24 April 2024

**Totnes & District Traffic & Transport Forum**

Meeting Notes

1. **Introductions**

Those Present: Graham Bennett (chair) Cllrs Auletta, Presswell, Hodgson, Cummings, Beavis, Cooper and Roberts; plus PW, VC, AF, VW, SG, RB and GE

**Apologies:** JF, TB, TP, GE-D

**Note keeping**: Lisa Baumback

GB explained that the last Forum meeting was our AGM. Their Minutes are on the TTC website and will be for the next AGM’s approval. Key matters arising will be taken onto the Steering Group.

1. **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP)**

South Hams District Council (SHDC) has been working with a team of consultants to support Active Travel by creating a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the area. Whilst this is still in the early stages, there will be some money available at some point in the future to put some of the interventions in place in order to improve active travel in the area.

A consultation event had been planned for Totnes the day before (23 April) but this had been postponed. In readiness for the consultation event (date to be advised), the interactive map which identifies the barriers to active travel in the South Hams and the interventions that could be put in place to overcome these barriers, was shared and an explanation of how it works was given. The map can be found here: <https://pjassoc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=d4ff52636eb743b7a49e5ef1b722bc05>

It was noted that some information was incorrect. This is due to the work being carried out by independent consultants who lack some local knowledge. However, they have a good understanding of the types of interventions that work in other areas. When the consultation is launched, it will be important for everyone to comment on the areas of the map that are most important to their community and/or interest.

**Action:**

Members are encouraged comment on the consultation when it opens and show support for LCWIP proposals in general to ensure that funding is allocated to the town. Members are asked to focus on the areas on the map that are most pertinent to them. Points to consider are:

* Are there any ‘Barriers’ and ‘Interventions’ missing from the consultants’ analysis?
* Are there any ‘Interventions’ shown that would not be wanted?
* Could any of the ‘Interventions’ be adjusted to make them more effective?
1. **Receipt of any community matters**

**3.1 The New Dart Valley Cycle Trail**

A family day has been planned to either walk or cycle the proposed new route for The New Dart Valley Cycle Trail on Sunday 30 June 2024. Meet at Dartington Deer Park Car Park at 10am and finish at approximately 1:30pm.

Please see copy of John Forte’s report is ATTACHED.

Contact johnforte@btinternet.com for further information.

**3.2 Reports from Councillor Hodgson**

**Potholes:** Many of these are occurring because the understory of the road is collapsing so the potholes get filled then quickly break again.

**Pathfields Near Totnes St John’s Primary School –** This has been noted as a dangerous area to cross in the past which is why it is good to see the Zebra crossing near the school identified as an intervention on the LCWIP interactive map. Cllr Hodgson met with a road safety team there on Monday this week but it was particularly quiet. This is why it’s important for people to comment when the LCWIP consultation opens.

**Castle Street –** There was a meeting earlier this week to discuss how to resolve the issue with wide vehicles driving up Castle Street and colliding with the bay window of one of the buildings. This has happened on more than one occasion. It was identified that a sign further down the hill had the wrong width on it. Also, the bollard outside the house is quite short. As a first intervention, Totnes Town Council are going to provide one of the old, tall, cast-iron finger posts from the town to Devon County Council who will install it in place of the current shorter bollard which should hopefully deter lorries from trying to squeeze through. Additionally, the sign will be replaced to display the correct maximum width of the road. Further interventions may need to take place if these are unsuccessful.

1. **Date of next meeting Wednesday 31 July 2024 6.30 to 7.10pm**

Please get in touch if you have a topic you think should be the focus for the next Forum meeting.

THE NEW DART VALLEY CYCLE TRAIL

Family day walk or cycle of the proposed route

**Sunday 30th June 2024**

Under the auspices of Sustainable Staverton (a group incorporated by Staverton Parish Council), we plan to introduce the wider community to this exciting new initiative to create a safe active travel route for walkers and cyclists between Totnes and Buckfastleigh via the Dartington Estate and Staverton.

The proposed trail has two phases. Phase One covers the route from Totnes to Riverford Field Kitchen. Phase Two covers the route from the Field Kitchen to Buckfastleigh.

**PLAN FOR THE DAY**

Meet in the Deer Park carpark at the end of Warren Lane in Dartington estate at 10am on Sunday 30th June. After a brief introduction, walkers and cyclists will proceed through North Woods to Staverton Mill via Staverton Bridge, aiming to arrive by 11am where refreshments will be provided by Sustainable Staverton. We will make a presentation of the proposed route, after which attendees may either return to Dartington or continue the journey via quiet lanes to Riverford Field Kitchen.

From Staverton Mill, we’ll make our way on quiet lanes along the proposed route to the Field Kitchen. At this point, cyclists may cycle on to Buckfastleigh before turning around and returning to the Field Kitchen to meet up with the walkers again. We hope to have a designated area set aside for people to eat their own packed lunches along with a free raffle to encourage people making the journey. It is estimated the event will end at approximately 1.30pm at The Field Kitchen.

The event will have stewards along the route to guide and keep people safe. However, it should be noted that on emerging from North Woods, we will be on narrow roads and extra care is needed, particularly for those with young children. It should also be noted that the paths through North Woods are very uneven and so those with mobility issues may find this part of the route difficult to negotiate.

Contact johnforte@btinternet.com for further information