MINUTES OF TORQUAY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
Steering Group
Wednesday 15 December 2021, 7.00pm
By Zoom

Officers of the Steering Group: Rodney Horder (Chair), Cllr Darren Cowell (Vice-Chair), Pat Bishop (Treasurer)
Steering Group Members: Nigel Goodman, Alan Griffey, Sue Kenway, Chris Davies, Julie Brandon, Roger Carter, Tracey Cabache (Minutes).
Apologies: John Rawson, Sarah O'Connor, Margaret Forbes Hamilton, Steve Darling
Guest: Chris Knights, Torbay Hospital

Item	
1.	**Minute taker** Tracey Cabache
2.	**Apologies for absence** John Rawson, Sarah O'Connor, Margaret Forbes Hamilton, Steve Darling
3.	**Torbay Hospital – presentation by Chris Knights** Chris Knights outlined the HIP 2 plans for the rebuild of Torbay Hospital. He presented Option G which is the current plan which has clearly gone through a number of iterations. The plan has a treasury allocation of £350 million, to which the Trust will add a further £20 million. A compete demolition and rebuilding of the hospital was considered – but as that would come at a cost if £1.1 billion, and more phased approach is being explored. Option G includes: i) £20 million extension to Emergency Department with an acute medical unit ii) A new elective care centre (funding still to be confirmed)

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iii) Move off site of the clinical and non-clinical support functions that currently occupy 19 buildings (Autumn 2023)

This will allow for significant development…

iv) 11 new wards of single rooms and the 2nd phase of the elective care centre

v) Planned core centre of theatres, inpatients ward and day care.

vi) Further upgrade of the emergency dept (£37-38 million).

There will also be improvement to the women and children dept and oncology.

This will leave 2 vacant buildings: the Hetherington Building and the Rose Garden. The latter has historical significance so it will be retained and is likely to become a Health and Wellbeing Centre for staff and service users.

The plan is designed to keep within the funds available.

A number of questions were posed and Chris responded:

- The pharmacies will remain on site but will be co-located
- They are still considering how this rebuild might enable the release of some land for Key Worker homes – the area behind the Horizon Centre may lend itself to this kind of development. This is all being discussed with the TDA – alongside the Torquay Town Centre developments.
- Parking also has to be expanded and this will be looked at in the next couple of months – possibly around the Kitson Hall area.
- Contractor portacabins will be stacked up to retain as much parking as possible during the construction period
- The original plan had 70% of beds in single rooms – this was increased to 100% in line with Govt recommendations – and the experience of the pandemic. Chris also explained there are 40 hospitals in this rebuilding programme and many of the specifications have to be similar to save resources.

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	• The new buildings will be built to zero carbon standards. • The costings have been prices at 2027 prices allowing for inflation and an optimism bias of 25% The hope is that the plans will create a hospital for the future. There is currently a £1 million backlog of maintenance. We have an ageing population and we need to facility that can prepare for this. £357 million of the funding will be spent on building works and the remaining £13 million on digital systems. Rodney thanked Chris for his presentation and suggested it would be useful if he could return to the Forum when a planning application was about to be submitted. Chris indicated he was happy to do this and the outline application would likely to be submitted in a year's time.
4.	**Minutes of meeting 09 November 2021** Thanks to Nigel for doing the minutes. Approved after agreed amendments by Sue.
5.	**Matters Arising** To be covered in the agenda.
6.	**Bank Accounts** Pat has circulated the balance of the bank accounts which remains at £6,322.51 Pat has submitted the new signatory documents after some technical difficulties 2-3 weeks ago. Darren and Rodney should now receive a confirmation.

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7.	**Membership of Forum** Roger reminded those present that he will be standing down once a replacement Chair of the Cockington, Chelston and Livermead CP has been found. **ACTION: Tracey to ask the local Community Builder to help with this.** It was noted the Hele and Lower Barton CP and the Barton, Watcombe and the Willows CP are still not sending representatives. Tracey updated the Forum that both groups are relaunching due the pandemic. The former have met twice and have reviewed their section of the Neighbourhood Plan. The latter has met once and will look that this in the New Year.
8.	**Planning Applications** **Planning Committee update** Shame the Lymington Rd did not get through. Awaiting comment from the Environment Agency. This has now been deferred. It will go back on the January agenda. Deadline for their comments were early this week. Hatfield House – Planners dismissal of Neighbourhood Plans is a cause for concern. Rodney raised issue with Wendy Ormsby at meeting, and at the Neighbourhood Planning Meeting Ailsa Delaney said it was a breath of fresh air that the Forum is sharing when they support an application, as well as when they have objections. Rodney needs some help with the statements from the relevant CPs. We have about a week to write and review our statements. Link to Planning Committee Meetings: https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=760 **Review of new Applications** Rowcroft Hospice: want to expand and so will come to the Forum to do a presentation

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	Maidenfield: Additional 6 buildings planned and developer wants to engage – will be addressed through the Residents Association **Current specific Applications** <u>Solar Panels, Nightingale Park</u> We had a presentation previously. Rodney shared that the Forum seemed quite happy with the plans. Are we still supporting this on planning grounds? Pat clarified that her comments were related to policy not planning. It was agreed to support the application. **ACTION: Rodney to draft a response** <u>Lincombe Keep</u> 3 separate small applications have been submitted. We have been assured these will be viewed together. If they are recommended for approval by Officers they will come to Planning Committee. Forum responses have been submitted. <u>Other</u> Darren advised that the planning application for the scaffolding for the Pavilion is likely to be on the January meeting. Shedden Hall application has been submitted and validated. They have already presented to the TTCCP and the partnership was supportive. Conway Court got approval but there has been no progress. How can we encourage developers to progress? Rodney had asked Kevin Foster MP to raise this in July. There is an issue of increasing costings. We could use the Section 215 process. Can we add Conway Court to this list, and The Palace Hotel. Local business man renovating the burnt out building on Abbey Rd which is good news. Thanks to Darren for helping resolve business rates issues.

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9.	**Housing supply** HELAA follow-up Torbay struggling to meet the Govt housing target (600 new homes per year). There will be a six-week consultation in January. We will get some confidential advance information. There are a number of options being explored. Rodney has written to Kevin Foster MP asking him to meet with Michael Gove to change the algorithms for setting targets. Catherine Fritz is going to do the same to Anthony Mangall MP. Update on Sladnor Park. The developers have taken the Inspectorate to the High Court and have won. So it looks like that the original 2006/2008 development may now progress. It has gone back to the inspectorate for them to likely over-ride the original appeal decision. Did the High Court see all of the information? Deadline for submitting the appeal has passed. But is there any course of action the Forum and Council can take? **ACTION: Chris to request the paperwork on this from Ailsa Delaney, copy request to Darren.**
10.	**Neighbourhood Plan update** Updates currently on hold. Need to see the housing sites that will come out of the local plan Re adding Protected views. **ACTION: Rodney to explore.** It was agreed to apply for Green Space status for Park Crescent. Alan commented that this site has been let go – could do with maintaining – we do not know the owner. Pat added that we have to name the owner as part of the Green Space application. See if the owner's name is on the previous planning application? **ACTION: Alan to send Rodney his text on this separately.** Shiphay CP would like to register a corner plot of land Dart Ave at a Green Space **ACTION: Darren to draw up an application**.

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11.	**Torbay Together Partnership** The Torbay Story is being launched on the 12th January and this is now a virtual meeting. (See attached paper). It was noted the community was conspicuous by its absence in the proposed Torbay Place Leadership Board. It was agreed that we should propose 4 reps from Neighbourhood Forums – one from each Forum. **ACTION: Julie to feed back at the TT meeting** Everyone was encouraged to register for this event so our voices are heard. The link is: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/join-us-for-the-official-launch-of-the-torbay-place-story-registration-219910356797 **ACTION: All those to register if they would like to attend**
12.	**CIL - Review applications** Application form has been drafted by Rodney based on the Cornwall version. Darren commented that we need to include the CPs in the decision making. We also need to align with the criteria the TNF designed previously. **ACTION: Tracey to recirculate the criteria** Re the Maidencombe request for the beach steps and handrailing repairs we need to establish ownership – Council or TCCT **ACTION: Rodney to send an email to Kevin Mowat copied to Steve Darling.**
13	**Civic Voice/Civic Societies (MFH)** This item was carried over until Margaret can attend.
14.	**AOB** Local Government Chronicle – Nigel advised that Darren confirmed that the Council does not have a subscription. Good source of information. Could be in the Chair's name and be circulated to Steering Group members. £308 annual costs for a digital copy. Pat confirmed the only recent expenditure has been website costs.

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	This was approved. **ACTION: Nigel and Pat to progress the subscription** Julie – public vote has gone live for the Strand Agatha Christie artwork. There is a shortlist of 5 artists. Please vote by 16th January. The link is below. Artist shortlist for Agatha Christie artwork revealed and it's time to vote for your favourite - Torbay Council **ACTION: All to circulate.** Alan asked re the Local Plan update – what is the timeline and do we get regular updates on this? When are we likely set this in front of an Inspector? Rodney confirmed the plan will wait now for the HEELA Consultation. During February we might be able to finalise out plan – then discuss with Strategic Planners. Torquay Forum is further ahead in this process. Referendum is likely to be rolled into May 2023. But more weight will be given to the refresh as we get through the process. The Local Plan is likely to be agreed first. It is a nonsense that after 2 years a Neighbourhood Plan is considered to be out of date. Caroline Custerson has raised the needs for review of the Core Tourism Area, but has not attended two Neighbourhood Planning Meetings where she was scheduled to discuss. There is a fear of more hotels changing into HMOs. But it was agreed that the refresh of the Local Plan should focus on Housing. The Core Tourism Area could be looked at in more detail at the Neighbourhood Plan Level.
	Next meetings all at 7pm and on zoom until notified otherwise. • 11 January 2022 • 8 February 2022 • 8 March 2022 The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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