

**PAIGNTON TOWN TEAM & LSP MEETING**  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2004 – Apollo Cinema, Paignton**

<b>Present</b>	Pet Curnow (PC)	Paignton Resort Team Co-ordinator
	Kirstin Tripp (KT)	Apollo Cinema
	Insp Mark Backhouse (MB)	Devon & Cornwall Police
	Grant Pay-Savage (GS)	Devon & Cornwall Police
	Vicki Cowell (VC)	Devon & Cornwall Police
	Jeanette Richards (JR)	Chair, Paignton Chamber of Trade
	Ron Sharpe (RS)	Winner Street & District Association
	Richard Stevens (R.Stevens)	Paignton Pier
	Tony Moss (TM)	Paignton Historical Society
	Cllr Mike James (Cllr.J)	Torbay Council
	Ian Williams (IW)	Torbay Council
	Chris Beer (CB)	Paignton Zoo
	Keith Foster (KF)	Paignton Harbour
	<b>Guest</b>	James McKechnie
<b>Apologies</b>	Richard Taylor (RT)	Torbay Council

Minutes of meeting on Friday February 6<sup>th</sup> – Agreed

1	POLICE MATTERS	ACTION
	<p>MB asked KT the latest position on putting a phone at the taxi rank outside Apollo. KT replied that it had been delayed as the cost to the Taxi Company would be far more than was first thought. To purchase an anti-vandal phone will cost in the region of £1k and discussions were taking place regarding the funding.</p> <p>MB reported that, at present, Paignton was suffering from incidents of arson, 4 cases of small bin fires had taken place, and these are put down to opportunists. There had been one other larger arson attack on premises at the rear of Winner Street. The number of burglaries has gone down, there had been 6 within the town centre, 4 of which had been detected and 5 out of the 13 recorded in January, 8 of these crimes were the work of one offender who was local to that area. This is a very good detection rate, higher than the national average.</p> <p>RS and other traders in Winner Street thought these crimes might be committed by a new influx of people into that area. Several windows had been kicked in - this being an act of vandalism as nothing was stolen - but he thought it might be diversion tactics by the offenders. MB responded that this was not the case, the burglaries were all down to one person. MB went on to say that he was aware of certain issues in Palace Avenue/Winner Street and an operation was being set up and stealing was to fund a drug habit. Greater intelligence, the Police being out and about and first class liaison with the police by groups like the Winner Street Association all helped towards solving crime. The police were aware of problems caused by multi-occupancy dwellings in Church Street and surrounding area.</p> <p>At the public meeting held at the Palace Theatre on 23/2/04 to discuss crime in the area, it was found that traffic flows, obstruction by vehicles and car parking was the most important issues to the residents. As a result of the issues at that meeting 4 traffic wardens were put into</p>	

	<p><b>Police Matters cont.</b></p> <p>Church Street and surrounding area to address the problem. The setting up of a Residents Association for Church Street has been an uphill struggle as there are many that are not prepared to give the time and effort it needs. Residents stated they thought that the Council needed to address the quality of life for those living in these areas. Need to improve environment so as to bring the crime rate down.</p> <p>Cllr.J stated that there were one or two irresponsible landlords who would not upgrade their premises. MB asked who checked these landlords out. TM replied that there was someone employed by the Council to do just that. MB went on to tell the group that there was a new member of his team focussing on Winner Street, Church Street etc., joining the existing community officers. MB was pleased to report that he now had 1 Sergeant and 10 Community officers.</p> <p>VP handed out notices advertising the Police Surgery dates and times held in the Connection Offices at Paignton for members of PTT to display in appropriate places. VP reported to the group the problems that had been encountered with disorderly conduct taking place at a certain take-away on several occasions. She was pleased to report that they had made an impact and the situation had since improved.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>PUBLIC SEX AREAS</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>MB asked IW how the Council was tackling the problem at Preston and Hollicombe. IW said the toilets at Hollicombe would be shut down. Problem has to be tackled within the law. Torbay has a forum to deal with these issues. MB wished to thank Derek Mills and Ian Williams who had to deal with the problem on a daily basis. There is a policy to deal with this sort of problem from a multi-agency point of view. It is a victimless crime when it involves two consenting adults. Cllr.J asked MB how he was monitoring the toilets and can anything be done to avoid closing them? MB replied that he would have to have permission from Chief Constable if he wanted to monitor them, as this is a Human Rights issue. Police patrol the area and council staff are well briefed in dealing with the issue. JR asked why we couldn't drive these people out rather than close the toilets. IW replied that Members must address this. Cllr.J stated that the Council does not have a statutory requirement to provide toilets. JR reminded him that it was a Tourist area and, as such, needs public toilets.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>VICTORIA SKATE PARK</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>IW had approached Sandie Bailey regarding diverting money from car park takings to help fund a roof for the Skate Park. This would discourage the use of the car park when the weather was wet. Unfortunately this was not an option. IW has been approached by Cllr. Harris to proceed in trying to get a roof put on the skatepark. IW said there was funding to be had. They had already obtained £28.5k towards better lighting in the park. KT suggested that perhaps we could apply for funding on behalf of the kids of the skatepark although there was already a "friends " group for Victoria Park they wanted other things. RS suggested that perhaps we should ask local business to sponsor it. All agreed there was a need to provide the children of Torbay with skateboarding/BMX facilities and any funding.</p>	

	<p><b>Victoria Skate Park cont</b></p> <p>should be applied for. IW said that there was no doubt that since a skatepark had been provided in Hele Village, vandalism had been greatly reduced.</p> <p>Cllr.J asked IW to do a report on parks and gardens, as a legally constituted committee was needed to have access to the funds that are available from the Government. Everyone agreed that every effort should be made to source funding, as there was a need to do more for the youth of Torbay.</p>	IW
<b>4</b>	<b>LOCAL STRATEGIC PLAN</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>PC asked MB if this needed to be put on the agenda as an item. MB replied “no”, that the whole of the meeting encompassed the LSP and suggested that the title of the Agenda and Minutes should be Paignton Town Team &amp; LSP. PC said she would action the suggestion.</p>	PC
<b>5</b>	<b>BRITAIN IN BLOOM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>IW told the group that plans were proceeding well with lots of groups interested. All present were miffed to hear that TOS would not be drawing up the plan for Paignton as the budget for this was being used to do the plans for Brixham and Torquay. All thought this was the thin end of the wedge as, at a meeting almost a year ago, the relevant officer of the council had told the group that it was an embarrassment to Torbay that Paignton did not enter Britain in Bloom. When judging takes place, the Council has to take the judges through Paignton to reach Brixham from Torquay. The officer had also gone on to say that the traders, as residents of Paignton, were apathetic. This was like a red rag to a bull for the PTT and all were determined to arouse interest and its members had done a lot of groundwork. The group asked IW to go back to TOS and to the Assistant Director involved to see if they would re-consider the “Plan for Paignton” so at least there is a blueprint to work from in future years. IW said the cost for the plan would be in the region of £2k. CB offered the services of Ian Turner as he did the plans for the park and gardens at the Zoo. IW did not think this would be acceptable as it involved more than just creating a plan it had to tie in with Brixham and Torquay and is linked to the decision on what planting would be used. IW stressed it was not all about pretty flowers, that the judges looked at everything e.g. litter, gum on the pavements, the look of the beaches, the whole environment. It was suggested that if the money could not come from the fund being used for Brixham and Torquay then the £2.5k that the council gives to improving the town centre of Paignton should be used. I.W. to action and report back at next meeting.</p>	IW
<b>6</b>	<b>WINNER STREET ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>RS told the group that the Totnes Road end of Winner Street needs a CCTV camera. Cllr.J agreed, but said cost was the problem and perhaps the business would like to make a contribution. MB said CCTV does not solve the crimes, this is a myth. RS agreed and says he knows it only tracks individuals through the streets picking them up from one camera to another. RS said he thought the present camera covering Palace Avenue Gardens was not required and that one could</p>	

	<p><b>Winner Street Association cont.</b></p> <p>be re-located to the Totnes Road end of Winner Street. Cllr.J to investigate feasibility and costs. MB said that the Transport Plan was the only area where further CCTV could be introduced because of cost. RS said the one that they had in Winner Street was always looking the other way.</p> <p>KF said the problem was that there were not enough staff employed to monitor the CCTV cameras and whilst the attention of a member of staff was watching an incident on a monitor from one camera, something else could be occurring on another. Cllr.J recalled when Torbay led the country in their CCTV coverage and was held up as a shining example to the rest, “now we seemed to be lagging behind”</p> <p>IW highlighted the problem with the old style cameras that were currently used. The video recording from the camera had to go back to control via an electricity cable, these were now full. The new modern cameras do not operate this way and power cables are not required as the image goes back to control via radio waves.</p>	Cllr.J
<b>7</b>	<b>EVENT FOR PAIGNTON</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>JR told the group that she had not managed to go a great deal further with this for various reasons. She had spoken to Conway Hoare about the possibility of retaining the stage used for Children’s Week on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August. She did not feel there would be any costs incurred by doing this as the stage was already there. JR said she could get a group to play. PC said she thought there would be a cost of security for an extra night. JR wanted to see some kind of happening on Paignton Green as there would already be a lot of people in that area. Some of the group thought that a further event at this time of the year was not needed, as the town was already full.</p> <p>The Christmas Event had not progressed as Alan Davies was on holiday. JR said decisions would have to be made regarding the stage, should it go in Victoria Street, Paignton Green or Victoria Square?</p> <p>Suggestion was made that the entertainment should just be performers in the streets of Paignton so that it was more widespread than having a stage in one position. More discussion needed on this item.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>NEW TRAFFIC PLAN</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>This item was the first discussed at the meeting. James McKechnie – Senior Transport Planner for Torbay Council came and gave a presentation to the group on the New Traffic Plan for Paignton. He handed out copies of the plans with explanations of what the consultants had achieved so far. Similar to those distributed at earlier presentations to Paignton Chamber of Trade. James explained that the plan was primarily for the Town Centre of Paignton and whilst it does incorporate consideration of routes out to the Ring Road it does not include areas like Preston. Town Centres were being looked at first, with district centres to follow.</p> <p>No major traffic appraisals have been done in the past 30 years to address the traffic issues in Paignton, like, traffic counts and surveys of parking, bus and rail users, pedestrians etc.</p> <p>James stated that detail issues were not set in stone, although Officers had been directed by the Executive to move ahead with the overall</p>	

**New Traffic Plan cont.**

schemes within the Final Report (excepting Winner Street). A draft strategy had been widely circulated in Paignton for public comment, 300 had responded, from those comments a final strategy was derived. Consultation took place at the Palace Theatre, 500 people attended. Government pleased with the consultation methodology.

RS was surprised to hear that there were still plans to change the traffic flow in Hyde Road from one way to 2 way. He was under the impression that when it had been decided to leave Winner Street alone Hyde Road was also included. James confirmed that this was not the case and that the plans for Hyde Road were still entirely valid.

JR stated that she thought the current administration had railroaded this consultation through as they had not had time to thoroughly consider and “walk the streets” from gaining information to the creation of the final strategy. James said that the current administration had come up with similar observations and reservations as previous Members and there would be further consultation on detail matters. There was adequate analysis from the report for the Council to feel confident with the findings, 30% being opposed to the scheme. James told the group that he had worked on the project for a number of years firstly as part of the firm of Consultants and now as an employee of the Council, and that all comments from the consultation had been considered.

Concern was raised by some members of the group regarding 2 way traffic in Hyde Road and the Paignton Chamber of Trade were against this and other proposals.

In response to general concerns, James further stated that the consultants had undertaken full technical analysis to ensure that the proposals were feasible, subject to detailed design considerations. James further stated that the consultants were an International Engineering Consultancy, with rigorous checking procedures to ensure the accuracy of their work. Also, the Council would have been unable to accept the findings of the Final Report had sufficient testing and analysis not been undertaken. James informed the group that a Working Group is in the process of being established to discuss detail issues and move the Study forward. TM said he represented the actual shoppers of Paignton and not the traders, he reminded the group that if the traders of Paignton had been listened to, regarding the pedestrianisation of Victoria Street, it would never have happened and yet it has been most successful and traders are enjoying its success - shoppers liked pedestrianisation.

MB said that he was not in-post when the initial consultations took place but has since been involved through the Chamber of Commerce. He has serious concerns regarding the closing of the level crossing and the creation of a Town Square, which could create a massive problem for public safety. JM replied stating that mechanisms should be built into the scheme to allow the Police and other emergency services to move easily across the level crossing, plus CCTV coverage. A sensor could potentially be provided that could be activated by the emergency services to lift the barrier. James further indicated that these were the kind of detail matters, which should now be discussed and resolved.

There was concern within the group that the Town Square improvement scheme could be removed, due solely to the behaviour of

	<p><b>New Traffic Plan cont.</b></p> <p>individuals emerging from bars and nightclubs late in the evening. This would be unfair to the majority of Paignton residents who would otherwise enjoy its environmental and amenity value. There was, however, widespread support for the continuing efforts of the Police in this area.</p> <p>MB stated that decriminalised parking does not improve enforcement and is primarily a mechanism for Local Authorities to make money. Taking Traffic Wardens away from Police control puts more pressure on officers. JM replied that there is widespread concern about inappropriate and illegal parking. The Council has to report to Central Government on everything they do and have to look at these issues. Over 80% of respondents at the public consultation were in favour of the scheme and the consultants had found widespread illegal and obstructive parking during their surveys. Experience in other Authorities shows a great improvement in parking enforcement and enables money from parking to be used locally (only for parking, and other transport improvements). JM and several other attendees also noted that the Police could potentially reassign their existing Traffic Warden staff or funds to provide more Police or Community Officers in the centre of Paignton, this has been seen as a benefit by most other Police Authorities.</p> <p>Cllr.J confirmed at this point that MB would be invited to the next meeting regarding the New Traffic Plan for Paignton. MB stated that you have to understand what Traffic Wardens currently are empowered to do. RS asked MB if it was right that Council Wardens would not be able to control traffic. MB replied “yes that is right”. TM asked MB if he did not have a budget to employ Traffic Wardens? Can you not continue under a different guise? MB replied “possibly, lots of other towns in Devon and Cornwall do have Community Control Safety Officers”.</p> <p>JM responded to the concerns by MB over the formation of a Town Square and emphasised that he did not have the authority to say that there would be more CCTV but would hope a scheme of this size could include such things. Loss of a town square did not equal not doing 2-way traffic in Hyde Road.</p> <p>James left the meeting PC thanked him for coming.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>TORBAY FREIGHT QUALITY PARTNERSHIP</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	PC had circulated the minutes with the agenda. There was no discussion	
	<b>AOB</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	CCTV CAMERAS - IW re-affirmed the problem with the wiring of any new cameras. New Cameras would cost circa £10k (images sent by radio). MB stated that a Policy was needed on CCTV Cameras as the Governments allocation of money for CCTV had changed.	
	<b>Date of next meeting</b> Wednesday 21 April - 10a.m. - Apollo Cinema	