

NOTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor: R Buscombe (Chairperson) Presiding

Councillors: L Cooke
C Davieson
A Hall
M Joyce
C Parker
M Ryan

By invitation Kate Green, Community Engagement Officer
David Eaton, Head of Neighbourhoods, Teignbridge District Council.
Emily Farrell, Newton Abbot CIC

Officers In attendance: Linda McGuirk, Principal Administrator
Pierre Doutreligne, Projects & Strategy Officer
Thomas Collard, Green Spaces Officer
Nigel Canham, Communications Advisor

CEG 9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present.

CEG 10 INTERESTS

None.

CEG 11 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 10th July 2024 were received and signed as a correct record.

CEG 12 PRESENTATION - WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Chairperson, Councillor Richard Buscombe, welcomed the District Council's Head of Neighbourhoods Mr David Eaton to the meeting and invited him to give a presentation to members.

David Eaton introduced himself to the meeting and reported on the recent changes to the management structure within the District Council. Under the new structure David is responsible for overseeing Neighbourhoods which includes:

- ASB & Safeguarding
- Parking
- Planning Enforcement

- Food, Health & Safety
- Licensing
- Environment Protection
- Housing Enforcement
- Abandoned vehicles
- Empty Homes

In addition, David shared the 2024 statistics for Newton Abbot:

- 643 Service requests for Environmental Protection
- 600 Commercial premises
- 47 Planning enforcement cases
- 88 Service requests for Private Sector Housing
- 23 Licensed HMO
- 433 Licence applications
- 80 Community protection warnings.

David invited members to share their experiences of using the services and to provide feedback on how the service could be improved.

Councillors raised the following points:

- Pavement licences - how can TDC justify £500 for two years and £350 for renewal.
- A Boards in Queen Street - who is responsible.
- Waste team and feedback on Torquay Road litter left by them when collecting.
- Can TDC supply an organisation chart for Town and Parish Councils.
- Concerns over the planning enforcement timeline.
- Visible presence of TDC ASB officers.
- Businesses operating from home & impact on neighbours.
- ASB – where do TDC fit with visible presence in problem areas.
- Bridging gap between District and Town/Parish Councils.
- Concerns about developers not abiding by the conditions outlined in planning consent.
- Intrusive questions asked when reporting matters online.

Communications Advisor, Nigel Canham requested that when TDC have finished consulting with Town and Parish Council's on the service, that feedback is shared with the Town Council.

The Chairperson thanked David for his informative presentation.

CEG 13 PRESENTATION - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

The Chairperson welcomed the Town Council's Community Engagement Officer, Kate Green to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation to members.

Kate introduced herself to the meeting and gave a brief outline of her role as the Council's Community Engagement Officer and her work as a Community Artist. Kate displayed photographs of recent projects and highlighted some of the projects which she has been involved with, including:

- What's In Store Project
 - Major project to extend Museum stores.

- Keyberry Road Subway
 - follow on from Penn Inn subway success.
 - TAP Funding grant received £8,100
 - running lots of workshops with groups to connect them with items in the museum and link to the artwork. Objects chosen also featured in Your Space Cabinet.
 - Local artist commissioned for the mural.
 - Facilities Maintenance Officers support to jet wash and undercoat.
 - working on photo shop panels one side (29 meters)
 - great promotion for the Museum, artwork includes QR codes linked to oral archives.
 - Coincides with the 200-year anniversary of the birth of national railway.
 - Community feedback has been very positive, an amazing transformation of a neglected space.

- Museum exhibition at Newton's Place in August – theme is railways.

- Working with Combeshead School on an art installation 'Young people's dreams' – looking at fundraising opportunities.

- Discussions about installation of artwork in the Asda subway. Young Devon have received funding and will be undertaking their own project.

The Chairperson thanked Kate for her engaging presentation and invited members to ask questions. Members asked about:

- Graffiti at the Penn Inn
- The materials used for the art panels
- Potential art installation on roundabouts
- Introduction of more murals, artwork around the town
- Submit an application to the Police Proceeds of Crime fund.

Members recognised a lack of funding opportunities available for community arts projects, arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED to make a recommendation to the Strategic Planning Forum that, as part of the budget-setting process, consideration be given to the establishment of a Community Public Art Grant.

CEG 14 HOT TOPICS

The Chairperson invited members to raise any matters for discussion at future meetings. Following a comprehensive discussion, members agreed to extend invitations to representatives from the following organisations to attend future meetings:

- MP Martin Wrigley
- Teign Housing
- Transport providers, including bus companies, GWR, and taxi firms
- Walking and cycling forums
- TDC Head of Waste Management
- TDC Officers
- DCC Highways
- Police and Niki Lever

It was further agreed that the Chairperson would liaise with the Principal Administrator to prioritise these invitations. Members also expressed an interest in holding Community Engagement Meetings at alternative locations.

CEG 15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Engagement Group is scheduled for the 16th April 2025.

Meeting closed at 20:45

CHAIRPERSON..... Date.....