MINUTES OF TORQUAY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM Steering Group

Wednesday 4th Feb 2026, 6.30pm
At CDT Offices and zoom

Officers of the Steering Group: Present Rodney Horder (Chair), Mike Cowdery (Vice Chair), Nigel Goodman (Treasurer)
Steering Group Members: Cllr Nicole Amil, Roger Carter, Anthony King, Margaret Forbes-Hamilton, Cllr Hazel Foster, and Carolyn Drew
Other: John Arcus (Torbay Communities), Roger du Blanc (Croft Meadow Trust)

Item	
1.	**Minute taker –** John Arcus
2.	**Minutes Apologies for absence –** Rose Millard, Julie Brandon, June Pierce, George Darling, Alan Griffey, Sally Allen-Gerard, Darren Cowell, Bethan Huntley, and Pat Bishop
3.	**Minutes of meeting 06 January 2026** Approved
4.	**Matters arising from previous meetings:** • CIL process – awaiting clearance of new forms by CIL Panel. **Tracey to follow up**. • Signage for tourists – a bit vague. **More detail needed**
5.	Liam Montgomery, Divisional Director, Place unable to attend. Scheduled for March meeting
6.	**Local Plan Reg 18 Review** • RH thanked members for their input. The NF response has been submitted and Steering Group copied. • The Government has rejected the 400 houses per year and want to see the calculated 900/year. • Concerns were expressed about the Policies Map being misleading. For example, Site H3T.22 Stoodley Knowle on the Map covers the whole site rather than the area where 90 are consented.
7.	**CIL** 1. **Final documents** – pending. **Tracey to follow up** 2. **Balance** – not visible on Exacom site. **RH to follow up**

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	3. **Previous Applications:** • SuDs flood relief for Schools – has it been built? Is it effective in current rainfall? **RH to follow up with Davina Luther.** • Glen Sannox – completed. **CD to email photos for sending to Erika Clouder** 4. **ASB issues Croft Road** – Roger du Blanc, Croft Meadow Trust, briefed the Forum. There has been a long-term issue with ASB, primarily with drug users in the green area by the Tennis Courts, and with trespassing in the closed hotels in Croft Road. RdB wishes to construct a metal palisade fence to close off the areas. Anne–Marie Bond and Liam Montgomery have suggested he applies for CIL Funding. RdB had submitted a large quantity of information, but it was not clear how this fulfilled aspirations of the Torquay Neighbourhood Plan or to what extent there was support from the relevant Community Partnerships. RdB is now liaising with the CPs. The significant ASB problem was acknowledged. Proposal is for £24K CIL funding and £10K to be covered by the Croft Meadow Trust Concern was expressed about AMB directing that Neighbourhood CIL funding should be used for this type of project. **RH to email AMB/LM.** Potential issues: • What is the wider community benefit? • If there is no public access, is this effectively private land? • Forum will need confidence in the ASB problem being solved by erecting fencing, and not merely transferred elsewhere. It was agreed that RdB should work with MFH and Julie Brandon to prepare a full CIL Application Form with a succinct description of the problems and proposed resolution, with emphasis on wider Community benefit and fulfilling NP Aspirations. RH will send to the Steering Group for consideration, with agreement by email if appropriate. **Post meeting Note** – Torquay CIL Balance currently £47,368.82. This information is no longer available on the CIL website!
8.	**Conservation Area Appraisals** - feedback on need for any boundary changes, and is the content current and appropriate? Community Builders to get feedback from communities. Doing three currently– NF help to get process going. Margaret – her CB will leave the area and not be replaced. Listed buildings, style, ornamentation, listed buildings, area.
9.	**Shopfront Design:** Wellswood – guidance, under Cabinet review. Union Street – adapt the guidance.
10.	**Planning Committee:** • cancelled this week, previous meeting approved Stoodley Knowle. • Sladnor Park may go to March – but drainage problems. • RH has continued to feedback that Meetings are too long, and shorter summaries by Officers would help.

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11.	**Planning Applications/Issues**
	• **10 homes due west of Edginswell Lane**, Edginswell P/2025/0152 **Darren to provide opinion**
	• **Singleton Gardens** – Appeal follow-up, and revised P/2025/0612/PA.
	  ○ New application, under consideration.
	  ○ Forum recommendation on previous application P/2025/0423 to defer pending outcome of Appeal was ignored by Planning Committee.
	  ○ Now believe Council should revoke Nov decision. Abuse of power and withholding information, inconsistencies. Should have deferred decision and unhappy about the procedure.
	  ○ MC has drafted response for review.
	• BT hubs – All have gone to Appeal. **RH to liaise with BH for input from NF Account**
	• 62 Belgrave Road HMO P/2025/0744 response submitted
	• 51 Avenue Road P/2025/0840/CU – change of use OK. No Response needed
	• Corbyn Head Hotel P/2024/0264 – loading bay too small and parking on dangerous bend. Keeping a record of evidence.
	• Palace Hotel P/2024/0336 – Bridges, Corrective Action. Site may be on market.
	• Maycliffe Hotel –external lighting shining in windows. **JB following up.**
	• Merida – Enforcement issues – no update
	• Sladnor Park P/2025/0353 – MRA is responding to latest drainage and highways input from Pegasus

12.	**Torquay Plan for Neighbourhoods** – Project list Pride of Place – invites to workshops not well distributed. People don't know if they have been shortlisted. **RM and TC to follow up**

13.	**Torquay Town Vision**
	• Living Coasts – presentation would be good Contact details needed for Tom Birkbeck
	• Pavilion – consultation. Uses on Council website. **RH/TC to investigate site visit with Emma Falconer**
	• Cary Green Taxi**s** – RH and JB met with Emma Falconer, David Carter Andy at Ottos (Torbay independent business owners). Andy has proposals to remodel the Green.
	  ○ RH/JB confirmed that the Cary Green greenspace must not be built upon.
	  ○ Some of the temporary tarmac will be removed, but enough left for passengers to avoid stepping in mud. The taxis now park parallel.
	  ○ When restoration is complete there could be a Drop-off zone near the Pavilion
	  ○ RH pushed for a meeting of interested parties to agree plans. Save Cary Green and Save the Pavilion will be asked to join.
	  ○ A taxi rank close to Torbay Hotel should be feasible.

14.	**Any other business**

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	• **Ilsham Marine Drive** – currently closed due to storm damage. Torbay Council & SWISCo are looking into reopening one lane and monitoring for any further movement • **Heritage Trail -** script and map drafted for Warberries area of Wellswood. Could be used on phone or leaflet, booklet. May also develop trails for Lincombes and Geopark etc. • **Green Space on Garth Road –** CS to provide details to RH for inclusion in updated draft NP. New Greenspaces will be added to policy maps by Council Officer. • **Hollicombe (former gas works)** – RH confirmed the Reg 18 Response increased the number from 90 to >185 as Consented. It was noted that the boarding had been replaced. Decontamination remains an issue to be clarified. • **Torbay Road/Strand –** lengthy traffic queues, 45 minutes – **RH to follow up with Emma Falconer, and Cllrs Billing and Lewis to find out if rephasing has been done..**
	Next meetings: 10 March, 15 April (avoid Cabinet clash), 13 May (avoid Cabinet clash)

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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