



# Turnchapel Residents' Association

## Minutes of the Turnchapel Residents' Association meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024, at 7.30pm (in the Boringdon Arms and online via Zoom)

**Attending from the Committee: Lorraine, Harriet, Luc, Anthony, (18 others in the room; 0 online)**

**Apologies: Sarah, Kris**

### Chair's update

Lorraine welcomed everyone and mentioned the events since the last meeting. She thanked Richard, Peter, Helena and Harriet for organising and all who supported the latest music quiz. Harriet took another history walk for the Ivybridge U3A and held a history talk. Lots of people have been involved in making the Halloween decorations, meeting regularly in the Bori. The telephone and post boxes look brilliant once again. A number of people also completed their level 2 food & hygiene course online. Finally, another very successful sailing regatta was held in the summer.

The last minutes were approved.

### Treasurer's report

c. £4,600 in the bank account.

TRA received £500 for the music quiz, £50 for the history walk and £10 for the Christmas Fair stall.

Luc explained that over the last 4 years £3500 has been spent but that some funding pots have stopped (e.g. Plymouth Octopus), so it won't be so easy topping up our funds and we need to be careful how we spend them.

### 1) South West Coast Path

Michelle and Vic's update:

A huge amount of work has gone into this by the sub-committee, including inviting an independent Chartered Civil Engineer to make an assessment of the state of the footpath and surrounding area. The engineer confirmed that the damage to the area is not extensive, the cost of repairs will be minimal and can be done via the beach.

The sub-committee has also spent considerable time researching the history, ownership and legal duties concerning this section of the path. They have shown that the path in its current course has been public since at least 1880.

No public consultation has been held at all about its closing or redirection, despite it being constructed using public monies.

A letter was sent to South West Coast Path Association (SWCPA), Ramblers Association and several members of Plymouth City Council, including Rebecca Smith MP, Kathy Watkin, Luke Pollard and Daniel Steel, outlining our research and asking for an explanation.

Rebecca Smith replied to say that she was aware of it and it is in hand.

Daniel Steel has responded to say that any repair will need a barge to get to it, that there are protected trees to work around and that it will be too expensive.

However, as our consultant informed us, we do not think it has to be accessed from the water to make these minor repairs.

More worrying is that it sounds as if somebody has redirected it down the main road and this is now reflected in the OS map. SWCPA have said that they were not notified of this change or asked to sign this off, as would normally be the case. They have been trying to find out who did this.

SWCPA also added that despite many other diversions in place around the south west, this section of the path is causing the most complaints.

The Ramblers Association have also responded to offer their support and have been talking to SWCPA to ascertain any progress with this matter.

This is now a matter of urgency, not least because there may be a time limit on initial closure of the path and when it can be reopened.

Actions:

- Reply to Daniel Steel asking where he received the information for his conclusion and emphasising that the transfer of land by Plymouth Development Corporation to Yacht Haven in 1997 contained a specific reservation of the right of the public to use the footpath.
- Reply to the Ramblers' Association.
- For a member of the sub-committee to attend Rebecca Smith's surgery.
- Invite Daniel Steel to a meeting at the Bori.
- Shall we contact Raynor Winn (author of the Salt Path) to help us raise awareness about this?

The TRA would like to thank the sub-committee for all of this work.

## **2) South West Water – pong issues**

Michelle – Over 25 years ago they tried to object to the smell and the only thing that is going to work is not paying bills. If anyone wants to stop paying bills with her then she will.

Jordan – The smell is so bad sometimes that customers are refusing to pay for food. We should stop paying waste water charges and get the local media involved. We need a lot of houses and businesses to commit to this.

Rob B. – We did a lot of work last year to gather information including signs with a QR code to encourage anyone living or passing through the village to report it. We had a good

relationship with people at SWW to help us fix some issues but it hasn't got any better and the people at SWW who were helping have moved on.

Cherry – Can we ask Surfers against Sewage to get involved? They are doing an event at The Box at the moment.

Jordan – SWW have advised them that a cylindrical jacket is most likely to have cracked and there is sea water getting in. They have tried to put a camera along the length of the pipes but some are simply too long and reach out into the Cattewater. The smell isn't always bad at high tide but it is after high rain fall.

Action:

- Invite SWW to talk to us about this 30 year old issue
- How can we not pay our waste water? Need a sub-committee for this. Nikki, Jordan, Polly/Jamie and Linzie have volunteered.
- Jennifer suggests inviting help from Geoff Wilcox at Glanville.
- Nikki suggests writing directly to the CEO and asking for maps of the sewage and drains.

### 3) Flooding

Harriet – update on flooding and PCC visit.

Frank Newell at the Environment Agency has been working on flood risks in Plymouth for many years now including providing advice for new developments in the Turnchapel area. He has also led on the development of the updated Plymouth coastal flood mapping. He'd welcome the opportunity to discuss current and future flood risks with the wider community and work through future options for managing resilience to flooding.

He would like to attend with the flood risk manager at Plymouth City Council Andy Cottam, who is on leave until 24 October. We have pencilled in options to confirm on after the 24th Oct. These are 12, 19 or 20 November at 7pm at the Bori. – **Update: Environment Agency Flood Talk to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.**

Sylvia – this is important because lower Turnchapel has flooded several times in 69/70/74. The last time it flooded was 2015 when it came up the road.

Rob D – Rob has photos when that storm surge happened in 2015.

### 4) Conservation Area Appraisal

Although Sarah has stopped getting responses about this from her contact, she is pursuing the appraisal by getting the template and suggests making a start ourselves.

### 5) #loveturnchapel

Luc has found a system to use for planning different projects and addressing problems or issues. This will be useful for sharing projects and submitting bids, and generally taking decisions for raising funds. He used the example of electric cars to illustrate this.

## 6) PA System

At the last meeting a suggestion was made to use the funds to purchase a TRA public address (PA) system. The decision was to investigate costs and options to bring to this meeting for discussion.

Luc: What do we need it for? The better we understand the needs, the more appropriate the solution will be. The first reason was for the quiz, then for the events in the square, Linzie singing in the street, for the sailing regatta. We had a quote for one PA system from Matt B which was expensive and we need more than one speaker. He has investigated other options and the average cost is around £1000 for a PA system.

Richard: perhaps we can agree a cost that is comfortable for everyone and the quiz team can raise more if needed? The quiz team have raised almost £2000 so far for the TRA, so having some money to put towards a PA system to raise more funds for TRA does seem reasonable.

Toni: If it is used in the square then we need to agree when and how it is used, as it is very noisy and reverberates around the village.

Anthony: We can put restrictions on the PA system if we own it.

Fred: We cannot rely on one person's PA system and without a system we cannot have the events that we have. There is understandably a concern about noise but we could have a booking system for the PA system and restrict noise during certain times via terms and conditions of usage.

Decision: The majority of the people attending voted that £1000 of the TRA funds can be put towards a PA system. If more is needed then they will raise it at the next quiz. If it is cheaper then money is saved.

## 7) Kayak storage

Anthony is offering his space on the edge of his land for storage e.g. kayaks that would need a rack.

Action: Jago will cost this for the next meeting.

## 8) Mural

Anthony is giving up his wall for his mural and more walls have now been put forward for painting.

Action: Jago to contact Brewers to ask if they would be willing to support a community project and provide paint. Sarah is getting a group together to design over the winter and plans to start in spring.

## 9) Tide chart

As voted for at the last meeting, £44 will go to buying this and it will be put on the display board in the square.

## 10) Top garden

The top garden is now very overgrown. We discussed whether this was something we now need to pay to clear and make easier to maintain.

Rob D is happy for waste to be put on his drive if we want to tackle it ourselves whilst things are dying back a bit. He suggested taking an industrial strimmer to it and keeping the community involved to at least clear the brambles.

Action: Anyone who is interested in helping to clear the top garden is welcome to join on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November, for as much or as little time as people can spare.

Action: Secretary to share more information via email nearer the time.

## 11) Gazebos

There has been discussion about purchasing more gazebos for events such as the Christmas fair. However, the discussion revealed that there are at least five gazebos that can be borrowed for events and one that needs a replacement cover.

Action: Jago to cost the replacement cover.

## 12) Level 2 Food & Hygiene

£84 has been paid by Luc (and needs reimbursing) for 7 people to complete the course. These were:

Russ, Jago, Matt L, Luc, Nikki, Lucy. Another person was ill on the day and yet to complete.

Luc: are there more people who want to do the level 2 food & hygiene course?

Jordan: we really need someone to have obtained a level 3 food & hygiene too, to oversee the others.

Action: Luc will research a level 3 course.

## 13) Future events

Christmas Fair – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 12 til late.

Live music from 12 noon will include Turnchapel Wellbeing Choir, Mayflower A Cappella Chorus and Moon Groove Live.

We are charging for the grotto (in Nikki's cellar) this year which will be open from 2-4pm but we can pay for that until the money is collected.

Toni: if anyone wants to get involved in the craftiness then make yourselves known.

Lorraine: There is one inside stall left (£10) and others outside (£5) and this money will go to the TRA. If anyone would like to bake, we need donations for the cake stand and also anything people can provide for the tombola.

Action: Some leaflets and posters have already been distributed. Children to help with leaflet drop and put on community boards.

#### **14) Any other business**

Jordan: parcels are going missing so Bori can be a safe space if needed.

Jordan: Just a reminder that it is Remembrance Day coming up and any support would be very much appreciated.

Jago: Next to the mortuary the wall has been demolished and there is now a screen. It is not in the conservation area but depending on the reason for it, there might be some obstruction for traffic.

Sylvia: spoke to him and he's taken the wall down to get a digger in. They're going to put the wall back. \* Since the meeting we have learnt that the wall be replaced by a gate to allow access for boats.

Sylvia: Another important point is that increasingly people are parking along that road in valuable passing spaces.

Harriet: the committee is struggling to continue with offering people the option to use Zoom for these meetings (introduced during Covid). TRA does not have an account and we are relying on personal equipment and a personal work Zoom account. We propose that we only offer face-to-face again from now on. Agreed.

#### **15) Details of next meeting**

Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd January 2025