

# get with the plan

## Don't give developers carte blanche, councillors told

TOTNES will be left at the mercy of developers unless it has a neighbourhood plan to give residents a vitally important say over the future shape of their community, the town has been warned.

A total of £28,000 is already being pumped into producing the crucial plan, which will spell out how the town should be allowed to develop in the decades to come.

Former town councillor Carol Wellwood declared that, without

input from the community into a plan that could impose a legally enforceable framework for future development, such decisions could be made by developers or end up being imposed on Totnes by outside authorities, such as the district council.

Dr Wellwood, who is heading one of the neighbourhood plan groups, warned town councillors: 'If we do not produce a plan we're at the mercy of developers and South Hams Council's planning department.'

A steering group for

by **STEVE PEACOCK**

the Totnes Neighbourhood Plan was set up months ago, it is made up of local councillors and representatives from local organisations, including Transition Town Totnes and Totnes on the Move.

The cash is being spent on employing a plan coordinator and to train more than a dozen volunteers, whose job it will be to man workshops and take part in various events aimed at gathering townspeople's views and opinions about how Totnes should develop.

Individual task groups have been set up to look at housing,

transport, the environment and community assets.

The first Totnes Neighbourhood Plan workshop is due to get under way next Saturday, July 18, at The Mansion.

Ms Wellwood was speaking to members of Totnes Town Council as she gave them a rundown on the importance of the neighbourhood plan process to the town.

She stressed that the plan group needed to get as much information as possible from local people about how they want to see their community develop. This will ensure it has the documented weight behind it to stand up to future challenges.

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Published & typeset by South Hams Newspapers Ltd. at Tindle House, 101/103 Fore Street, Kingsbridge TQ7 1AF Tel: 01548 853101

Printed by Newsquest Southern Print Centre, Test Lane, Redbridge, Southampton, SO16 9JX. Tel: 02380 424802