officer will make local police officers aware of this regular event.

7. **Note the date of the next meetings – proposed 4.30pm on Wednesday 18th November 2026** in the Guildhall and 20th January 2027. Noted. Cllr Auletta gave her apologies for the November meeting.

Meeting closed at 6.50pm.

ITEM 4 – ST JOHN’S PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE RANGE EXTENSION CONSULTATION

The Town Council has received the following email from Devon County Council:

“The Academies for Character and Excellence (ACE) Trust is proposing to extend the age range of Totnes St John’s CE Primary School from 4–11 years to 2–11 years with effect from January 2027.

The proposal forms part of a planned transition from the current committee-run Daisy Pre-School provision to a school-based nursery operated by ACE, subject to the outcome of consultation and the necessary governance, legal, property and funding-agreement processes.”

Details of the proposed age range extension from the consultation website are below:

Consultation From

07/09/2026

Until

02/10/2026

Proposal

The Academies for Character and Excellence (ACE) Trust is proposing to extend the age range of Totnes St John’s CE Primary School from 4–11 years to 2–11 years with effect from January 2027. The proposal forms part of a planned transition from the current committee-run Daisy Pre-School provision to a school-based nursery operated by ACE, subject to the outcome of consultation and the necessary governance, legal, property and funding-agreement processes.

Background

Daisy Pre-School is currently an externally governed, committee-run early years provision. ACE, Devon County Council, the Diocese and Daisy Trustees have been working collaboratively to secure the long-term future of local early years provision and to plan a safe, well-managed transition.

The preferred approach is for the current committee-run Daisy Pre-School provision to transition to an ACE-operated school-based nursery from January 2027.

Any decision by Daisy regarding cessation of its current provision remains subject to Daisy Trustees’ own governance and decision-making.

The transition is also subject to consultation and completion of the necessary staffing, legal, property and funding-agreement processes.

The Department for Education (DfE) South West Region’s Group has confirmed that it is supportive in principle of the overall proposal and proposed approach. The January 2027 change relates specifically to the extension from 4–11 to 2–11.

ACE also has a longer-term ambition, subject to a successful application to the Department for Education’s Phase 3 School-Based Nursery (SBN) capital funding programme, to further develop nursery provision at Totnes St John’s. This would include introducing baby and under-two provision and moving to a 0–11 age range. Any proposed change to the school’s age range would be subject to a separate consultation.

Nursery Provision

- Initial January 2027 provision for children aged 2–4 years.
- ACE's longer-term ambition is to expand the early years offer to include babies and children under two, subject to successful Phase 3 School-Based Nursery funding, a separate consultation and the appropriate Ofsted registration.
- The detailed future capacity and age mix will be confirmed through the separate Phase 3 planning and sufficiency process.
- The longer-term model is intended to operate for 52 weeks with extended hours, wraparound and holiday childcare.

The nursery will operate from its current building as part of Totnes St John's CofE Primary School and The Academies for Character and Excellence. ACE has established experience in delivering early years provision and has Trust-wide systems for safeguarding, SEND, curriculum development, quality assurance, staff training, finance and operational oversight. Subject to successful Phase 3 funding, the accommodation will then be remodelled and enhanced to support the later expansion of provision, including babies and children under two.

Rationale for Change

- Secure the long-term viability and continuity of local early years provision through the proposed transition from the current committee-run Daisy Pre-School model to an ACE-operated school-based nursery.
- Provide stronger governance, financial oversight and operational support through ACE.
- Ensure continuity of care and education for children already attending the setting.
- Create a seamless early years pathway into Reception and through the wider school.
- Support earlier identification of SEND and other needs through closer working with school staff.
- Strengthen family engagement and school readiness, particularly in an area of disadvantage.
- Provide staff with access to wider Trust systems, training, leadership and professional development.
- Create the platform for a later expansion to baby provision, extended hours, wraparound and 52-week childcare.

Continuity of Provision

The intention is to build on the existing strengths, relationships and local knowledge of Daisy Pre-School. ACE will seek to preserve continuity for children and families through a carefully managed transition.

Staffing implications will be considered separately through the appropriate legal and consultation processes, including consideration of whether TUPE applies and, if so, which employees are assigned to the transferring provision. The nursery will benefit from stronger links with Totnes St John's, including safeguarding, SEND, curriculum and transition support.

Staffing

ACE and Daisy will take appropriate employment-law advice and follow the required information and consultation processes in relation to staffing.

The potential application of TUPE, and which employees may be in scope, will be determined through that process having regard to the roles assigned to the Daisy provision, including any roles shared across more than one service or setting. No assumption is made within this consultation about the transfer of any particular individual or role.

Where employees transfer to ACE under TUPE, their statutory rights will be protected. Future staffing arrangements for the school-based nursery will be planned around safe and effective operation, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements, statutory ratios and the needs of the children.

Funding & Sustainability

The proposal is designed to secure a financially sustainable future for the provision within ACE's governance and financial management arrangements.

The nursery will continue to be funded through early years entitlements and parental income.

The later baby/under-two expansion is being developed for inclusion in Devon County Council's Phase 3 School-Based Nursery funding proposal to the DfE and any associated capital works will be subject to grant award and required approvals.

Equality, Inclusion and Wider Impact

The proposal is expected to have a positive impact by securing local early years provision, strengthening transition into Reception, supporting language, communication, physical, social and emotional development, and enabling earlier identification of children's needs.

Totnes St John's serves an area of disadvantage, making early access, family engagement and school readiness particularly important. Inclusive provision will be available to children and families in line with statutory requirements, including children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Devon County Council will separately assess childcare sufficiency and any potential impact on other local early years providers.

The Process

ACE is consulting parents, carers, staff, local residents, early years providers, community stakeholders, the Diocese and other interested parties on the proposal to extend the school's age range from 4–11 to 2–11 from January 2027 and integrate Daisy Pre-School into the school.

This consultation does not determine the later 0–11 change; that will be consulted on separately. The consultation forms an important part of the Trust's decision-making process. All responses received will be carefully considered before a final decision is made. The Trust will review the feedback alongside Local Authority advice, the educational case, operational arrangements and the relevant statutory requirements.

Proposed Timeline

Stage	Date / period
Consultation	7 September to 2 October 2026
Review of responses and ACE decision	After 2 October 2026
TUPE / legal / operational mobilisation	Autumn 2026
Proposed implementation of 2-11 age range	January 2027
Separate consultation on 2-11 to 0-11 phase	Spring 2027 – exact dates to be confirmed
Target baby / under two phase, subject to funding and approvals	September 2027

Responding to the Consultation

We welcome comments, feedback and questions from parents, carers, staff, local residents, early years providers, community groups and other interested stakeholders.

Responses can be submitted by sending an email to Sam Ward: Email:

sam.ward@acexcellence.co.uk

Post: Sam Ward, c/o Totnes St John's CE Primary School, Pathfields, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5TZ

Please mark responses: Totnes Nursery Consultation Response

ITEM 5 – BURKE AND WILLS DISPLAY

At the July Committee, some members spoke about the current Burke and Wills display in the Guildhall and whether it is suitable to be retained given cultural sensitivities. It was agreed to give Cllrs time to view the display ahead of discussion at this meeting.

As agreed by Committee earlier this year, Council Officers have placed a sign on the display which says “Ongoing consideration is being given to the update of this display to fully reflect all impacts of the Burke and Wills expedition on the indigenous peoples.”

ITEM 6 – PLANT-BASED COUNCIL CATERING

Following discussion and a recommendation from the Town Matters Committee, at the April 2026 Full Council it was resolved that food provided for Council functions is locally produced and sustainably sourced, with a balance in favour of vegetarian and vegan options catered for.

This resolution does not mean that meat and fish options – if sustainably sourced and locally produced - are not catered for. For example, for Mayor Making in May 2026, a local business provided the catering which included five sandwich/wrap fillings including: one vegan; one meat; and 3 vegetarian (egg and two cheese). The caterer found it easier to make all vegan cakes than a mix of vegan and non-vegan versions.

Standing Orders ‘Section 11 – Previous Resolutions’ states:

- a) A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 3 Councillors to be given to the Proper Officer.
- b) When a motion moved pursuant to Standing Order 11(a) above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further six months.

With the resolution being made by Full Council six months ago in October this position can be reviewed by Committee.

ITEM 9 – OPEN SPACES, SPORTS, RECREATION AND WELLBEING PLAN UPDATE

At the July Committee, it was agreed to discuss the OSSRW Projects which are set out in the table below. At Full Council in February 2026 it was agreed that the Council's priority for Borough Park was resurfacing of the Multi-Use Games Area.

South Hams District Council has confirmed the following S106 funding is available for the town (and its sources – see table below) and the type of funding in the Bridgetown area:

- £17,122 for cycle and pedestrian improvements
- £8,817 for community facilities

For the £17,122

- It's been agreed that £10k will be used to extend the path at Longmarsh.
- £7,122 will remain for future cycle and pedestrian improvement projects. This could include improving the path through the open space alongside of St John's School (if LiveWest are not already doing that as part of rebuilding the Parkers Way flats).

For the £8,817

- This is likely to be used at Elmhurst Park on a replacement youth shelter and potentially some calisthenics type equipment. The detail of this is still to be decided and would form part of a tender later in the year. It would likely require some SHDC capital funds to match. The callisthenics equipment would not have any moving parts so is different to some of the other outdoor gym equipment.

Parish	Planning application	Amount	What the funds have to be spent on	Spend/commit by
Berry Pomeroy	Great Court Farm 03/2163/14/O	Amount remaining TBC (between £2k and £9k depending on final costs of tarmacking works at Borough Park)	Playing pitches and outdoor recreation facilities at KEVICC and/or Borough Park	02/09/2030
		£17,122.96 remaining	Bridgetown Corridor Contribution - Cycle and pedestrian improvements works in the Bridgetown Corridor	None specified
Totnes	Riverside (Camomile Lawn) 56/0447/12/O	£8,817.44 remaining	Provision of playing fields benefiting residents of Totnes and/or community facilities in the Bridgetown area of Totnes and/or community facilities on the site	None specified
	Coco's Nursery, Ashburton Rd (56/2221/15/O)	£21,608.91	Sports and recreation facilities at Borough Park	1st instalment 06/06/2032, 2 nd instalment 20/05/2034

Totnes Town Council OSSRW – Potential Projects

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/wi nter 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				
Play facilities (ref H6)	Borough Park	Renewal/replacement of equipment to improve offer.		SHDC				

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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			
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.			

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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.					
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			
Older children play facility (ref H)		Facility provision for 10-16 year olds	Facilities for this age group is under provisioned.					
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.					

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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 E23)	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 and cycle links within Totnes (ref E and E23)	A385 between Gerston Cross and Ashprington turn	Reduce speed limit from 60mph to 40 mph to reduce risk to those coming from Jackman's Lane or Harpers Hill via Green Lane to Bowden Pillars and on to Fishchowter's lane	Improves safety at the Gerston Cross road crossing	Within Totnes				
Safer pedestrian and cycle links within Totnes (ref E7)	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	New footpath between Smithfield	Improve the existing path under the railway line and on to Mill stream. A new bridge is required over the stream.	Improves access to green space and provides a new route from Follaton towards the station	Totnes and Dartington				

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Totnes (ref E and E23)	and Lower Copland Lane	The current path to Copeland Lane has a good surface						
Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbouring parishes (ref E2 and E18)	Improvements 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 SX8248 5788) PROW between Footpath 8 and the drive to Sharpham house (SX8196 5813 to SX8214 5757 via SX8248 5788)	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				
Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbouring parishes (ref E and E23)	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.				

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Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbourin g parishes (ref E and E23)	Improve the surface of the path from Bourton to Littlehempst on	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 Littlehempsto n. Part of JMH Trail				
Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbourin g parishes (ref E and E23)	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 SX7939 6345, a path to SX7910 6361 and a track to the road at SX7848 6356	This route is regularly used, but is not a PROW. Potential new cycle route to Buckfastleigh	Totnes, Dartington and Totnes Ramblers				
Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbourin g parishes (ref E and E23)	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 ?	

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Safer pedestrian and cycle links between Totnes and neighbourin g parishes (ref E and E23)	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 ?	