

darren sutton <>  
Sent: 28 November 2021  
To: Totnes Town Clerk  
Subject: Atmos & The Neighbourhood Plan

Dear Totnes Town Council,

I would like to express my strongly enthusiastic sentiments on the merits of including the Atmos project in the Totnes Neighbourhood Plan.

The ideas mapped out to redevelop + restore the former Dairy Crest site as detailed in Policy C12 + Appendix E C12 offer so many extraordinary benefits + opportunities for this Town, it seems imperative that it is championed and fought for to come to delivery.

What an extraordinary progressive + exciting thing for a small town to take the lead on in the UK. Aside from all the direct benefits :

- diverse, ecological genuinely affordable housing in a time of housing crisis that is really a big deal for this town.
- local diverse range of jobs in a mixed use development - that I know from personal experience in visiting similar developments elsewhere breeds creativity and resilience for job opportunities, green + light + creative industries.
- taking bold forward thinking moves to respond to the global challenges of the climate emergency, as well as responding locally + specifically to this in clever + robust flood defences + mitigations
- so many cultural riches enabled through the restoration of the Brunel building as an arts centre - right by the train station - as well as the draw of a hotel, and plans for community training...

There is so much to like about the ideas in all I have seen in this project that would enable the creation of a whole new district for the Town - and in a way that speaks with the spirit of the town - and keeps alive the creativity built into its DNA. But more, it has grown from the most extraordinary community led process. Built on genuine need and community vision. And voted for by the town, in a pretty amazing process. Yes things happen slowly sometimes when new ideas arrive - they are challenging - but they are worth fighting for and being patient with.

But really this is not a good look if this is sold down the river through a classically dubious property gazump. It will fix a cynicism in the community in the face of council action, or lack of to support it – not forgetting that govt. local or otherwise is here to serve community, not vice versa. Plus, it is really not a good look to side with a private developer in the face of this. But more, any level of Local Govt. should be biting the hands off of an opportunity like this - what a fantastic progressive thing to be apart of – challenges of course - but a pioneer in progressive responses to the multiple crises of these times - the Town Council Neighbourhood Plan should be celebrating such an incredible opportunity to be a part of the future – in partnership with its community.

Do not underestimate nor miss this opportunity.

Really hope you got the gist of my enthusiasm.

Many Thanks

Darren Jan Sutton