

Objections could include:

1. Since the new Housing Act means that planning permission in principle is given to any land put into the Joint Plan, the council will not be able to control what happens to development here once it is sold and developers will be able to build what they want, where they want. If T3 is put into the Joint Plan it will be built on.
2. The proposed development will destroy the character of the heart of a conservation area and one of the top ten historic towns and villages in the country.
3. The proposed development would compromise market trading as although the actual market square will not be built on, building on the back of the civic square will mean the loss of the car park and the flea market as well as disrupting trade for years through building works and building commercial units on the side of the market square will spoil the unique atmosphere of the market place and disrupt trade there.
4. The proposed 50 houses on Heaths Nursery do not have car parking spaces in the 2011 Plan, this means that the council's proposal for replacing lost parking spaces with a multi storey car park is deeply flawed, the cars belonging to the 50 new houses will take up 50 places in the multi-storey resulting in a net loss of parking spaces in a town where parking is already at a premium.
5. Sarah Wollaston said in the consultation document - "Already in the local plan there are sites set out which are clearly unsuitable and leading to great local anger for example proposals to build over the market area or other important local amenities in Totnes T3 central area"
6. Sarah Wollaston said in the consultation document - "The local plan documents contain very little information about the road infrastructure and its ability to support further development. Traffic congestion and pollution levels are too high on the main roads through Totnes and narrow lanes throughout the South Hams struggles to cope with existing numbers, especially in the holiday season."
7. Sarah Wollaston said in the consultation document - "The plans for the central area site in Totnes should be removed as this is a key amenity for the Town and loss of the market or Leechwell Gardens would have grave consequences."
8. Quote from the consultation document -The Civic Square forms an integral part of life in the community of Totnes. Reducing the market space by developing additional commercial premises and housing would have an adverse impact. The market, including the open market at the back, is the unique heart of Totnes. It provides a hub for the town and brings people in to shop. It provides an open, sunny civic space in the midst of one of the most narrow, historic and densely populated high streets in the country. It is nationally and even internationally known and widely used for many activities as well as the markets. Weekly markets on Friday and Saturday bring people into the town and foster a sense of community. The 'Good Food Sunday' market has been a significant success that has gone from strength to strength. Totnes is a unique and special town centre with a significant number of independent shops and open space for market trading. These features make it attractive as a place to live and to visit. Access to this market area is already extremely difficult. It is likely that the development would bring at least one and likely two cars per dwelling, adding additional travelling of both private and commercial vehicles. Car parks are important for enabling access to the town. However a multi-story car park, which has already been suggested as a way of releasing development land, would not replace the quality or numbers of spaces needed, is inaccessible to many, particularly trader vehicles, and above all totally inappropriate in Totnes. The discrepancies in the plan and its lack of consultation highlight the need for sympathetic development with wider involvement of the local community who live in and use these spaces.
9. Quote from the consultation document - At the moment all this proposal will bring is congestion, disruption, damage to trade, loss of parking space, damage to listed building, loss of green spaces, loss of public space, damage to the environment, air pollution, damage to tourism and against the wishes of all of those writing in to the petition and writing to you now. Any advantage this proposal had in 2008 has gone - it is entirely detrimental now and a great threat to a beautiful and ancient town.

10. There are almost 4,000 signatures on the petition and over 1000 comments - the vast majority of the comments are from people who live nearby or in Totnes, whose main reason for visiting the town is for the market - if you compromise the parking and trading in central Totnes, these people will cease to visit and not only Totnes, but all the surrounding villages will be affected, as will tourism in this part of the S. Hams.