

**PAIGNTON TOWN TEAM & LSP MEETING**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2004 – Apollo Cinema, Paignton**

<b>Present</b>	Pet Curnow (PC) Kirstin Tripp (KT) Ben Downing (BD) Richard Taylor (RT) Ron Sharpe (RS) Richard Stevens (R.St) Cllr Mike James (Cllr.J) Chris Beer (CB) John Fellowes Insp Mark Backhouse (MB) (Mark Backhouse joined the meeting at item 8)	Paignton Resort Team Co-ordinator Apollo Cinema Devon & Cornwall Police Torbay Council Winner Street & District Association Paignton Pier Torbay Council Paignton Zoo Paignton Chamber of Trade Devon & Cornwall Police
<b>Guests</b>	Jim Lakeman Mr Lewis	Torbay Council Shoreline Restaurant
<b>Apologies</b>	Tony Moss (TM) Vicki Cowell (VC) Grant Pay-Savage (GS) Jeanette Richards (JR)	Paignton Historical Society Devon & Cornwall Police Devon & Cornwall Police Chair, Paignton Chamber of Trade

Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2004 was agreed as correct.  
Some confusion arose over the initials RS and it has been agreed in future that Richard Stevens will be mentioned as RSt and Ron Sharpe as RS.

1	PAIGNTON SEA FRONT	ACTION
	Mr. Lewis of Shoreline Restaurant attended the meeting to voice his concern and frustration over the closure of toilets, in particular those on Paignton Sea Front at the rear of the Apollo Cinema. He has had nothing but complaints from visitors and residents since these toilets have been closed and to help ease the situation has allowed everyone to use the Restaurant toilets regardless if they were a customer or not. He pointed out that this increases his Water Rates and perhaps Torbay Council would like to pay it for him as he was providing the service they should. He also mentioned the state of the Esplanade and Promenade and how they had not been cleaned all winter. He has made several attempts to speak to those responsible within Torbay Council regarding both the closure of toilets and the lack of street cleaning but feels that he has been fobbed off and his complaint has fallen of deaf ears. He highlighted that Torbay Council does nothing for him, he pays to have his rubbish collected and cleans up outside his premises and now is providing “public toilets”. He told Cllr.James that something must be done and quickly if the Tourist Industry is not to suffer. Visitors expect to find clean, accessible public toilets and a clean and welcoming town. Cllr.James responded by saying that, arising from earlier discussions with Mr Lewis, he had looked into the matter and a meeting was being held tomorrow (Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April) with all Paignton Cllr’s and Environment Cllr Colin Charlwood to discuss these very issues. KT said there was a lack of information given to the businesses along Paignton Seafront regarding the closure of the toilets and all concerned should have been consulted.	

	<p>There happens to be an emergency stopcock within those toilets for the Shoreline Café/Apollo Cinema and should a flood occur there is now no access to this stopcock. KT informed Cllr.James that she was going to look very closely at the lease for the Apollo Cinema regarding the closure of these toilets and the fact that, since their closure, the fire exits of the cinema have been used as toilets and a dumping ground for soiled nappies and other items. To get these areas cleaned up is costing Apollo £100 a time. The situation must be resolved and quickly.</p> <p>CB highlighted the “hiked” car park charges and the detrimental effect that would have on the Tourist Trade. Attractions were particularly concerned, Model Village, Living Coasts, Kents Cavern, Quay West and the Steam Train are all concerned at the huge rise in car parking fees.</p> <p>RS mentioned that the traders in Winner Street were very angry that the toilets at Palace Avenue have also been closed. They had held a very successful event at Easter whereby hundreds of people had been drawn to Winner Street to enjoy the celebrations. What did Torbay Council do? - close the public toilets that service this area. He was also informed that the actual fittings had been removed from the toilets so that there is no chance of them being re-opened. Mr Lewis asked who makes these decisions? Cllr.James replied that, they, the councillors, don’t make decisions lightly and they take advise and take time to come to these decisions. He continued that he could not make any promises but he would put across the views and points discussed to Cllr.Charlwood.</p> <p>RSt replied that Cllr.Charlwood had been quoted as saying at a recent meeting that 19 toilets had been closed and “that was that”, so he did not hold up much hope that a “U” turn would take place on the closure of toilets.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>POLICE MATTERS</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>As MB was unable to attend Ben Dowling spoke to the group updating them on police activity. He mentioned the drug testing that had be done on a quantity of people in licensed premises in Torquay and a similar exercise would be carried out in Paignton. He did not think there was a particular problem with drug pushing and abuse in licensed premises in Paignton. During the past month crime figures in Paignton Town Centre had gone down. There was an issue in Winner Street with criminal damage and that this area had been getting a lot of attention from the police in recent weeks. The police identified certain spots where they could get a good viewpoint of the whole area. RS replied that he thought it was wanton vandalism rather than theft. Graffiti was a particular issue and BD said that a lot of the graffiti was old and there were owners of property who did not have the same degree of good housekeeping as the majority. This led to the area having a “run down” image.</p>	

<b>3</b>	<b>CCTV CAMERAS – PAIGNTON (Jim Lakeman)</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>Jim Lakeman – Corporate Security Manager for Torbay Council came to speak to the PTT regarding the coverage of CCTV cameras referred to in the previous minutes of the PTT. He pointed out that the camera in Palace Avenue works constantly, one camera can see the next and if you take one away you lose the flow. Torbay Council has 232 Cameras in operation and each one records. The cameras are strategically placed. The comment made that they are always pointing in the wrong direction was not valid. The numbers of successes are not recorded. Torbay recently came in the top 6 out of 400 Towns and Cities whose CCTV operation were inspected.</p> <p>We do have some old style cameras, the system has been developed over the years. Images are transmitted by B.T. links and it is true to say that the system is now full. Torbay Council is looking at other ways of adding to the existing number of cameras. Cllr.James told Jim Lakeman that MB was concerned that there were insufficient cameras in Station Square. Jim Lakeman replied that there were problems there with the curvature of the road.</p> <p>Cllr.James asked for confirmation that despite what he had heard there was not a spare camera in Palace Avenue in fact all 4 cameras are needed. Jim Lakeman confirmed that this was so. RS commented that cameras are effective or they are not, if they are not then they should be moved, example being Palace Avenue toilets. Jim Lakeman replied that they are not allowed to tape inside toilets and the present camera acts as a deterrent. BD said CCTV is a tool, just because a camera has picked something up it does not automatically put someone behind bars. Further evidence is needed like a car registration for instance. KT said how good Storennet and Nightnet was and if a request is made to swing a camera into another position is made, it is done almost instantly. It was suggested that private businesses might like to buy extra cameras. Jim Lakeman pointed out that it is not the cost of the camera but the B.T. link needed to have extra cameras and it is very costly. Jim Lakeman brought along a video to show PTT how each camera recorded and how they were linked. This was shown at the end of the meeting</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>VICTORIA PARK – SKATE PARK</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>RT stated that the upgrading of the lighting in Victoria Park was imminent. A BMX track was being created on another of the tennis courts and they were working closely with the Garage Youth. KT stated that the provision of a roof over the existing Skate Park was essential. She was sorry Ian Williams was not at the meeting as he had promised to look into funding for this. Creating a more active “Friends of Victoria Park” had been suggested at the last PTT and Ian was going to report back. Her concerns were that she and other members of the PTT were willing to raise funds to provide this facility but no one had reported back. RT said he would investigate - the funding Ian Williams referred to was “Living Spaces”</p>	RT

<b>5</b>	<b>BRITAIN IN BLOOM - BAY BLOOMS</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	RT stated that Paignton has been included in the plans needed to create a theme along with Torquay, Brixham, Babbacombe and St.Marychurch, this has been paid for by Torbay Council. We would not be required to raise the £2k mentioned by Ian Williams at the last meeting. Paignton may be required to pay the entry fee in the future but that was circa £120-150, as would the rest of the Torbay entries. It was agreed that the Paignton in Bloom (Pride in Paignton) arrangements were going well and there was a lot of interest and enthusiasm.	
<b>6</b>	<b>WINNER STREET &amp; DISTRICT ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	RS was pleased to report the success of the event held in Winner Street on Easter Monday. WSDA were planning another event for the future, as yet no decision on when. PC asked that information regarding these events and any others were brought to the PTT as the ERTB have mechanisms in place for distribution.	
<b>7</b>	<b>EVENT FOR PAIGNTON</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	JF told the group that the event following on from Children's Week using the stage on Paignton Green had been scrapped and the Chamber of Trade was now looking to put on an event around Christmas. This would be in conjunction with children from local schools. PC raised the question of Christmas Lights as another member of PTT had pointed out that it should now be on the agenda for discussion. RF said that the Chamber of Trade had negotiated with the supplier a credit note for the lights that did not work when put up last Christmas and that they had 3K to spend. PC said she would include Christmas Event/lights as an agenda item for the next meeting.	
<b>8</b>	<b>NEW TRAFFIC PLAN FOR PAIGNTON</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	KT has not, as yet, been called to attend the first meeting of the working party she has been asked to sit on as representative for PTT. Any items raised on this issue at the PTT should be given to KT to take to the working party meeting. The level crossing being closed to traffic is of major concern especially to the emergency services. It is felt that whatever mechanism they may include for the emergency service to have access would effect response times in comparison to being able to drive straight on. Cllr.James confirmed that a meeting would be held in the near future and Matthew Clark will be attending and putting forward all the objections to the proposed new traffic plan. MB joined the meeting at this point and said he had spoken to Chris Lancaster (D&C Police Representative) who was surprised regarding the closure of the level crossing, as it was not an issued raised initially. MB stated that the proposed new traffic plan would have a massive impact on Paignton. KT told the group that she uses Hyde Road and Torbay Road frequently and Hyde Road is constantly just one lane due to parking and deliveries. RSt replied that KT should talk to Matthew Clark. PC said she would try to find out the date of the meeting of the Working Party. Cllr James said Ian Douglas is the councillor involved in the New Traffic Plan for Paignton. RSt. Said they were told at a meeting that the plan would get rid of congestion. He had asked the question "what is defined as congestion"? - but he did not get a satisfactory answer.	PC
Date of next meeting - <b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 10 am-12 noon</b> at PAIGNTON ZOO		

