

NOTES OF THE **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023** AT 7.00 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Councillors: A Hall (Chairperson) Presiding  
R Buscombe (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors: L Cooke	C Parker
D Corney-Walker (Mayor)	M Ryan
T Corney-Walker	S Walker
C Davieson	N Yabsley

Also, present: One member of the public.

Officers In attendance: Linda McGuirk – Principal Administrator  
Sally Henley – Town Development Manager

**CE01. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP 2023/24**

The Mayor, Councillor David Corney-Walker opened the meeting and invited nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2023/2024.

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that Councillor A Hall be elected Chairperson of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2023/2024.

**CE02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors M Joyce, P Bullivant and E Farrell – Community Interest Company (CIC) Manager.

**CE03. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP 2023/24**

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice Chairperson of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2023/2024.

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that Councillor R Buscombe be appointed Vice Chairperson of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2023/2024.

**CE04. INTERESTS**

None declared.

**CE05. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Community Engagement group meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were received and signed as a correct record. It was noted that the group had not met in 12 months, it was suggested that the group should meet more frequently.

**CE06. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee gave due consideration to the Terms of Reference for the Community Engagement Group, circulated prior to the meeting.

Members are keen to raise the profile of the group within the wider community and improve partnership working with community groups and organisations in Newton Abbot. It was suggested that members inform the Chairperson of any groups they would like to see invited to future meetings. It was requested that the Patient Support Group is invited to a future meeting. Members supported the Chairpersons discretion to invite groups as appropriate. Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference for the Community Engagement group be hereby, approved and adopted.

**CE07. HOT TOPICS**

A copy of the Community Plan 2022 to 2032 'Delivery Phase' was circulated at the meeting. Members recognised that the Town Council is not the lead body for all of the projects within the adopted Community Plan. The following projects were considered:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>Linger Longer;</b> to encourage visitors to the town to stay longer by providing more benches and reinstating options to pay for parking at the end of stay. Create a European Style meeting area in Market Square, by providing chess tables, an outdoor piano and a seating area.	Benches within 12 months, other aspects may take longer.	Members recognised that part of the Linger Longer project is achievable within a short timescale.  The Town Development Manager advised that she has identified locations where additional seating would encourage people to stop and sit for a while. It was noted that the planning application to develop a multi-screen cinema included plans to improve the public realm in the Market Square.
<b>ACTION:</b> Recommendation to the Community & Heritage Committee that the Council purchases and installs benches in areas identified by the Town Development Manager.		
<b>Greening the Town;</b> Support the work of both the Town Council and other community organisations to plant	On-going	The Town Development Manager confirmed that the Newton In Bloom Working Group has conducted a survey of the current floral provision

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<p>flowers and remove weeds within the town.</p>		<p>in the town and has submitted a report of their findings to the Town Clerk.</p> <p>Members recognised that Newton Abbot Rotary Club are very proactive at planting and maintaining floral displays in the town.</p> <p>Members discussed the Devon County Council (DCC) redundant flower beds around Newton Abbot and considered the viability of the Town Council taking responsibility for planting and maintaining these beds and securing sponsorship.</p> <p>It was agreed that the gateways to Newton Abbot need enhancing.</p> <p>Members recognised the recent great work of the Facilities Maintenance Officers (FMO) on Halcyon Road and Totnes Road.</p> <p>Discussion took place about the lack of support the Town Council receives from the District and County Councils and the need to improve partnership working. In particular, the issue of disposing of green waste the FMO team accumulate while undertaking duties that are the responsibility of the District and County Councils.</p> <p>Discussion took place about improving the roundabout at Balls Corner, including low maintenance surfacing and installation of public art.</p>
<p><b>ACTION:</b> Write to the Chief Executive of Devon County Council and County Councillor S Hughes and request a meeting with representatives of the Town Council to discuss a range of issues including Balls Corner, green waste disposal and transport issues.</p>		
<p><b>Moving Along;</b> That a review of local bus services be carried out, including consultation with both operators and users.</p>	<p>By end of 2024</p>	<p>It was suggested that local transport providers are invited to a future meeting of the community Engagement Group.</p>

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<b>Engaging with community</b>	On-going	Members agreed that some meetings should be held at locations within the community. ATM – in town centre is great opportunity to engage with residents. Need to do more of this. Ward Cllrs drums up interest in the town. Members supportive.
<b>Action:</b> Consider holding alternate meetings in various community centres.		
<b>Art in the Town</b>	By end of 2024	Tunnels of Love project is currently underway.
<b>Voice for Youth – (Youth Council)</b>	By end of 2023	It was suggested that Councillors attend local sixth forms to engage with young people and encourage them to engage in the democratic process.
<b>Respect the Past and Embrace the Future;</b> celebrate the town’s heritage, including those buildings which are not listed.	On-going	The museum are progressing with the Heritage Asset List.
<b>Town Quay</b>	On-going	Need to resolve the parking issues created by vehicles parking on the access road to the Quay.
<b>Action:</b> TDC Cllrs agreed to report the parking issues at the Quay to TDC		

**CE08. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community Engagement Group is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.00 pm at Newton’s Place.

Meeting closed at 19:54

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