

TEIGNBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (TALC)

Secretary: Dudley Swain 01392 833353

email: dudleyswain@yahoo.co.uk

DRAFT Minutes

of the meeting held on Thursday 27th September 2018 at Forde House

Present:

Ashburton	John Nutley	Ideford	Ashley Lamb
Bishopsteignton	Elaine Cawthraw;	Newton Abbot	David Howe (Chairman)
	Keith Lambert; Henry Merritt	Ogwell	Richard Broome
Bovey Tracey	Steven Leigh	Tedburn St Mary	Patricia Moody
Bridford	Roger Dowding		
Buckfastleigh	Janet Jones		
Chudleigh	Michael McCormick	TDC	Gary Powell
Denbury & Torbryan	Tony Brownhill	Secretary	Dudley Swain

Apologies: Ashburton (Sarah Parker-Khan); Bishopsteignton (Kim Ford); Bovey Tracey (Martyn Evans); Ideford (David Fox); Ipplepen (Roger Carnell); Kenn & Kennford (Bridgette Williams; Andy Chislett); Newton Abbot (Carol Bunday; Mike Hocking); Teignmouth (Sylvia Russell); Trusham (Adam Jones); Mid-Devon Advertiser (Sandra Perraton)

1 Teignbridge Broadband, Roll-out & Not-spots:

Matt Barrow, CDS Stakeholder Engagement Officer

Jo Scarrott, Gigaclear Project Director for CDS Region

The outline of the superfast broadband roll-out to residents, businesses and communities was explained, covering the overall principles and two phases involved. In principle, this project deals with places and premises that are not commercially viable or suffer from “market failure” where the economics fail to support the costs. This pertains often the rural environment. It was noted that “Superfast” has also changed since the project started and is now raised to 30 Mbps reflecting the progress of IT in this field. Fibre to the cabinet (FTTC), or even to the property (FTTP), is an excellent solution in urban areas but very much more difficult in rural areas. This project is not demand-led since it fundamentally aims a 100% coverage, using various technologies.

Phase 1 target was 275,000 properties, based on postcodes, but achieved some 283,000. Phase 2 targets the remaining more remote areas including new build and conversions, with a target of the known 1.08 millions premises that need connection. Following a Tender process in Phase 2, the companies of Airband and Gigaclear were awarded delivery contracts. Airband involves line-of-sight technology whereas Gigaclear is fibre provision, a particularly good solution in the Teign valley. Some 220 new fibre linked cabinets are planned by the 2020 project end date.

Gigaclear fibre permits a choice of any ISP along with speeds of some 1 Gbps. It necessitates cable laying and new infrastructure. The buried network generally avoids local roads excavations by using highway verges and good cooperation with adjacent landowners and local communities. A 10% contingency fund set aside to assist the more difficult to reach local communities. Similarly, a “voucher scheme” exists to tackle very difficult local problems by dealing with individual solutions, such as satellite access.

There is increasing obligation now put on developers to ensure high speed broadband in integrated with developments, something that has been a failing in recent years. Gigaclear is proactive in this area of connections. It was noted that the July 2018 NPPF, Sect 10, provides key guidance supporting broadband.

See more detail and how you may be affected, at www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk and www.gigaclear.com. Matt’s email matt.barrow@devon.gov.uk Jo email jo.scarrott@gigaclear.com

2 Green Infrastructure – Estelle Skinner, Green Infrastructure Officer, TDC

This topic covers a very wide area of interest such as clean air, pollination, parks, gardens, green corridors..... the list is substantial. Estelle’s role in TDC is to influence specific projects to ensure appropriate inclusion green infrastructure. Suitable “Alternative of Natural Green Spaces” (SANGS) are key to local schemes such as the 27 Ha Dawlish Countryside Park where environmental protection is vital. For example, bees, trees, birds (in particular cirl buntings), meadowland and people are all integral concerns being carefully managed for this project.

Cycle infrastructure, such as the Dawlish–Teignmouth link, is increasingly important, including E-bike network links. Working in conjunction with cycle groups and forums, this work is proving productive and is contributing to TDC’s Urban Design Guide that will enhance school, employment and leisure cycling use. There are many green initiatives in progress such as how habitats are affected by highways, the impact of solar PV and the consequential visual consequences along with agricultural impact, green roofs..... the list is almost endless but it is important for Teignbridge and our environment.

This green concept is a cross-department issue and Estelle deals with many projects and planning applications to bring this concept into the forefront. Her slides attached to these minutes cover the wide extent of this important topic.

4 Minutes of the meeting 28th June 2018 – These were approved. The Secretary apologised for his date typo in draft minutes and pre-empted the anticipated formal complaint from a particularly aggressive Parish Clerk, by offering to resign. Members laughed at this and so he continues as Secretary.

5 Secretary’s Report

A discussion took place regarding TDC Standards Committee. Our remaining TALC representative, Cllr. Dowding, explained the present seemingly inert situation and him being not permitted to vote when necessary. No minutes exist from the December 2017 meeting; no meeting has taken place to date in 2018. It was agreed the Secretary should write to TDC MD to make enquiries.

6 Topics for Meeting 29th November 2018.

Members agreed to re-invite Cllr. Hart of DCC for an update on county financial matters.

7 Matters brought forward from Members

Concern was raised about the implications and costs of travellers setting up camps in unacceptable and inappropriate locations in Teignbridge. The Secretary will find appropriate speaker(s) on this topic for our November meeting.

8 Chairman’s Business

Paperless planning was again discussed and concern raised about the quality of documents available on the TDC web site. Similar concerns were highlighted about this site not working reliability 24x7. In connection with planning, Members expressed concern over the current TDC proposal to not permit local council representation on TDC site Inspections. The secretary was asked to express TALC concerns about this to the Development Manager Planning forthwith for his input to Executive meeting 02/09/18.

8 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 29th November 2018, 7.00pm at Forde House.

For information, 2019 dates: 31 Jan; 28 March; 27 June; 26 Sept.; 28 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.