MINUTES OF TORQUAY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
Steering Group

Tuesday 5th November 2024, 6.30pm
At CDT Offices

Officers of the Steering Group: Present Rodney Horder (Chair), Mike Cowdery, (Vice-Chair), Nigel Goodman (Treasurer)
Steering Group Members: Margaret Forbes-Hamilton, Julie Brandon, Alan Griffey, Pat Bishop, Cllr Nicole Amil, Roger Carter, Darren Cowell,
Other: Tracey Cabache - Torbay Communities, Louise Cartwright, John O'Neil, and Stuart Davies – Torbay Licensed Taxis, Paul Fraser and Jontie Williams – Save Torquay Pavilion/ Save Cary Green. James Hull – Kents Cavern

Item	
1.	**Minute taker:** Tracey Cabache
2.	**Apologies:** June Pierce, Anna Scarborough, Beth Huntley, Iain Collinson, Anthony King
3.	**Kents Cavern – James Hull** • James presented plans for upgrading the experience, including rebuilding/expanding the visitor centre. • Plans are likely to take 2 years to develop. • He will engage with the Forum to ensure compliance with Neighbourhood Plan on building design and impact on the area.
4.	**Cary Green Taxi stand** • A lengthy discussion which demonstrated a lack of engagement of the Council with stakeholders • Taxi rank capacity has been reduced significantly in the Torquay Harbour area. • Steering Group emphasized that Cary Green is a Designated Green Space and adverse effects on the Cary Green were a 'red line'. • Rodney requested the taxi drivers to provide a list of their needs. • Rodney to request Torbay Council to set up a meeting of the stakeholders (including the Forum) and relevant Council personnel to find a solution. Rodney & Julie to represent the Forum.

5.	**Minutes of meeting 10 October 2024** These were approved as a true record.
6.	**Matters arising (not covered elsewhere below)** Re 20mph speed limit – Anna Semlyen **ACTION: Beth and Tracey to confirm if Anna can attend the next meeting** Re Bancourt Hotel **ACTION: Rodney to contact McCarthys to invite them to engage with the Forum and attend a Forum meeting** Stoodley Knowle development poor quality of walls - **ACTION: Mike to follow up with residents** **ACTION: Rodney to invite Cllr Martin Brook to the next TNF meeting**
7.	**Bank accounts/balances** Balance is £3,500.47
8.	**Website – maintenance** Work has been progressed by Hubert. Can we add the page for Local Green Spaces Need to add CIL **ACTION: Rodney still to draft intro to the CIL.**
9.	**Possible training seminar** Nigel has asked Locality for advice. Nigel has also established that no funds have been received by the Forum from Locality, but a health check was done by Locality in 2018 with funds provided by them through the Council. **ACTION: Tracey to establish how much this was** **ACTION: All to think of training that would be useful.**

10.	**Housing supply** Rodney has calculated that there are 535 consented homes in Torquay that are not yet delivered. We need to come up with the ideas for encouraging delivery. Question is what is commencement – the Town and Country Act needs to be amended. **ACTION: Rodney to send to Steve Darling MP the above figures** Rodney and others to hold a follow up meeting re Sladnor Park later this week, and ask Future Planning (David Pickhaver) to engage with the Forum. He has not responded to our housing workbook for 2 years! We need to get some media coverage re developers holding up development. There is a new Local Plan Working Party – Darren Cowell has requested the Forums should have standing representation on this. Cllr Lewis has agreed. But we also need to re-establish the Neighbourhood Planning Group Meetings – David Edmonson is to discuss this with Rodney this week. Need to push back on the target numbers for Torbay.
11.	**Neighbourhood Plan update** Draft plan has now been with Adam Luscombe for 2 months with no response. Rodney will follow up at meeting noted in #10 above
12.	**Local Plan update** Response to Transport Consultation has been drafted by Beth. Agreed subject to the following amendment on the last line: *to encourage a modal shift towards more sustainable transport*. Webinar on the 18th Nov – Rodney has sent round the link to all to that they can review and submit individual responses **ACTION: Rodney to hold amended Forum response until after Webinar in case further update needed, then submit**
13.	**Planning Concerns** **Planning/Enforcement Concerns (Overview & Scrutiny)** Need to keep this issue live.
15.	**Planning Committee**

	Mike presented the Steering Group statement of Objection to Brends Orchard, Edginswell and it was Refused by the committee. Process issue - Eg in Paignton Seacroft Hotel turned down due to it being in the CTIA – known at the outset. Why were these properties selected and why did it progress. It should have been resolved at the pre-application stage. Darren – eg Sands Rd – also turned down as the Neighbourhood Plan for Paignton extended the CTIA to this line. Given the new hotels are impacting on these smaller ones the future of these properties need to be considered. The Torquay Neighbourhood Plan allows for conversion within the CTIA if the lack of viability can be demonstrated. Torbay Hospital application has come in. Forum agreed to support, and the statement for presentation was agreed. Re: Cllr Adam Billings' position Rodney has drafted a letter to Cllr David Thomas quoting the Council constitution and use the Nolan Principles. The source of the details of AB's behaviour needs to be established and referenced. **ACTION: All to comment**
16.	**Planning Applications** • Current specific Applications: ○ Corbyn Head Hotel P/2024/0264 – June has emailed for an update. Roger has had the distance measured ○ 35 Thurlow Road P/2024/0429 – Felt on balance that this was positive. Draft agreed. Supported ○ Land off Nicholson Road – undergoing validation ○ Singleton Gardens P/2022/1186 – silent ○ Shedden Hall (Enforcement)- silent ○ 111 - 117 Teignmouth Road P/2023/0932 – awaiting a decision ○ Palace Hotel P/2024/0336 – in limbo but a lot going on at the site ○ Beacon Cove – all to look at amendments ○ Sladnor Park – does not have community support – awaiting another Meeting with Strongvox ○ Lucius Street Appeal – not seen yet ○ Timekeepers, St Marychurch Precinct – suggested it goes to the Planning Committee there are pros and cons.

17.	**Town Deal & Levelling-up Funding** Pavilion lease has now been surrendered. Long Term Plan for Towns is now re-confirmed in the Autumn Budget that this investment will continue but the guidance will change, there will be a more realistic timeframe with further enabling funds in 2025-6 and implementation from 2026/27. We need to await the new guidance, but this is really good news for Torquay. Town Deal Community Meeting attended by Rodney, Roger and Mike was felt to be a waste of time. Union Square plans are now in the public domain. Willmot Dixon and Milligan info also included Torre Marine. Darren – Crossways likely to be prioritised over Torre Marine due to the impact on Paignton Town Centre. If Torre Marine does not progress as extra care it may be affordable Housing. Comment on the quality of the process re Strand Public Realm – how can we hold the Council to account on this and future schemes? **ACTION: Torquay Town Community Board to write to get a breakdown of the overspend and justification. Tracey to check minutes for the decisions on the overspend. Discuss with Vince in advance.**
18.	**Section 106/CIL** • Beacon Cove and Turning Heads applications have been submitted to the Council • Emma Faulkner has asked Roger of the Business Partnership to make a CIL application for the water feature on Cary Green. Rodney has sent the application forms and asked Roger to evidence the community benefit against the criteria. NB The Culture Board were previously told the fountain was not viable so they had suggested an alternative. The Forum was unable to agree to this in principle on this as there was not enough information. **ACTION: Julie to review the Culture Board proposal. Rodney to respond to Emma and Roger to request more information.** We need an overall plan for Cary Green. **ACTION: Unleashed Theatre – Rodney to forward for review by email**
19.	**Torbay Council** • **Peer review** Mediation for the political groups concludes this month. Suggest we remove from future agendas.

20.	**Any other business** Fleet Street consultation: Given the recent closure and redirection of the buses – should we ask again for the promised consultation? Mike promoted the CP Wellswood Xmas Fayre on the 12th December in Ilsham Rd.
	Meeting closed 9pm **Next meetings:** Next meetings: 10 December, **7** January 2025, 11 February 2025