

# Neighbourhood plan meeting wants wide range of views

TOWNSPEOPLE are being invited to help thrash out the future of Totnes over cake and a cuppa.

The Totnes Neighbourhood Plan team is hosting its first workshop since relaunching earlier this year and is inviting people to come along to share their knowledge and talk about the town's future.

The workshop will be held this Saturday at The Mansion in

Fore Street between 10.30am and 3.30pm. It will be going ahead in the hall next to the library, and the day will include a cup of tea and a slice of cake while discussing the shape of things to come for the town.

The aim of the neighborhood plan process is to produce a community-led framework that will help influence how and where developments take place in the parish.

Totnes Neighbourhood Plan coordinator Thea Platt explained that people who come along to the workshop will be able to share their local knowledge and viewpoints around a range of issues that will impact the town over the next 15 years; meet the steering group and volunteers involved with the project; find out more about how neighbourhood planning works and see what the team has been up to.

Children will also have the chance to make a contribution, added Thea.

People's comments and conversations will be recorded and collated as part of the plan's evidence base and will also help to inform the key themes of the plan.

Thea said: 'The legal history behind neighbourhood planning is that the Localism Act of 2011 made it our lawful right as

people living and working in Totnes to draw up a plan to influence development in our town.

'A neighbourhood plan is a document with legal weight, which means what we say has to be listened to - that's why it's vital we get as wide a range of local people attending this event as possible.'

She said there could be a range of outcomes from the Totnes Neighbourhood Plan, including

crucial issues such as more affordable housing, community-owned land, spaces for young people, connected footpaths and cycle paths, improved public and green spaces, better community and leisure facilities and more opportunities for thriving local businesses.

'It's up to the people of the town to make it clear to us what the priorities should be,' stressed Thea.