

PAIGNTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

- Clifton with Maidenway
- Collaton St Mary
- Goodrington with Roselands
- Kings Ash
- Preston
- Roundham with Hyde
- and Hookhills



DRAFT MINUTES OF FORUM & STEERING GROUP MEETING **held electronically via Zoom at 7:00pm Wednesday 30 September 2020**

www.paigntonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

www.torbay.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

In Attendance: Jane Barnby, Jim Blackwell, Pam Bristow, Roger Bristow, Peter Crawley, Maggi Douglas-Dunbar, Catherine Fritz (Chair), Andrew Gunther, Joanne Hadley, Chris Harvey, Janet Jones, Nigel Jones, Karen Kennedy, Andrew Lavey, Maggie Loates (Secretary), Judith Mills, Mike Parkes, David Wotton

Prior to the start of the meeting, Jim Blackwell (**Jim B**), Senior Planning Officer, and Andrew Gunther (**AG**), Senior Planning & Public Health Officer, Torbay Council (**TC**), gave an illustrated talk on 'active travel' and the government's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (**LCWIP**). **AG** stated that there has been a greater demand for active travel since the Covid-19 pandemic. TC has formulated a corporate plan for cycling and walking which will provide health, economic and tourism benefits to Torbay. It will address climate change, reduce high emissions from road transport, and limit the road maintenance required in the Bay. TC will need different and creative thinking, coordination between departments, production of evidence for the best result, public engagement, and bold decision-making on the part of TC.

Jim B stated that the LCWIP envisions segregated cycle routes in urban areas. He noted that 'active travel' performance in an area will influence funding. This includes things such as the use of e-bikes, and the cycle infrastructure design. The LCWIP will be a 6-stage process. The Local Plan (**LP**) and Neighbourhood Plan (**NP**) will be taken into consideration, as well as local best practice ideas and examples, to provide liveable neighbourhoods. Nationally, £2bn will be made available. In Torbay, existing local patterns will be reviewed and suggested improvements will be considered. There will be network planning for cycling trails, such as beach trails, a zoo trail, a hospital trail, and a Torquay town trail. Walking planning will also be undertaken. The next steps are prioritisation, production of an initial draft of the plan, and stakeholder consultation.

Jane Barnby (**Jane B**) said there should be more emphasis on walking. **AG** agreed this was very important. Mike Parkes (**MP**) noted there were no dedicated cycleways in Yalberton Valley despite it being a tourist area and it being shown on the Torbay Cycle Network map as an 'advisory cycle route'. He went on to say that The Torbay Green Infrastructure Plan also contained plans to extend cycle routes from Great Parks to Yalberton valley and Stoke Gabriel. **Jim B** said they were working on that. Joanne Hadley asked how low income people would afford bikes. **Jim B** said deprivation data would be used, with which **AG** agreed, noting that this was being addressed and there were schemes available to help with this. Roger Bristow (**RB**) said that the A385 (Totnes Road) was dangerous for cyclists. There are frequent accidents and holdups. It needs the appropriate infrastructure. He asked if TC knew the percentage of people in Paignton who cycle. **MP** expressed his concern regarding how Torbay Council monitored proposals/promises from developers and, as an example, quoted from a document on the White Rock planning Application website (P/2011/0197 - 'Travel Plan' document dated 6 Aug 15). Amongst other assurances given, it appeared that the developer had committed to appoint their own part time Travel Plan Officer who would liaise with the Torbay Council Transport Plan Officer and amongst other things, would ensure that new residents could claim a £50 voucher towards a new cycle **MP**

wondered how the Council monitored such a commitment. **AG** said this was not an unusual practice, but he doesn't know if this is being monitored. In response to **RB**'s question, he doesn't know the percentage, but says more people are now using e-bikes. The Chair thanked **Jim B** and **AG** for their presentation and said she would pass the information on to the local Community Partnerships.

Agenda Item 1: - Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared that a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 2: - Apologies: Alan Hill, Helen Kummer, Andrew Morrell, Roz Morrell

Agenda Item 3: - Ratification of the minutes from the last meeting – 27 August 2020: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 27 August 2020 were approved. Proposed by Catherine Fritz (**CF**), seconded by **PB** and unanimously approved by the members.

Agenda Item 4: - Matters arising: **CF** raised the subject of Forum monitoring of developer promises in planning applications. **MP** will provide an outline at the next meeting. With regard to planning application P/2011/0197 – White Rock, **MP** reported that he found it interesting that the last document was added on 25 September 2020 and is the Section 106 agreement, which is dated 25 April 2013, lists certain developer agreements. He queried how TC was monitoring such agreements. **CF** said that the final decision had not been posted but was now being done. **Jane B** stated that despite such promises, officers had not kept to the documents, in particular on White Rock and Hayes Road. She believed it was not a lack of manpower but that the officers were uninterested in following up. She suggested that the Forum should be making a big fuss about this. David Wotton (**DW**) said he had an outstanding Freedom of Information (**FOI**) request to TC since last June regarding Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (**CIL**) requests. TC's response is that it can't provide an answer. **CF** said that TC has set up a CIL Spend Panel, which has been approved by the Cabinet. The Forum will get to review bid applications for CIL money. TC is addressing CIL requests under an Environmental Impact Report and not an FOI. **CF** said she will follow up with Dave Edmondson, the new head of TC planning.

Agenda Item 5: - Report from the Chair: The Chair reported that the Forum would now be able to comment at TC Planning Committee (**PC**) meetings. The relevant officer will have the **LP** and Paignton Neighbourhood Plan (**PNP**) policies at PC meetings and the Forum representative will be able to speak to correct any errors. The recent decision taken by the PC where the officer provided an incorrect interpretation of the PNP is not sound. The Chair noted that there is currently a consultation regarding proposed government changes to the present planning system. David Pickhaver circulated TC's response and noted how valuable NPs are. The Chair reported that Dave Chetwyn is helping the Forum to make the PNP easier to work with.

The Chair noted that there is currently a consultation running on pavement parking. **RB** stated that TC had passed a bylaw banning parking on green verges and pavements but had then decided not to enforce the ordinance.

Agenda Item 6: - Secretary's Report: The Secretary reported that as of as of 30 September 2020, the Forum has 306 members and associate members; 261 members receive documents and communications by email; 45 members who do not have email receive documents and communications by post; 41 envelopes are sent out by 2nd class post to members without email.

Agenda Item 7: - Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement: The Treasurer was not present at the meeting. **CF** reported that she was informed that the Forum currently has £9,256.09 in the bank. The expenses were comprised of printing costs, stamps, and flowers for Christine Watts marking the one-year anniversary of the death of our founder, David Watts. The Forum has no regular source of income.

Agenda Item 8: - Report from the Friends of Little Blagdon Farm regarding Judicial Review – the Forum contributed £2000 toward that action – Sam Moss / Paula Hermes:

Neither representative of the Friends of Little Blagdon Farm was present at the meeting. **RB** indicated that there was no change to the status of the Judicial Review. They were still waiting to hear from the judge.

Agenda Item 9: - Report on requests for call-in for Collaton St. Mary sites (Bloor and Taylor Wimpey): **RB** stated that he had read the response of the MCHLG to the call-in and would recommend following the advice to put in a complaint to TC. **CF** asked **RB** if he would handle this, to which **RB** agreed, although he pointed out that this may be time-barred because the original decision was made quite a long time ago. **CF** said Anne-Marie Bond should be copied as she was the person who handled complaints for TC, and also her junior, Amanda Barlow.

Agenda Item 10: - Report on Land Release Fund (LRF) sites and discussion of alternative approach for the sites: **CF** reported that the developers had withdrawn their tender as they had been found not to be up to scratch. **RB** noted that choosing a developer had currently been suspended by TC. **CF** suggested that development may be handled by Tor Vista, a company under the aegis of the Torbay Development Agency (TDA), which would include social housing, but there was no firm decision on this.

Agenda Item 11: - AOB: Judith Mills advised the Forum that TC has a recycling and waste consultation in progress. A press release has been sent out to the Community Partnerships. She will forward the press release to the Forum Secretary who will disseminate it to all email recipients. **RB** stated that Collaton St. Mary did not have a Community Partnership. **CF** added that neither did Kings Ash Ward.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Agenda Item 12: – Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on **Thursday 29 October, starting at 6:45 pm via Zoom.** The room will open at approximately 6:30 pm.