

Tavistock Plan Vision

In 2034, Tavistock is a sustainable, thriving market town that benefits from and safeguards its natural and built historic environment, riverside setting, green spaces and surrounding moorland landscape and has responded positively to the challenges posed by our changing climate.

Tavistock retains its renown town centre and markets which showcase a diverse range of sustainable businesses to serve the community and maintains high-quality community facilities and infrastructure that promote the health and well-being of residents.

Tavistock has a variety of sustainable and accessible homes designed to meet the needs of a balanced community, developed with respect for the character and heritage of the town.

Travel within and around the town is convenient by healthy and sustainable means accessible to all and the town is well-connected to Plymouth and other nearby communities by public transport.

Parks, allotments, and other green spaces in Tavistock are protected and maintained to promote active outdoor pursuits, mitigate the effects of climate change and increase biodiversity.

Aims	Objectives
Housing	
<p>New housing meets the identified needs of the community, is well-designed, provides social benefit, delivers homes that are affordable to local people and response positively to the challenges of climate change.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote well-designed, sustainable and accessible housing in appropriate locations that meets the identified needs of the community. 2. Support the use of community land trusts to achieve affordable, sustainable and high-quality housing design for the benefit of local people. 3. Support windfall town centre development for dwellings where it supports the overall vitality and viability of town centre uses. 4. Support developments with a housing tenure, size and mix that redress imbalances in the age and income demographics of the community to ensure that Tavistock remains a vibrant and diverse market town. 5. Promote developer contributions to enhance and extend Tavistock’s social infrastructure.
	<p>Community Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with local councils and nearby communities to find ways to promote bulk procurement of renewable energy improvements for existing housing stock. 2. Promote CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) use by WDBC.

Aims	Objectives
Business	
Tavistock’s Town Centre remains the commercial and social heart of Tavistock and sustainable neighbourhood retail sites that meet local needs are supported.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support sustainable and inclusive town centre development which sustains and safeguards a diverse and flourishing town centre. 2. Encourage and safeguard the retail function of the town centre and neighbourhoods, while supporting appropriate mixed-use which meets the identified housing needs of the community. 3. Encourage the positive and acceptable use for residential, office, and services of upper floors of shops and commercial premises. 4. Promote vibrant daytime and evening activities, including hospitality businesses, to enhance town centre vitality and viability and support the development of cultural uses and activity. <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Community Actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Document community support for facilities which provide activities for everyone, including children and young people.
Development that is sustainable and recognises the importance of Tavistock’s unique market town heritage and place within a working rural community is promoted.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support sustainable business development in town that respects the town’s character and agricultural development outside town that enhances a sustainable supply chain. <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Community actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote marketing and sale of local produce. b. Speak with commercial developers and agents to understand the local market. c. Document and identify adaptation needed arising from the challenges and opportunities presented by online shopping and changes in technology and consumer behaviour. d. Support and develop sustainable businesses appropriate for the local community, environment and fabric of the town by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Developing consensus with BID, Business Hub, and Chamber of Commerce for development of local economy through regular meetings. ii. Ensuring businesses develop attractive visitor offering, including links with rail and bus with support from GWR, Stagecoach, Go-ahead. iii. Using potential corporate social responsibility opportunities pertaining to local business. iv. Maintaining regular close links with local media to update town on latest business ideas and developments.

Aims	Objectives
Community Facilities	
<p>Community facilities across the parish are maintained and enhanced and new community facilities are supported where they increase the quality of life in the parish and encourage positive economic activity.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support proposals that enhance or maintain Tavistock’s leading position within the surrounding rural community in the provision of facilities meeting identified needs or enhancing the quality of life for local people. 2. Protect and maintain existing community facilities. <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Community Actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engage with local facility providers to estimate future likely demand as user needs change (e.g. wider adoption of four-day working; enlarged community of active retired) b. Engage with local community facilities and charities to identify proposals that need planning permission that support identified needs in the community. c. Provide decision-makers with a realistic assessment of possible future requirements to enhance attractiveness of Tavistock as a place to live, work, or visit (e.g. electric scooter provision, cultural endeavours)
<p>Planning decisions enhance and do not adversely impact community facilities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with relevant planning applications early on to understand the impacts on community facilities. 2. Identify appropriate planning criteria that would enhance the quality of development by mitigating adverse effects on community facilities. <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Community Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Communicate with stakeholders to baseline the suitability of provision in meeting current need and evaluate mid-term future requirement by considering future demand arising from planning decisions and societal changes. b. Assess what synergies exist between facilities and what further opportunities are desirable. (e.g. Tavistock College/Mount Kelly sharing) c. Identify and prepare for changes in policy or law that create detriment for local community facilities.

Aims	Objectives
Environment	
Development in Tavistock enhances biodiversity and protects the environment, green space, and the landscape attractiveness of the town.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect green space boundaries with neighbouring parishes in order that settlement should remain separate, distinct, and buffered. 2. Protect and enhance formal and informal public green space, extending green space provision in parts of the parish where it is less accessible or less diverse. 3. Protect and enhance habitats and increase biodiversity. 4. Value and protect landscape, its role and character and the views it frames as part of Tavistock’s setting. 5. Promote sustainable environmental practices and support adaptations and mitigations to climate change, recognising increased flood risk as a particular vulnerability.
	<p>Community Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use Local Green Space (LGS) designation, part of the National Planning Framework (NPF), to protect local green areas of particular importance to local communities. See the Open Spaces Society for support on this process https://www.oss.org.uk 2. Have important views within and beyond the town designated 3. Subject to funding, establish a Wildlife Warden, following the model used at Teignbridge - https://www.actionclimateteignbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ACT-Wildlife-Warden-Scheme-Aug-20-PS01.pdf

Aims	Objectives
Heritage	
Buildings, structures and streetscapes that contribute to the heritage and history of the parish are safeguarded for the future and protected from harm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect heritage assets within the parish not currently having the protection of national (i.e. listed building or scheduled monument status) or local listing, that warrant policy protection until such time as they are added to the West Devon Borough Council 'Local list'. 2. Identify streetscapes of importance outside the two conservation areas that are linked to the heritage and history of the Parish, and which contribute to the significance of the area to ensure the character is maintained.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Community Action: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensure that the World Heritage Site status is promoted and understood in the community to encourage access to and awareness and understanding of, the mining heritage and history and bolster visitors to the town.
The character of the heritage and history environment in the two Conservation Areas is enhanced for the benefit of the present and future generations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and encourage improvements to the quality of our built heritage in the two Conservation Areas where it requires enhancement. 2. Improve and enhance degraded or poorly maintained areas of the public realm within the Conservation Areas.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Community Action: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage and support improved access to heritage assets where it does not compromise their value. b. Work with West Devon Borough Council and Historic England to create a character appraisal of the Whitchurch Conservation Area.

Aims	Objectives
Transport and Connectivity	
Getting around Tavistock on foot, by bicycle or using mobility aids is an attractive and convenient option.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure new development is connected by convenient, safe, walkable routes to its immediate neighbourhood and to key facilities. 2. Protect, improve and add to traffic-free paths and safe cycling routes within the town and connecting to neighbouring settlements. 3. Ensure street furniture (including electric vehicle chargepoints) does not obstruct pedestrians.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Community Action: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify and seek mitigation for places where pedestrian infrastructure is inadequate (eg no or narrow pavement, long detour)
Tavistock has good facilities for public and shared transport connecting to nearby villages and towns.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguard the route for a restored rail link in both directions (to Bere Alston and to Okehampton). 2. Protect and enhance the bus station and bus stops. 3. Ensure any larger developments have road layouts which provide for bus access and for shared transport schemes (Eg car club and bike share parking). 4. Encourage provision of transport hubs with park and change facilities within sites identified for development on key roads into the town.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Community Action: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Advocate for increased bus route coverage.
Negative impacts of transport, including traffic congestion and pollution, are minimized.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support initiatives which reduce the need to travel, including improvements to digital communication. (eg public Wifi, full fibre broadband) 2. Ensure that overall parking provision for vehicles, cycles, and micromobility devices meets the changing needs of residents, visitors and businesses. 3. Facilitate provision for electric vehicle charging, including sites convenient to homes without off-street parking.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Community Action: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage travel planning by schools and larger businesses to reduce peak time traffic.