MINUTES OF TORQUAY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
AGM
Wednesday 5th May, 2021 7.00pm
By Zoom

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Present:
Officers of the Steering Group: Rodney Horder (Chair), Pat Bishop (Treasurer)
Steering Group Members: Chris Davies, Margaret Forbes-Hamilton, Nigel Goodman, John Rawson, Sue Kenway, Alan Griffey, Roger Carter, William Taylor, Tracey Cabache, (Minutes).
Members of the public: Barry Dunnage, Helen Le Melliere, David Ward (part)
Apologies: Julie Brandon, Darren Cowell, Sally Baglin

Item	
1.	**Minute taker**
	Rodney informed the meeting that Tracey had offered to take the minutes.
2.	**Adoption of Agenda**
	Rodney welcomed those present. The meeting is quorate with more than 10 members present. The members of the public in attendance were invited to share their interests. Barry is a member of the Shiphay Community Partnership, resident of Edginswell and participated in the Forum in its early years. Helen is the secretary of the Torre and Upton Community Partnership, and David (who joined later) is a member of the St Marychurch Community Partnership and BRA (Babbacombe Residents Association). The agenda was agreed.
3.	**Apologies for absence**
	Apologies has been received from Sally Baglin , Julie Brandon and Darren Cowell – the latter was at a meeting of the Paignton Neighbourhood Forum re the Paignton Sea Wall.

4.	**Minutes of Public Meeting 05 June 2017**
	The minutes were noted.
5.	**Matters arising**
	Given the last public meeting was June 2017 it was acknowledged that the matters arising had either been dealt with, or events would have overtaken them. The Chair called for questions, but there were none.
6.	**Chairman's Report**
	Rodney shared the following report: *I would like to start by recognizing and thanking Leon Butler who has lived and breathed both the Torbay Local Plan and the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan since 2012. Both Leon and the Steering Group members have devoted many hours of their own time to these Plans, and I am disappointed that the Planning Committee and some Officers do not always appear to give them the recognition they deserve.* *I offered my services to act as Chair when Leon stood down as I feared that there might be a potential vacuum until we could hold a public meeting. Leon's shoes will be difficult to fill, but I have made a start, within the constraints of the lockdown restrictions. In particular, I am keen to share out more of the work of the Forum to the Community Partnerships, and I am grateful for the support I have received so far. I am pleased that the Neighbourhood Fora are now offered the opportunity to speak at the Planning Committee on all Planning Applications under consideration. I have used this opportunity to speak both in support and in objection, which contributes to our credibility. I believe that there are opportunities to make the Planning Committee Meetings more efficient and effective, and I hope to be able to work with the Members and Council Officers to achieve this.* *Following the Inglewood Appeal, in which the Inspector tilted the Planning Balance against Torbay's Development Policies owing to the lack of housing delivery, we need to work hard to find as many sites as possible, compliant with our Policies, to provide new housing. But the Government's rules unfairly work against us, as delivery is outside the control of the Council and ourselves; we are at the mercy of landbanking by developers. It is totally unacceptable for the Inglewood Appeal to be allowed on the basis of a lack of a 3 year housing supply when the developer is not going to deliver for at least 4 years. I want to take this up with our MPs as it flies in the face of the Localism Act 2011. The rules need to be changed such that the Planning Authority is assessed on consents rather than delivery by developers. Too many consents, such as the 2010 Conway Court Hotel, are allowed to lapse.* *It was also interesting to note during the Appeal hearing that Counsel for the Developer was challenging whether statements made by the Paignton Neighbourhood Forum were agreed by the Forum or were the work of individuals. I have therefore started a system where our Consultee responses*

DRAFT

	to Planning Applications and statements made to the Planning Committee are agreed by the Steering Group. I have also implemented a Planning Policy Checklist that we in Maidencombe used successfully against the major development in Sladnor Park. *Based on our experience with the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan since it was made in 2019, the Steering Group has agreed that we need to strengthen and clarify some of the policies. This will be in tandem with the update of the Local Plan, which is being undertaken by Council Officers, and restricted primarily to housing allocations. I would like to thank Nigel Goodman for taking the lead on this, and for the input of suggested updates received so far.* *I think I have covered the key issues, and no doubt my colleagues will brief you on other items. Meanwhile, I shall be pleased to answer any questions you may wish to raise.* Two questions were raised. Is the Council looking into Judicial Review re the Inglewood outcome? It was confirmed this was being considered. One of the point of challenge is the fact that Neighbourhood plans do not expire until they are at least 2 year's old. It was noted that Kevin Foster MP had covered the Inglewood issue in his latest newsletter. **ACTION: Rodney to follow up with Kevin Foster** Alan Griffey also asked if there was value in compiling community intelligence on new homes that we can see are being developed in our neighbourhoods. Rodney confirmed we need to do this and he has submitted data on this to the Council. See also item 9 below.
7.	**Vice Chair's Report support**
	Darren was unable to be at the meeting so this item was deferred.
8.	**Treasurer report and Accounts**
	Pat shared the financial statement with the meeting – attached as appendix 1. The current balance in the account is £6401.95. No expenditure this year. Pat outlined the expenditure in 2020. Rodney thanked Pat for all her help with the accounts.

DRAFT

9	**Housing Supply**
	Rodney called for those present to alert him to any development we see on the ground of 6 housing units or more (less than 6 falls into the windfall numbers), or any sites that could be potential brownfield sites for housing. The Paignton Neighbourhood Forum are now putting housing allocations in their Plan – they had not been included in their original Neighbourhood Plan. There should be a brownfield site register which would be a useful point of reference – this was confirmed to be on the Council website **ACTION: Brownfield site register to be looked at at the next Steering Group meeting.**
10.	**Neighbourhood Plan update**
	Nigel reported that he has been redrafting aspects of the Plan and its policies to clarify their intent, and has already received comments from some Steering Group members. **ACTION: All CPs need to send in comments particularly on their aspirations. Tracey to chase.** NB. Policies are not going to change. A question was asked if we will need to have another referendum to support the revised draft. It was thought that if the policies are not changing and the Plan is still in line with the Local Plan this was not required. The Local Plan revision is also only going to look at housing numbers – the substantive aspirations and policies of the plan will remain the same. Alan asked if he could contribute as the Friends of the Earth representative. Nigel confirmed he would be happy with comments from anyone.
11.	**Torquay Town Centre**
	In the absence of Julie, who sits on the Torquay Town Deal Board, Rodney updated those present that the investment funding secured will support various regeneration projects. This includes the conversion of some retail to accommodation towards the top of town, the public realm improvements at The Strand, and the accelerated projects at Upton Park, Princess Gardens and Rock Walk – see Torquay Towns Fund - Torbay Council for more details.
12.	**Torbay Together Partnership**
	Rodney reported that Julie has been regularly attending these meetings (as the Community Partnership rep) and we have been lobbying for the Neighbourhood Forums to have a seat on the Partnership.

DRAFT

13.	**Election of Officers**
	Rodney handed over the Chair to Tracey for the election of the Chairperson. Rodney stepped in as an interim chairperson when Leon Butler resigned. It was agreed for this to be ratified at the next AGM. The only nomination was Rodney, those present were unanimous in electing him to the substantive position as Chair. Tracey handed back to Rodney. The position of vice chair and communications are currently held by Darren Cowell and Julie Brandon respectively who could not be present. It was agreed by those present that they be re-elected to these posts providing they happy to carry on in this capacity. Pat Bishop was nominated to be re-elected as treasurer. This was unanimous.
14.	**Steering Group membership**
	The current Steering Group members are: **Rodney Horder** Darren Cowell Julie Brandon **Pat Bishop** Jermaine Atiya-Alla Sally Baglin Andy Baker **Tracey Cabache** **Roger Carter** Steve Darling **Christine Davies** Leanne Engdahl **Margaret Forbes-Hamilton** **Nigel Goodman**

DRAFT

	Alan Griffey **Sue Kenway** Sarah O'Connor Bruce Porter **John Rawson** Brian Roberts **Bill Taylor** Paul Turner Those in bold were present and confirmed they were happy to stay on the Steering Group. Others at the meeting were invited to join. It was noted 3 Community Partnerships were not being regularly represented. It was suggested we cross reference the membership with the original membership framework developed for the Steering Group **ACTION: Review the Steering Group membership at the next Steering Group meeting.** Pat called for more cheque signatories. **ACTION: It was agreed to discuss cheque signatories and minute this at the Steering Group meeting on the 11th May 2021.**
15.	**AOB**
	Conservation policy to go on the next Steering Group agenda
	Rodney thanked everyone for attending, particularly the members of the public and the meeting closed at 19.53.

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