

PAIGNTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

- Blatchcombe
- Clifton with Maidenway
- Goodrington, Roselands & Hookhills
- Paignton Town
- Preston



DRAFT MINUTES OF A FORUM & STEERING GROUP MEETING

held in the Gerston Chapel Hall, Torquay Road, Paignton
at 6.30pm Thursday 19 May 2016

www.paigntonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

www.torbay.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

In Attendance:

Pam Bristow, Roger Bristow, Anne-Marie Curror, Ian Curror, Eileen Donovan, John Gibson, Alan Hill, Karen Jemmett, Helen Kummer, Leaf Lovejoy, Sam Moss, Damian Offer (guest speaker), Mike Parkes (Minutes), David Pickhaver, Richard Stevens, David Watts (Chairman), Ann Waite, David Wotton. .

Apologies:

Carole Box, Cllr Ian Doggett, Paula Hermes, Anne Jones, Nigel Jones, Richard Parish.

AGENDA ITEM – 1. APOLOGIES RECEIVED AND WELCOME

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Gerston Chapel for the use of their hall. Apologies received were as listed above.

AGENDA ITEM – 2. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LAST FORUM & STEERING GROUP MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

2.a.(i) Having displayed the previously circulated Agenda on-screen, the draft minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2016 were then agreed a true record. Proposed by Roger Bristow and seconded by Anne-Marie Curror.

2.a (ii) **Listing of two Royal Mail Letterboxes.** DP said that the relevant information had now been passed to Hal Bishop, the L.A.'s conservation specialist. (Previous Minutes para 2.a.(i)).

2.b. **Letter regarding proposed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).** Displaying the amended letter on-screen, the Chairman confirmed that the letter had been sent to the Council as requested at the last meeting (Previous Minutes para 3.f). The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the matter on 27 April 16 and full Council on 11 May 16 (Minutes awaited). David Pickhaver reported that an outcome is considered likely this September after Examination. An Inspector has not yet been named.

2.c. **Proposed SDC Sportsfield and facilities at White Rock.** (P/2016/0188). The letter requested at the last meeting had been sent on 4 May 16 on behalf of the Forum and was displayed on-screen. Points made were as discussed at the last meeting i.e.: inclusion of outdoor lighting, impact on nearby AONB, impact on protected bats (hence requirement of an HRA) and it not being clear if it can be considered a discharge of details to outline consent. (Previous Minutes para 3.g). The meeting fully endorsed the contents of the letter. It was noted there has been no decision yet on the application.

AGENDA ITEM – 3. PROJECT PLAN PROGRESS.

3.a. **Green Infrastructure – a Presentation by Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust (TC&CT).** The Chairman introduced Damian Offer, Director TC&C who had been in post 2 years. DO said that TC&CT's strapline was: "Making Torbay a better place for people and wildlife" and explained that it is an independent environmental charity that exists to protect and manage Torbay's special natural environment and to provide recreational opportunities. It has responsibility for: 1 x special Area of Conservation (SAC) and National Nature Reserve (NNR), 7 x sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), 2 x Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM), 14 x County Wildlife Sites, 3 x Local Nature Reserves, 1 x Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS), 4 x Listed Buildings. Prior to DO's joining, the Trust had written the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan which had been a source document for

the Local Plan. It was acknowledged that this Delivery Plan might be in need of updating but there were no current plans to do so.

3.a.(i) 1,750 acres of Torbay Council land had been leased to TC&CT for 60 years (there are 45 years remaining on this lease). Torbay Council pays an annual management fee to the Trust for managing the land. This fee has varied over time and in 1999 was £199,900 and for 2016/17 is £183,000. In managing and looking after this land, it was considered that the Trust delivered a cost effective service for the Council.

3.a.(ii) When asked how the Forum could assist the Trust, DO said in publicising its on-going need for volunteers and the identification of what areas and items are most important to the community. A vote of thanks was proposed to DO for an interesting and informative presentation. Further information on the work of the Trust and how to join can be found at: www.countryside-trust.org.uk

3.b. **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).** The meeting considered the replies received to the Screening Opinion consultation draft from the three statutory SEA bodies. The replies circulated prior to the meeting were displayed on screen. Historic England and the Environment Agency have agreed that no SEA is needed but Natural England has requested further information and offered a meeting to discuss further. The Chairman confirmed he is meeting with NE on 23 May 16. Additionally, the 'Locality' consultant has offered further assistance if it be needed.

3.b.(i) The meeting noted that there remains no agreed definition of 'allocation' in the LP, which goes to the root of how the LP at 8,900 additional homes have been assessed for impact. Basic concerns remain as:

- Net growth in jobs is failing to take place
- The past year has seen a big increase in homes vacant for more than 6 months
- There is a slow up in housing starts & completions ('market signals')
- High net inward migration is still being assumed

3.b.(ii) DP explained that he had reservations about the actual number of houses that had been vacant for six months or more and was currently investigating the situation. He also felt that the housing plan to 2020 was the responsibility of the LA and not that of the Neighbourhood Forum. Additionally, he said that the LA did not have 'an axe to grind' with the Environmental Assessment but did take issue with its socio-economic aspects.

3.b.(iii) The meeting agreed unanimously that the Forum should continue to review the situation following the meeting with Natural England.

3.c. **Reference Group Meeting (held 17 May 16).** The Chairman referred to the letter sent to the Council on 12 May 16 circulated prior to the meeting. He gave feedback on points made at this meeting by each of the three Neighbourhood fora. General points included:

- Council notice SEA consultants taking time to understand LP
- Council would prefer to avoid DPDs but would be 'town by town'
- CIL examination likely June/September (item 2b above)
- Brownfield 'Pilot' register list of sites will be made available to NPFs
- Agreed try to aim for single Referendum, but might not prove possible
- Referendum outcome before 31 March (target date) but a 'challenging' timetable

It had been agreed to hold a further Reference Group Meeting sometime in July 2016.

3.c.(i) Copies of the Local Plan were still being printed as at 19 May 16. Council lawyers were still deliberating on which policies would be considered as 'strategic'.

3.d. **Paignton Hospital closure.** The consultation has been postponed.

3.e. **Torbay School relocation to Parkfield.** Views were being sought by 30 May 16; further information states the consultation limitations that apply:

https://www.torbay.gov.uk/surveys/Relocation%20of%20Torbay%20School/relocation_torbay_school.htm

The meeting agreed that concerns centred around:

- demographic assumptions (school roll v ONS projections)
- future use of vacated Preston site for larger number of pupils
- unsuitability of Parkfield as a school site
- The suggestion of an alternative relocation to west of Paignton was not appropriate

In order to meet the deadline, it was agreed that the Executive Committee would assist the Chairman to write a letter (based on the above points) on behalf of the Forum.

AGENDA ITEM – 4. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Thu 16 Jun 16 at 6.30pm in the Gerston Hall, Paignton with further dates agreed as:

- Thu 21 Jul 2016
- Thu 18 Aug 2016
- Thu 15 Sep 2016
- Thu 20 Oct 2016
- Thu 17 Nov 2016
- Thu 15 Dec 2016

The meeting closed at 20:45hrs