# MINUTES OF TORQUAY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM Steering Group

Wednesday 13th May 2026, 6.30pm
At CDT Offices and zoom

**Officers of the Steering Group:** Present Rodney Horder (Chair), Nigel Goodman (Treasurer), Julie Brandon (Communications)
**Steering Group Members:** Cllr Nicole Amil, Anthony King, Margaret Forbes-Hamilton, June Pierce, Chris Smith, Sophie Smith, Carolyn Drew
**Other:** Tracey Cabache (Torbay Communities)

| Item | |
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| 1. | **Minute taker –** Tracey Cabache |
| 2. | **Minutes Apologies for absence –** Roger Carter**,** Darren Cowell, Alan Griffey, Mike Cowdery, Bethan Huntley, Cllr George Darling<br><br>Rodney congratulated Chris on becoming the Chairperson of the Barton, Hele, Watcombe and the Willows Community Partnership. He also welcomed Sophie as the NF rep for the same. Rose Millard is staying on the Torquay Place Leadership Board and will update the Forum. |
| 3. | **Minutes of meeting 15th April 2026** Approved |
| 4. | **Matters arising**<br><br>**From April:**<br>**ACTION: Rodney to invite South West Water and Dave Stewart to a future meeting.**<br>**Heritage and Arson**<br>**ACTION: TNF and Civic Society to take this up with the Council Conservation Officer**<br>**Membership of the Forum**<br>**ACTION: Hazel will ask Cllr Mark S to see if is willing to represent the Conservative Group**<br><br>**From March:** |

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| | **ACTION: We need to challenge the Council 'promising' groups CIL funding. Rodney to draft a message to Anne Marie Bond, and add to CIL panel agenda.**<br><br>**From February:**<br>• CIL process with panel / Roger used old form – Roger check with Tracey.<br>Roger has emailed AMB to ask for some support. Police Sector Inspector has indicated that police are watching this but do not consider this to be a hot spot currently. Travellers have been using it as a toilet.<br><br>Julie fed back that the group are working up a plan<br><br>• Signage for tourists – a bit vague<br><br>**Historical**<br>• Hollicombe – Sam Irvin (Torbay Council Affordable Housing) knows who owns the site, but the cost of development is currently prohibitive.<br>Re Hollicombe – there are a lot of theories as to why this has not progressed, we need to determine if it is deliverable.<br>**ACTION: Rodney to ask strategic planning for a written view.**<br>**ACTION: Create 2 lists – one on sites that have not complied with planning consent and the other for sites with Planning Consent that have been left derelict. Use these lists to chase the Council. All to send content to Rodney.**<br>**ACTION: Tracey and Rodney to work up some social media guidelines**<br>**ACTION: The Forum to work with Adam on the planned removal of historical or perceived historical lamp posts**<br>**ACTION: All to come up with identifiable district retail areas and amend the Wellswood Shopfront Design guidance for their area**<br>**ACTION: Rodney and Tracey to look at the CIL decision-making process.**<br>**Re:** Re: BT hubs – **ACTION: Put loopholes on a future agenda.** |
| **5.** | **Local Plan**<br><br>Still no official feedback. Great Hill and Monksbridge have been removed as housing allocations.<br><br>**ACTION: Rodney to ask for an update on the process from Liam Montgomery** |
| **6.** | **Neighbourhood Plan update – Heritage Walking Trails** |

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| | All on hold until feedback from the Local Plan process |
| 7. | **CIL**<br><br>**Upton Pavilion**<br>Rodney has received an email update from Toby Chant. It was agreed to ask him for more information and a plan and timeline for spending the CIL funds. It was agreed to do the same for other projects that we have not had any updates from.<br>**ACTION: Tracey and Rodney to organise**<br><br>**Swim Torquay – Plainmoor Pool boilers**<br>A revised proposal is being worked up.<br><br>**Torquay Athletic Rugby Football Club**<br>Have indicated they want to submit an application.<br>**ACTION: Rodney to send them revised forms once circulated**<br><br>**Croft Rd**<br>Croft Meadows is developing into a community project and will come back with an application in due course.<br>Nicole shared feedback from Sector Inspector (via Darren) and they do not consider this is be a particular hotspot.<br><br>Chris raised the issue of the community taking on leases of Council property and then inheriting maintenance backlogs.<br>**ACTION: Tracey to add this to the list of 'community barriers' to be shared with AnneMarie Bond.** |
| 8. | **Planning Applications/Issues**<br>• 1a St James Road – P/2025/0366 - Appeal<br>• 10 homes due west of Edginswell Lane, Edginswell P/2025/0152 – no update<br>• BT hubs – All appeals turned down – thank you to Beth.<br>• 51 Avenue Road P/2025/0840/CU – change of use not determined, full PA required |

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| | • Land To Rear Of 2 Westbourne Road DE/2026/0023 (PreApp) – we have submitted a response<br>• Corbyn Head Hotel P/2026/0115 – variation of Conditions – trial approved to the end of the year<br>• Seascape Hotel P/2026/0177 – response submitted<br>• Seabury Hotel P2026/0118 – response agreed, will submit<br>• BT Poles in Cockington – Council has confirmed BT do not have to take any notice of the Council recommendations. Recommended the affected residents take legal advice.<br>• Sladnor Park P/2025/0353 – paused due to the drainage issues |
| **9.** | **Torquay Plan for Neighbourhoods**<br><br>The funding decisions from the 20th April Torquay Place Leadership Board are:<br><br>**St Mags Church**<br><br>£3,600 capital and £34,000 revenue to stop the Living Room from closing and continue operations twice weekly for the coming year. Conditional funding being the revenue is a response to the funding crisis. Torbay Communities and Torbay Council, where possible, to support to help identify a longer-term funding provision.<br><br>**Royal Lyceum Theatre Revitalisation**<br><br>£141,587 capital funding for roof repairs, preliminary repairs to front facade & completion of kitchen.<br><br>**Ellacombe Community Multi-Use Facility**<br><br>£60,000 capital to enable safe and controlled reopening of part of the building for restricted use.<br><br>**Barton Recreation Ground Community Hub**<br><br>£35,000 revenue for architectural design, surveys, and cost validation for plans to transform Barton Recreation Ground into a modern Community, Health, Wellbeing and Sports Hub, acting as the physical anchor for the Torbay cradle-to-career strategy across Torquay.<br><br>**Higher Union Street Regeneration**<br><br>£10,740 capital and £8,500 revenue to improve shop fronts and window displays in Torre, plus a new 6-month hub.<br><br>**Windmill Centre and Windmill Hill** |

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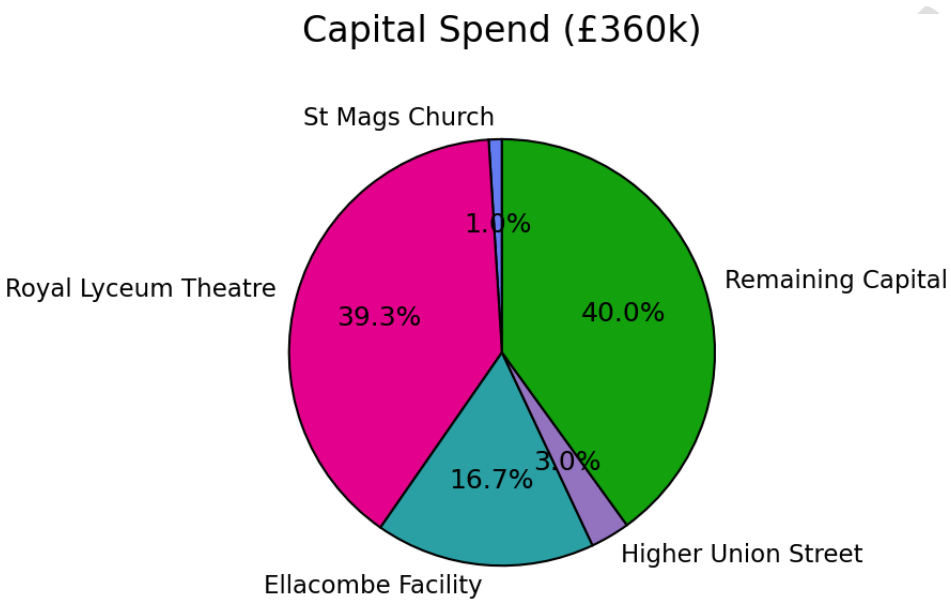
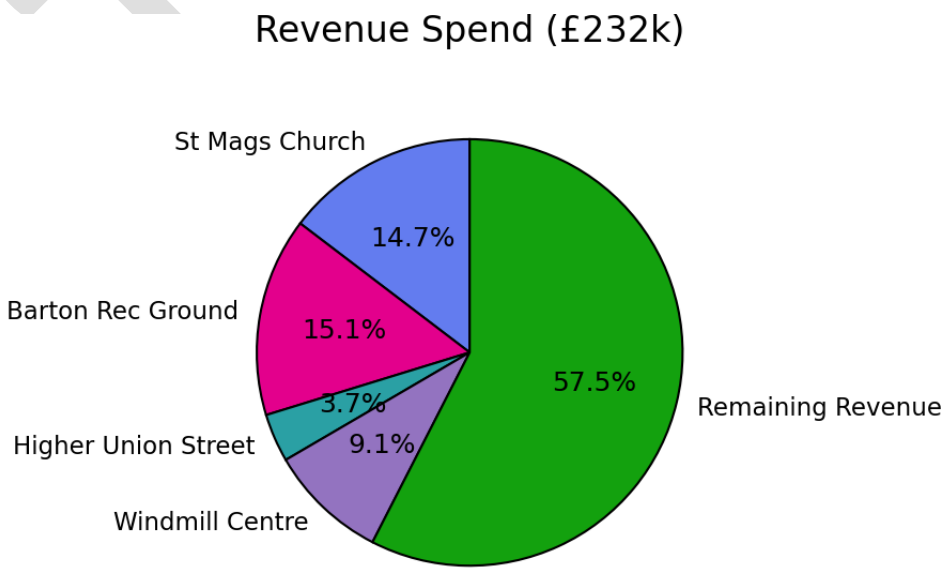
£21,000 revenue for a feasibility study into renovations and costed options for a new community hub. The hub would improve accessibility, enhance sustainability, increase engagement with the community and community capacity.

Which breaks down as follows:




**Capital budget**

Total capital available: £360,000

Capital allocations:

- St Mags Church: £3,600
- Royal Lyceum Theatre Revitalisation: £141,587
- Ellacombe Community Multi-Use Facility: £60,000

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| | • Higher Union Street Regeneration: £10,740<br><br>Total capital committed:<br>£3,600 + £141,587 + £60,000 + £10,740 = £215,927 (60% of funding committed)<br><br>Capital remaining:<br>£360,000 − £215,927 = £144,073 (40% of yearly funding remaining)<br><br>**Revenue budget**<br><br>Total revenue available: £232,000<br><br>Revenue allocations:<br><br>• St Mags Church: £34,000<br>• Barton Recreation Ground Community Hub: £35,000<br>• Higher Union Street Regeneration: £8,500<br>• Windmill Centre and Windmill Hill: £21,000<br><br>Total revenue committed:<br>£34,000 + £35,000 + £8,500 + £21,000 = **£98,500** (42.5% of yearly funding committed)<br><br>Revenue remaining:<br>£232,000 − £98,500 = **£133,500** (57.5% remaining)<br><br>10 carried over and 2 more to be submitted for the June meeting.<br><br>Julie added that Artizan Collective CIC are awaiting feedback on the scoring and intend to invite the Torquay Place Leadership Board members to view the premises. |
| **10.** | **Torquay Town Vision**<br><br>• **Pavilion –** site visit will be 23rd or 25th June<br><br>**ACTION: Those interested to let Rodney know asap.** |

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| | • **Cary Green** – looking good, gardeners have been getting good feedback.<br>• **Strand and Union Square – expecting an update soon.** |
| **11.** | **Any other business**<br><br>i) Margaret updated the Forum on the Council's applications for condition reports on Victoria Park and Chapel Woods. Have got lottery funding to draw up a long term plan. (Thinking also about the Princess Pier).<br><br>ii) Chris raised the changes in pubs provisions – eg closure of Beefeater and Brewers Fayre. This will lead to potential change of uses that we should monitor. Greene King also has pubs locally that are under performing.<br><br>iii) TGJones closing? They are advertising for a business to take on the post office.<br><br>iv) Is planning needed for portable toilets? There is one outside the Indigo Hotel. June has complained. Council have referred to Highways. They have reviewed it and they have moved it further down the hill. NB the Footpath is closed for the work. Likely to have to have a license. |
| | **Next meetings:**<br>02 June, 14 July, 08 September |

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

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