

NOTES OF THE **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024** AT 7.00 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Councillors: R Buscombe (Chairperson) Presiding

Councillors: C Davieson  
A Hall  
M Joyce  
C Parker

Also, present Emily Farrell – Business & Community Manager of Newton Abbot Community Interest Company (CIC).

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

**CE01. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP 2024/25**

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairperson of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2024/2025.

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Richard Buscombe be elected Chairperson of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2024/2025.

**CE02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors L Cooke and M Ryan.

Councillor J Cook did not attend.

**CE03. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP 2024/25**

Members agreed to defer appointing a Vice Chairperson.

**CE04. INTERESTS**

None declared.

**CE05. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were received and signed as a correct record.

Councillor C Parker provided an update on minute CE15 of the previous minutes, reporting the parking issue near the Quay was ongoing while ownership of the land was being investigated by the District Council.

Members asked for an update on the Green Waste situation, Councillor A Hall reported he had attended a meeting with the Town Clerk and the County Council to discuss the matter. There had not been a satisfactory outcome. The Principal Administrator advised the County Council has provided vouchers for the disposal of green waste which had provided short term relief.

#### **CE06. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members discussed the Future of the Community Engagement Group; it was recognised the group has not achieved its goal to extend engagement in the wider community.

Discussion took place about a wider committee restructure and possibilities of disbanding the Community Engagement Group or amalgamation within an existing committee.

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

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) the Terms of Reference for the Community Engagement Group be hereby, approved and adopted.
- b) a recommendation will be submitted to the next Community & Heritage Committee to discuss and consider the future of the Community & Engagement Group.

#### **CE07. HOT TOPICS**

The Chairperson, Councillor R Buscombe, welcomed Emily Farrell the Business & Community Manager of Newton Abbot Community Interest Company (CIC) to the meeting and invited the group to raise any local topics to encourage wider community engagement.

- Youth Council – Emily Farrell Business & Community Manager of Newton Abbot Community Interest Company (CIC) spoke about the progress of the Youth Council and its aspirations to engage with the Town Council. Councillors were invited to attend a meeting of the Youth Council and listen to the young people's ideas for the town. Members confirmed their commitment to supporting the Youth Council. Arising from the discussion, it was:

**RESOLVED** that Councillors R Buscombe, L Cooke and A Hall will attend a meeting of the Youth Council to demonstrate the Council's support and develop a strong partnership link with the young people.

Emily Farrell will liaise with the Principal Administrator to agree a date prior to the next Community & Engagement Group meeting.

- Transport – It was agreed to invite representatives of local transport providers, including Country Bus, Stagecoach and Community Transport to attend a future meeting of the Community Engagement Group.
- Local Organisations - It was agreed to invite representatives of groups to attend future Community Engagement Group meetings. Members agreed to invite the Newton Abbot Civic Society to attend its meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.

**CE08. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community Engagement Group is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.

Meeting closed at 7:40pm

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