MINUTES OF TORQUAY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM Steering Group
Thursday 18th May 2023, 6.30pm
At Torbay Community Café and Help hub, 4-8 Temperance Street, TQ2 5PU
plus Zoom

Officers of the Steering Group: Present Rodney Horder (Chair), and Nigel Goodman (Treasurer)
Steering Group Members: Mike Cowdery, Chris Davies, Sue Kenway, Margaret Forbes Hamilton, Julie Brandon, David Ward
Other: Tracey Cabache (TCDT minutes)

Item	
1.	**Minute taker:** Tracey Cabache
2.	**Apologies:** June Pierce, Roger Carter, Steve Darling, Sarah O'Connor
3.	**Minutes of Meeting 14th March 2023:** These had been circulated – there was one typo on the financial report: *Balance is £3971.91 expenditure of £2:00 for use of this room and £225.50 for the domain* should have read *Balance is £3971.91 expenditure of **£32:00** for use of this room and £225.50 for the domain.*
4.	**Matters arising:** *Apologies – there was an item that Julie raised but I did not catch it as was setting up the recorder*
5.	**Bank accounts/balances:** Current balance is £3,939.
6.	**Membership of the Forum** The election has led to a discussion on the membership of the TNF Steering Group. Darren Cowell has stood down as Vice Chair as he is likely to be part of the Planning Committee. He had notified the group that he remained supportive of the Forum but to stay on as Vice Chair would be a conflict of interest. Thanks were expressed for Darren's long standing contribution to the Forum. Kelly Harvey has also rasied the issue as to whether she could represent the Hele and Loswr Barton CP as she had now been elected as a Councillor. It was agreed the CP should identify a new rep.

	Invitations would then be extended to Cllr Dave Thomas (Conservative) Cllr Steve Darling LibDem) Cllr Nicole Amil (Independent) For them to join the steering group or nominate one of their group to do so. **ACTION: Tracey to speak to H&LB CP** **Rodney to invite the Cllrs**
7.	**5G status (presentation)** Mike Cowdery provided the group with an informative presentation on 5G – the science and impacts – attached as an appendix here. The essential question is where does the balance lie – there is information that indicates 5G is safe and information that indicates it is not. The conclusion the group came to was that at the current frequencies 5G is not nay more dnagerous that many other appliances we currently use, but if they move to higher frequencies then this could raise the risk. It was agreed that the Forum should use this information to assess the impact of the any 5G applications. We need a safety chceklist re safety, highways and conservation. **ACTION: Mike to develop a safety checklist, Rodney to look at the other areas. This could also be provided to the planning committee. Forum to keep on top of this issue** Update on 5G application for Torre Marine – currently marked as status unknown but also noted that a decision was made on 20.4.23. Margaret has emailed for clarification.
8.	**Housing supply** HELAA follow-up – Rodney has tried to set up a meeting with David Edmondson (DE) and David Pickhaver, but they are all in limbo following the election. We also do not yet know the impact of Michael Gove 'tearing up the targets' at the local level. Rodney has identified that Torquay can identify 1935 dwellings – this can go in the Local Plan alongside the Paignton and Brixham allocations and then we may well have the housing supply we need.
9.	**Neighbourhood Plan update:** See above plus re Greenspaces. Mike has applied for one in Wellswood and Ilve asked DE if we decide to add to the Local Greenspaces do we have to do anything other that add it to our list and make the case against the criteria as we did for the others. Does this need to be seen singly?

	ACTION: We add the new ones and the resubmit the list. Margaret asked re the Grounds of the Former Palace Hotel? Sue reponded that we need to see what the new plans are – then we can assess. As there will be no referendum for the next 18 months we have time. NB did it have full public access? **ACTION: Wellswod CP to look at a map and try to identify what area might be appropropriate for designation.** The feeling was that the site should continue to be used for a hotel. That is the view of the Wellswood Community Partnership and the Neighbourhood Plan. The Frangrance Group will be invited to the Wellswood CP AGM at the end of June. There seems to be a systemic issue that the Council is let down on agreements that it makes – Palace Hotel, Pavilion, Food Festival etc. It was agreed to keep Broadley Drive on the Local Greenspace list.
10.	**Local Plan update:** Still awaiting the Council decision on the housing numbers. We need to find a way to penalise developers who land bank. There was also a conversation about eg the Copice Hotel – where rooms were illegally sold off and titles have to be confirmed.
11.	**Planning Committee:** May meeting will be training. First committee will be June and could have Singleton Gardens on the agenda. Rodney will do his best to attend. Cllr Jackie Thomas is the Chairperson. We await the announcement of the other members. The meetings have been moved to 2pm in the afternoon. Rodney has challenged this and suggested that 5.30pm would be more appropriate.
12.	**Planning Applications:** <u>Review of new Applications</u> 5G in Barton? No one present to comment Meadfoot Rd Lincombe Keep – was refused, they appealled and we have not seen the outcome yet. Ave Rd – opposite the Bancourt – an in fill house. But access is from behind. Old Sunday School Behind the old Zion Chapel – 2-3 bedroom houses with a built in garage. Not enough detail – no outdoor space. What does the agreement in principle mean. Forum agree with the principe of housing here but needs more detail.

	ACTION: Margaret to draft a response by the 31st May. Current specific Applications: Singleton Gardens – We have done all we can, we have assessed this on the base of our criteria. Local resident can speak, so can the CP and the Neighbourhood Forum Sladnor Park – All quiet at the moment. There is some tree cutting David raised the tree cutting St Marychurch near the Conservative Club. Appeals HMO 175 Lymington Rd – we have covered everything in our first response so there is not need to submit anything further.
13.	**Torbay Place Leadership Board:** Nothing to add. They have rolled out the idea of the Town Boards and were asking people to take that forward. Margaret commented that we used to have a Strategic Partnership – but that one had more clout. Tracey attends and might be able to provide an update once she is back in the room.
14.	**Section 106/CIL:** Alan Denby has agreed to come to the July meeting to discuss CIL – the process is still to be confirmed following the changes proposed by Darren Cowell. We need to keep up the pressure on this. CIL Applications – process & funds available Ellacombe application – we have re-sent to the Council asking for sign off so they do not miss the growing season New proposals: Steve Darling has requested a new form. Rodney has sent him both. Armada Park – we are awaiting the application. Still chasing the funds for the Wellswood application. No response from DE.
15.	**Any Other Business:** Need to organise an AGM. Plan for October and maybe the Chair of the Planning Committee can join us. Dairycrest site – the Council have been discussing purchasing the flats for affordable housing. All were in support.

	David raised Lydwell Park corner clearing – left hand side. Sue responded that there is a planning consent for a house there an the residents were supportive.
16.	**Next meetings:** Tuesday 11th July 6:30pm.