



TORBAY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY Newsletter

March 2010

Contents

Heritage Strategy1
Boost for local businesses1
Sea Change Programme2
Mayor's Vision Programme2
Children's Services Capital Programme - Schools3
Policy Developments4

Need this in another format?
Telephone
01803 208985

Heritage Strategy

Torbay Council is updating its Heritage Strategy and has commissioned the TDA to undertake this task. Torbay residents are being urged to have their say on how to protect and enhance the Bay's heritage.

We are delighted with the response received so far with well over 100 questionnaires being completed. We still need more feedback so please complete the short questionnaire, which is available on line at www.torbay.gov.uk. Hard copies are also available in Torbay's libraries, Connections offices, Tourist Information Centres or from the heritage team at the TDA.

Boost for local businesses

The Torbay Development Agency is launching a series of business support programmes designed to equip local businesses with a greater understanding of business issues, as well as stimulate ideas for business improvement, development and growth.

The following courses will be delivered from 15 April 2010:

- Boosting sales through the internet
- Your business and how the law can help you
- Leading your small business to success
- Creative thinking
- Adopting social media to boost business
- How VAT can boost your cash flow
- Pricing for success
- Your best business friend - cash flow
- Introduction to exporting: workshop and mentoring programme



The TDA has drawn together a consortium of local training providers to develop and deliver these workshops, based on the needs of local companies. Between them, these trainers have many years experience in their fields.

The courses will be delivered in the Innovation Centres in Torquay and Paignton and in Brixham Community College to make it easier for businesses to attend. They will be heavily subsidised by the TDA - courses cost between £10 and £40.



Further information and booking details can be found by visiting the Torbay Development Agency's website www.torbaydevelopmentagency.co.uk and click on business boost or call 01803 208369

Sea Change Programme

Berry Head visitor centre opens

Construction work is now complete on the Guardhouse Visitor Centre and new Café extension in the Northern Fort. It is all part of the Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust's 'On the Edge' project. An interpretation scheme has been installed in the new Visitor Centre and external interpretation has been installed throughout the site, ready for a 'soft' opening at the beginning of March and



an official opening on Friday 19 March.

The former visitor centre in the main car park has been converted into a training base for the Trust's educational activities and



the adjacent public toilets have been newly refurbished.

The bridge into the Southern Fort was installed at the

beginning of February and really gives a sense of how

the original drawbridge must have looked 200 years ago. The Trust has worked hard on this exciting regeneration project for

Berry Head, and is proud of

what has been achieved so far – it now looks forward to the reactions of the first visitors to the new facilities, which have rejuvenated the site.



Cockington

Planning consent has been granted for the new building at Cockington Court. Designed by architects, Kay Elliot, the new building will house 15 new craft workshops plus a sizeable resource room which will be a wonderful addition to the existing facilities.

With consent now granted, it is anticipated that mobilisation on site will take place in the coming weeks in order that the main works can begin both on the new building and also the renovation of the Court itself. It is expected that the whole development will be finished in late autumn this year. The centre will be remaining fully operational and open throughout the programme.

Mayor's Vision Programme

Work on the Building Heights Strategy is now drawing to a close. The draft report has been produced and is currently being reviewed. It is expected that the final draft report will be provided to the planning department towards the end of March. The building heights strategy forms part of the evidence underpinning preparation of the council's Core Strategy. The next version of the Core Strategy is due for publication later this year. At that stage there will be a further opportunity to comment on the draft building heights policy, which has arisen from this current work. More information is available on Torbay Council's website under Mayor's Vision.

Atkins continues to work on the Strategic Car Park and Transportation study. It is now in its third phase of looking at the impact of the priority projects on the existing and future car parking and traffic conditions. A report for this phase will be produced in May 2010.

Torquay

The Castle Circus Regeneration Project

Detailed plans for the refurbishment of Tor Hill House have been prepared, and works are anticipated to commence in mid March subject to the necessary building control and planning approvals.

Disruption to the normal day-to-day operations of the existing building will be kept to a minimum.

A public consultation event for the Business Hub Project was recently held in the Assembly Hall. For further information please visit: www.torbay.gov.uk/businesshubconsultation.

A services survey and site investigation will be carried out in the vicinity of the Town Hall and in the Town Hall car park in the next month. There will be some temporary disruption and reduced parking capacity during these surveys and investigations.

Princess Gardens / Pavilions

Ideas on how Torquay's sinking promenade and dilapidated Pavilion can be transformed were discussed at a special public meeting held by the Tormohun Community Partnerships in February. The event was well supported by the local community with well over 208 people attending to hear what the options for regeneration were. Debated at the meeting were ideas on how much of the repairs should be paid by taxpayers, and how much by developers. The more the public pay, the less development will be needed.

Those attending the meeting were warned that if private sector developers are expected to pay for all the repairs, there will need to be a significant amount of new development. The presentation can be found on the TDA and Torbay Council website, under Mayor's Vision.

A further follow up meeting will be held by the Tormohun Community Partnerships in mid April and residents are being encouraged to attend.

Paignton

Paignton Library

Construction on the new Paignton Community Library is progressing well. The windows, cladding and roof is largely complete, and a 'topping out' ceremony was held on Monday 1 March. Designs for the fit-out have now been agreed with all stakeholders and the internal work has commenced. The library will open in September 2010.



Paignton Green Playground

Paignton Green playground obtained planning permission in December by a narrow majority of councillors on the Development Management Committee. Through the dedication and hard work of the playground project group, especially by Tracey Cabache who worked over the Christmas and new year period, the Community Spaces Flagship Stage 2 application was finally submitted in mid January. A big thank you to the project group and all the people associated with the project who have helped to coordinate this innovative, but often controversial, funding opportunity. A decision on the outcome of the submission is expected in late March/early April.



Brixham

Brixham Fish Market – My Brixham Project

Brixham residents and organisations are getting behind a project to create an impressive design to enhance and promote the new Brixham Fish Quay redevelopment. Artist Kate Green has been commissioned by Torbay

Council, in partnership with the TDA and Brixham 21, to produce a new public piece of artwork, which will compliment and complete recent works to the area. It will be sited on the main south westerly wall of the new employment building next to the South West Coast Path, from Oxen Cove car park to the inner harbour. The project has inspired many groups and individuals in the town to contribute towards the final design.

Numerous activities have taken place involving Brixham Library, GCSE photography students from the college and Year 6 students at Brixham Church of England School. More activities are also being organised over the next few months including 'live' portrait sessions in the town and a giant rangoli art session, where members of the public will be able to make a temporary artwork on the floor around the harbour using natural materials. As a photographer and digital artist, Kate will weave all these multi-layered artworks to create her final piece. This artwork is expected to be in place in September.

Children's Services Capital Programme - Schools

Barton Primary & Nursery School – Remodeling Works

Torbay Development Agency, on behalf of Children's Services, has commissioned a professional project team through The Consultancy Framework South West to develop and deliver this exciting opportunity for Barton School.

£4.5 million has been allocated to the project from the primary capital programme, which is a 14 year national initiative to improve primary school buildings. Barton is one of the first local schools to benefit.

The school has 630 places for pupils aged 4 to 11 years, a nursery department and a special needs unit for pupils with language learning difficulties.

The current school was formed in the 1990s from the merger of infants and juniors and its current layout arrangement is generally recognisable from what were formerly the two individual teaching establishments.

The governors and staff under the leadership of the head teacher have been working hard to develop a vision for the schools future and this will look to set out their quality expectations and priorities.

Appointed lead designers, Atkins is a global company with a national reputation for innovative education projects and has been tasked to create a master plan, which will meet these expectations and facilitate the schools future curriculum delivery within improved accommodation for all.

The target date for completion of the master plan is the end of March 2010



Policy Developments

Energy Team

This month saw the return of Torbay Council Energy Saving Week, which promised to be 'bigger and better' than ever before!

Six of our corporate buildings competed against one another to reduce their electricity consumption by the highest percentage for the week of the 8 to 14 of February. All week council energy envoys encouraged their colleagues to 'switch –off' to win the fantastic prize of the Energy Saving Week trophy, and also £2000 donated by British Gas to spend on energy saving equipment of their choice for their building.

By mid week, we thought we had a clear winner, with Tor Hill House saving approx 33% over a normal week, we then came to the final reads to find that Tor Hill had been piped to the post by Pearl Assurance with savings of over 27% - impressive!

Each building taking part made significant savings on their electricity bills that week, we have calculated that if these good practices were kept up for a year the savings from all six buildings would equate to approx £9,300 and 51 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

The Energy Team went and spoke to the winners in Pearl Assurance to find out just how they did it. "We were very careful with our energy use" was the over-all message from the staff at Pearl Assurance about their winning methods. They went on to say that air conditioning units were turned off, where perhaps they might have previously been on all day. Some lights were turned off for most of the week, making maximum use of daylight by pulling back the blinds. The hot water urn in the kitchen was turned off, which is usually on all day every day. This was replaced by using the kettle for hot drinks and only boiling the amount of water actually required. Computers were turned off at the end of the day, and monitors were switched off when out to meetings or lunch, or even when making a cuppa! Wherever things could be 'switched off' they were.



Funding for Local Graduate Internships

Local Graduate Internships are being launched with funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England to generate graduate jobs in the region.

This programme will see Universities work closely with employers across Devon and Cornwall, creating short-term paid internships for 2008 and 2009 graduates from any university or further education college in the UK.

It will present an opportunity for employers in the region to expand their workforce and tap into the up-to-date knowledge of graduates, while also receiving financial assistance of up to £1450 towards the intern's salary and the additional support of a free recruitment service. Internships will be for a minimum of eight weeks with an expected salary of £300 per week for the intern.

These funded internships are available to private, public and third sector organisations of all sizes, with a specific focus on the low carbon, digital, life sciences and pharmaceuticals, advanced manufacturing, professional and financial services, engineering construction and marine industries.

For further information please visit:
<http://torbaydevelopmentagency.co.uk/index.php?m=news&id=155>