

Priorities and Resources Review Panel 2018/19

Members

Councillors Barnby, Bent, Bye, Darling (S), Lewis (C), Morey, Stocks, Tolchard and Tyerman

(Contact on t: 01803 207014 or e: scrutiny@torbay.gov.uk)

Monday, 20 November 2017 at 9.30 am
to be held in the **Meadfoot Room, Town Hall, Castle Circus,**
Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Agenda

1. Budget Proposals and the Concerns of Residents (Pages 2 - 8)

To consider whether the Mayor's Budget Proposals adequately reflect the concerns of the residents of Torbay, in particular:

- Highways – Potholes; Congestion (including in and out of Brixham); Speeding (especially in residential areas);
- Public Street Scene and Green Spaces – Tree and Hedge Maintenance; Grass Verges; Road Gullies; Dog Fouling; Pavements
- Parking – Charges; Enforcement (including road markings); Park & Ride for Brixham
- Anti-Social Behaviour and Enforcement – Noise; Odour; Litter and Flytipping; Selling Cars on Streets; Planning Enforcement; Begging and Roughsleeping

(Attached for information is the list of the issues highlighted by Council as the topics which their residents are concerned about together with the responses received from the Community Partnerships.)

Agenda Item 1

Issues highlighted by Councillors as the topics which their residents are concerned about

(Note: Where duplicate issues have been identified by more than one councillor in each ward, the responses have been combined)

Ward	Issues Identified
Berry Head-with-Furzeham	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of affordable homes for families who want to remain in Brixham 2. Delay of Housing Benefits 3. Poor maintenance of Housing Association Stock 4. Poor State of Roads 5. Hedge/Tree maintenance and Grass Cutting of verges, gardens and cliff tops. 6. Poor state of the Town Centre Toilets. 7. Bin Collections and missed assisted collections due to new crews and non recycling of bins every time. 8. Parking charges in central Brixham car park in the evenings. 9. Park & Ride at Churston for cars and Coaches being a dedicated service to Brixham to alleviate pressure on All car parks 10. Traffic congestion in and out of Brixham every day with Windy Corner Highway alteration being delayed. 11. Every department of Torbay Council recognising that there is a Town Council in Brixham when considering their views. 12. Need to protect the natural environment and set up a strict maintenance programme for appropriate areas. 13. Public Transport provision from Brixham to Torbay Hospital. 14. Recognise and address the need for increased well paid employment provision for residents of Brixham.
Blatchcombe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Weeds, particularly in road gullies often growing over 1 foot high 16. Housing standards in Sanctuary homes particularly on the Foxhole estate 17. Loss of green spaces in the ward with too many houses being built in the ward 18. Lack of money to be spent on very large trees 19. Fly tipping particularly at the back of QED
Churston-with-Galmpton	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. Rubbish collections and the lack of bin collections on the beach. 21. Pot holes - poor state of some roads around the bay. 22. Hedgerows not being cut especially the Bascombe Road where there is poor visibility on bends. 23. Public footpaths where the foliage is overgrown, lack of treatment of weeds especially in areas of Tourist use e.g. Pavements and Broadsands Car Park. 24. The need for a speed restriction in Galmpton to protect those on foot especially in Old Road 25. Complaints about the lack of regeneration of the three towns, the general appearance of Torquay and Paignton
Clifton-with-Maidenway (includes response from the Community Partnership)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. Problems with welfare payments. 27. Lack of Affordable Housing.

	<p>28. Lack of Well Paid Jobs. The jobs people have are sometimes insecure.</p> <p>29. Street Lighting.</p> <p>30. Lack of Hedge Cutting.</p> <p>31. Building Developers not held to account, lack of Enforcement, thus annoying nearby Residents, Developers Working all hours , beyond 6 p.m. and all day on Sundays and Bank Holidays, unnecessary Bonfires, resulting in air pollution.</p> <p>32. Problems in the past with Waste Collection, still happening in some places!</p> <p>33. Station Square and Victoria Square in Paignton, need cleaning up.</p> <p>34. Lack of police on the beat. Following this there are increasing signs of Drug Activity, within the Ward, this upsets other Residents, and they want the Police to sort it out.</p> <p>35. Sanctuary Housing – Concerns about anti social behaviour and the maintenance on the land that they own within the Ward.</p> <p>36. Road speed around Colley End Road, Marldon Road, Colley End Park junction is a concern.</p> <p>37. Run down public realm and we desperately need to regenerate the economy of the area.</p>
Cockington-with-Chelston	<p>38. Protecting Green Spaces</p> <p>39. Parking/Speeding vehicles in residential roads and in vicinity of Schools</p> <p>40. Rubbish/Litter/Bins/Flytipping/Dog fouling</p> <p>41. Overgrown trees/management of trees/Hedge/Tree/Grass verge maintenance</p> <p>42. Highway repairs/State of Roads/Potholes</p>
Ellacombe	<p>43. Law and Order including Anti Social Behaviour</p> <p>44. Care for the elderly</p> <p>45. Rubbish/litter/bins/dog poo</p> <p>46. Domestic Violence - violence against women in particular</p> <p>47. Drug taking/abuse</p> <p>48. Builders who are faulting the conditions of their granted plans.</p> <p>49. Continued disruption with the TOR2 service</p> <p>50. No community centre for social activities</p> <p>51. Loss of an active PSCO</p>
Goodrington-with-Roselands	<p>52. Overgrown trees and vegetation on council land/management of trees particularly where they are close to housing and cutting out light and views.</p> <p>53. Speeding on residential roads particularly Roselands Drive, Hayes Lane, Goodrington Road and Dartmouth Road</p> <p>54. Poor social landlords (Sanctuary and Westcountry)</p> <p>55. Parking on pavements and around schools and the leisure centre</p> <p>56. Uncertainty re leisure centre</p> <p>57. Pot holes</p>

	<p>58. Protecting Green Spaces such as Goodrington Green, Youngs Park, Clennon Valley</p> <p>59. Lack of enforcement by Council on areas such as Planning, Noisy neighbours, unwanted noise and odour from businesses and parking by businesses selling cars on street.</p>
Preston	<p>60. Rubbish collection</p> <p>61. Economic regeneration - Oldway, Crossways etc</p> <p>62. Planning enforcement</p> <p>63. State of our streets etc - weeds on curbs etc</p> <p>64. Planning application</p> <p>65. Oldway and Parkfield</p> <p>66. State of the roads</p> <p>67. Parking of commercial vehicles in residential roads</p> <p>68. Maintenance of beaches/Preston Green</p> <p>69. Planning applications/Enforcement</p>
Roundham-with-Hyde	<p>70. Rubbish</p> <p>71. Crossways (residents want to see results!)</p> <p>72. Regeneration</p> <p>73. Lack of maintenance and investment in our tourist facilities i.e. Beaches etc</p> <p>74. Beggars in Paignton town centre</p> <p>75. Speeding vehicles in residential roads</p> <p>76. Anti social behaviour, e.g. neighbours, car parks skate boarding, winner street problems.</p> <p>77. Rough sleepers</p> <p>78. The weeds in gutters etc. blocking drains</p> <p>79. The public street scene and green spaces being looked after e.g. trees kept.</p>
St Marychurch	<p>80. Pot holes and the poor road surface.</p> <p>81. Tree maintenance, poorly kept hedges, weeds in road gullies</p> <p>82. Lack of proper road and car park line marking</p> <p>83. Specific to St Marychurch and Maidencombe is the lease not having been signed between the Council and the TCCT. Neither party is taking responsibility for the dangerous steps and railings leading to the beach.</p> <p>84. The no. 32 and 65 bus routes and the lack of funding and help from the Council.</p> <p>85. The state of the public realm - litter, grounds maintenance, pavements etc.</p> <p>86. The state of the public toilets.</p> <p>87. Natural environment services - residents are concerned about lack of communication from the service over work being carried out that appears unnecessary in the current economic climate.</p> <p>88. Lack of enforcement - both planning and community services.</p>
St Mary's-with-Summercombe	<p>89. Investment and regeneration in town centres</p> <p>90. Improved infrastructure between Brixham and the rest of the world</p> <p>91. Employment and jobs</p> <p>92. Affordable accommodation for key workers (such as carers)</p>

Shiphay-with-the-Willows	
Tormohun	<p>93. Communications with Council departments, especially by telephone and website</p> <p>94. Flytipping and effects of this such as rats</p> <p>95. Parking prices and the way parking penalties are handled</p> <p>96. Maintenance of Parking enforcement: for instance, white lines in car parks etc</p> <p>97. Dog mess</p>
Watcombe	<p>98. Failure to manage trees and grass</p> <p>99. Moor Lane highways issues</p> <p>100. Pot holes</p> <p>101. Closure of car park</p> <p>102. Failure of the safety net for help and advice</p>
Wellswood	<p>103. Streetscene</p> <p>104. State of the roads</p> <p>105. Parking including parked cars displaying “for sale” signs</p> <p>106. Planning upsets</p>

Regeneration – to be considered at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Affordable Housing – Availability; Maintenance; Housing Standards - to be considered at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Highways – Potholes; Congestion (including in and out of Brixham); Speeding (especially in residential areas);

Public Street Scene and Green Spaces – Tree and Hedge Maintenance; Grass Verges; Road Gullies; Dog Fouling; Pavements

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Preston Community Partnership

Working with Torbay Council is paramount to Preston Community Partnership improving Preston for both Residents and Visitors.

Preston Community Partnership would be pleased to discuss in advance any plans made for Preston. We feel this would go a long way to ensure projects are carried out to the full benefit of Preston Residents and Visitors.

Preston Community Partnership, as will be the case for all the Partnerships throughout Torbay, would be delighted to take on tasks which are seen by Torbay Council as non essential or so low on the priority list as to be never undertaken.

Our list of items which are important to the Residents and Visitors of Preston is:

- **Parks and Greens**
These need to be kept clean, grass cut, trees planted and kept pruned, paths kept clear, plants planted and benches together with children's playgrounds fully maintained.
- **Beaches**
These need to be kept cleaned and the facilities fully maintained. The walls, steps and promenades need to be kept in good order.
- **Roads maintained**
Pot holes need to be repaired, tarmac needs to be kept in good order, hedges need to be cut back and grass banks cut to ensure the highest level of safe driving.
- **Paths maintained**
These need to be kept smooth and resurfaced when slabs become broken or lifted. This is essential for the safe movement of mobility scooters, prams and the elderly public.
- **Household and Public bins emptied on a regular basis**
Public bins need to be emptied on a regular basis. Household bins including recycle bins need to be emptied on a regular basis. Recycle bins need to be made available in as many locations as possible. Dog toilet bins need to be made available everywhere and the owners enforced to use them, not leave it on paths and roads.
- **Community assets such as Parkfield and Oldway Mansion**
These need to be kept in the local community as long as there are sufficient funds to keep them maintained fully. They should not be left to crumble into disrepair. Torbay Council needs to work with the Partnerships to achieve this.
- **Security and safety of residents**
Cameras need to be kept operational and used when there are any incidents.
- **Street Lighting**
These need to be kept maintained and Torbay Council should liaise with local Partnerships when they plan to change lighting times.
- **Car Parking**
Residents and visitors need plenty of reasonably priced parking. Any changes to costs and numbers of spaces should be discussed with the local Partnership.
- **Public Toilets**
These should be kept open, cleaned and maintained. If there are two in the same area, the Partnership should be asked to provide their input as to how to save money whilst still providing the necessary service to the public.

St Marychurch & District Community Partnership

1. St Marychurch is a community that has a larger amount of older residents. One priority for our community is public transport. Recently a number of bus services have been stopped.

- the 67 which serviced residents living in the Quinta Road and Lyme View areas of Babbacombe. The loss of this services is causing huge inconvenience and is having the effect of isolating some older people.
- part of the 32 bus route between the hospital and the Willows shopping area has been stopped and is also causing great inconvenience to residents of St Marychurch, Willows and Barton & Watcombe - the time taken to travel by alternative bus routes has trebled for some residents.

By financially supporting local community bus services to cover those removed would greatly improve residents lives.

2. A further priority is to financially support additional Environmental services staff. Recent cuts have meant that regularly sheduled maintenance has been reduced, St Marychurch & Babbacombe have a high number of tourists visiting each year.

This is impacting on that local area and many residents are unhappy that certain areas are becoming overgrown and untidy.

3 Another priority is the repair and maintenance of the steps down to Maidencombe Beech. The MRA will be organising some fund raising events next year, and we shall be prepared to undertake some work such as clearing vegetation and painting the railings.

A contribution from the Council to support the major repairs would be most welcome.

One money saving suggestion that the Council should consider is to hand over all the land being managed by TCCT and owned by Torbay Council to the National Trust.

This would save the constant drain of financial support from the tax payers of Torbay, it would mean no longer would the TCCT having to be both 'poacher and gamekeeper' when it comes to looking after the land, it would protect the land and as a result it would maximise this fantastic asset well into the distant future for all those that come after us to enjoy as well as all those who enjoy the open spaces in Torbay now. The coastal paths would be far better maintained and the services such as toilets, car parks and beach cafes would not only be kept open but to a higher standard, the farm land would be better utilised and made more productive. Councillors and Council servants would no longer be tempted to take short term decisions that would destroy the most valuable asset Torbay possesses. **A simple matter of protecting the future in one easy step and it would increase the tourist and visitor activity giving a boost to Torbay economy for no extra cost** - all marketing and up keep would be down to the National Trust.

Regards

Pat Bishop, Chair.

St Marychurch & District Community Partnership



Brixham Community Partnership priorities for Torbay Council's spend in Brixham

The Community

Continue to support and maintain adult and social care/children's services. Care in the community - ensure no-one is homeless or living in unhealthy surroundings with insufficient food/care. Support local preschool facilities and ensure that young people are educated in life lessons, i.e., debt avoidance, saving for a house, having children, voting, drugs, alcohol and diet. Improve infrastructure and services as the community expands & ensure there are affordable homes. Retain good medical services. Support local police and maintain visible policing.

Tourism

The main issue is road access to Brixham - limited access in and out causes considerable problems and is a deterrent both to tourists and to businesses. New housing construction puts additional pressure on the road network and access is completely blocked when even the smallest accident occurs. Parking in Brixham is an issue with very little on-road parking available. The Central Car Park which yields approximately £400,000 in parking charges annually has had no investment ploughed back into it for years. The Park & Ride is available but some considered it expensive. This is affecting tourism and compares poorly against the accommodation provided to, for example, tour buses in Dartmouth. Coaches should be encouraged to use Oxen Cove. It is essential that the town's facilities/attractions be maintained for tourists, e.g., Shoalstone & Admiral pools, Berry Head, Museum, Battery and Town Hall. Of particular concern is the potential loss of our theatre. Finally, the public toilets are a disgrace and should be completely refurbished/rebuilt.

Business

Efforts should be made to attract and retain businesses. Maritime business would benefit from a Northern Arm. Fore Street should be revitalised without losing its quaint character.

The Voluntary Sector

Encourage, support and involve the voluntary sector, e.g. Pride in Brixham, Youth Genesis, Rotary, YES, etc., which is increasingly picking up the load being dropped by councils.

The Environment

Green spaces - we need to protect the limited green spaces that we have left, especially between Brixham and Churston. Torbay Council and speculative developers are aggressively pursuing planning permission to build on these spaces which will severely affect both the environment and road access to Brixham.

In conclusion, it was felt that in order for this sort of exercise to be undertaken successfully, that more information is required on the proportion of money raised by Torbay Council that is spent on Brixham annually. Also, greater accountability is required from individual TC departments when spending ratepayers' money. It was suggested that Brixham Town Council could be abolished to save money although others suggested that not only should BTC be retained but that it should take over direct responsibility for Community Spaces/Parks, street-cleaning, refuse-collection and toilets (with a commensurate increase in funding from Torbay Council).