

Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Forum Meeting held at Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Wednesday 25th July 2012 at 6:30pm

PRESENT

Chaired by Cllr Peter Fleming (Leader of Sevenoaks District Council)

Cllr Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Elizabeth Purves	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks District Councillor & Town Councillor
Cllr Robert Piper	Sevenoaks District Councillor & Town Councillor
Cllr Pam Walshe	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Merrill London	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Richard Parry	Sevenoaks Town Councillor & KCC Member
Cllr John London	KCC Member
Keith Loney	Lyle Park Residents' Association
Helen Wills	National Council of Women
Geoff Brown	St John's Residents' Association
Henry Pound	Knole Paddock Residents' Association
Stuart Bird	White Hart Estate Residents' Association
Andrew Smith	Acorns Residents' Association
Marcia Walker	Town Resident
J. M. Bamforth	Hitchen Hatch Residents' Association
J. Stevenson	St Botolph's Residents' Association
Alice Hemming	Sevenoaks Chronicle

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Ann White - Deputy Town Clerk, Sevenoaks Town Council
Hugh D'Alton, Sevenoaks Town Council

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllrs Roderick Hogarth, and Simon Raikes (SDC & STC)
Gerry Wood - White Hart Estates Residents Association
Edward Oatley - Sevenoaks District Sports Council
Helen O'Sullivan - Granville & Eardley Road Residents' Association
Peter Scott
Roy Walker - The Drive Residents' Association

1. Mark of Respect for Frank Marshall

A moment of silence was given for the passing of Frank Marshall. A key member of the Sevenoaks Town Forum and Sevenoaks Society

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Sevenoaks Town Forum held on the 21st March 2012 were approved and signed.

3. UPDATES

- **Transport Pembury Hospital**

The Chairman reported that the Government had made the dualing of the A21 a priority, while there is currently no funding allocated to carry out the work, certain steps can be completed to speed delivery once a funding source has been identified. KCC were thanked for their work to reduce the budget for the dualing project by approximately £45mil.

Mr Smith noted that members of the public are now able to view estimated A&E waiting times for local hospitals online.

It was noted that Sevenoaks Hospital was able to deal with minor injuries, and that SDC are currently requesting improvements to signage in the area to take account of this.

Mr Brown inquired what public transport links were proposed to the new hospital.

It was noted that studies showed public transport links to local hospitals were not widely used, therefore making it uneconomical for any provider to offer such a route.

It was noted that there are a number of services such as VAWK and dial-a-ride which will help elderly patients to access hospital, and stay with them during appointments. Information leaflet attached.

- **Dead trees at Blighs**

It was noted that SDC are working towards a resolution, and it is hoped that suitable replacements will be provided in the next planting season.

- **Local controls on demolition work**

It was noted that once consent was granted SDC have no control over demolition work, SDC are able to request developers “tidy up” derelict sites via a S215 notice. SDC may consider using this power in connecting with the former Farmers site opposite Sevenoaks Rail Station.

- **Architects’ Panels**

It was noted that the formation of local architects panels was outside of SDC’s remit. SDC will monitor the formation of architects’ panels in other areas of the country.

- **Advertising signage on the “BT building” 106 London Road**

It was noted that despite the fact the signage in question is now obscured by plant growth SDC’s enforcement team will be investigating the size of the sign to check it is in compliance with advertising regulations.

- **Town Forum advertising methods**

It was **RESOLVED that** in future agenda items be requested 2-3 weeks prior to the distribution of the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED that** the date of the next meeting of the Town Forum be published on SDC's and STC's website.

4. OPEN FORUM

a) Parking at Bligh's

Mr Bamforth inquired what the Implications on parking in Bligh's would be in the light of the recent Marks and Spencer proposal for 66 London Road.

It was noted that SDC and the applicant had carried out independent studies which showed there are free spaces in Town Centre car parks at all times of day. It is hoped that the electronic car park signage which forms a part of the application will help to ameliorate parking issues within the Town Centre.

It was inquired whether there was expected to be an influx in traffic due to introduction of a new "destination store"
It was noted that there was not expected to be a dramatic influx in traffic due to Marks and Spencer's choice of site. Additionally studies have shown that such a development will increase dwell time within the Town Centre; increasing footfall to local traders and supporting the economic stability of Sevenoaks Town.

It was noted that there was a net loss of 24 public spaces around the store, 125 full time employees, and no allocated staff parking. Marks and Spencer do however have a Green Travel plan, designed to encourage employees to travel to work via sustainable means.

To prevent parking issues arising during construction it was suggested that the electronic signage be requested to be installed prior to any construction work being commenced. It was noted that SDC were considering this as an option.

It was suggested that the Sevenoaks Station car park be decked to remove some of the pressure on parking in the Town Centre. It was noted that a new rail franchise will be selected in 2014, and this would be discussed with any potential applicant.

b) Sevenoaks Residential Character Area Assessment

Mr Brown inquired whether the Residential Character Area Assessment had been adopted, and whether it would have an impact in change of use to residential developments.

It was noted that the Sevenoaks Residential Character Area Assessment had been adopted, and is used to ensure any proposals are in keeping with the character of their local area.

c) St Botolphs Road; KCC tree survey.

Mr Stevenson of St Botolphs Residents' Association expressed concern at the recent KCC tree survey in the area, and its potential implication on the sylvan nature of the road.

It was noted by Cllr Eyre (Chair of STC's Open Spaces and Leisure Committee) that the Town Council sought to preserve the sylvan nature of the Town whenever possible.

It was **RESOLVED** that SDC request that KCC make the tree report public, in an attempt to allay the concerns of the residents, and a copy be made available to STC and the Town Forum.

d) Waiting of vehicles at the end of St Botolphs Road

It was noted that an increasing number of vehicles were waiting around the bottom of St Botolphs road either dropping off or collecting members of the public from the station.

It was **RESOLVED** that traffic wardens be requested to patrol the area during peak times to help discourage this practice.

e) Car Parking ticket machines

It was reported that some of the Town Centre car parks' ticket machines do not accept the new 10p coins.

It was noted that SDC were currently in the process of rolling out new machines to car parks within the town.

f) Enforcement of A board regulations

It was reported that a number of Town Centre retailers were siting A boards on pavements which may pose a danger to members of the public.

It was noted that as the pavement constitutes the public highway KCC are the local authority charged with regulating the siting of A boards, unless conditioned as part of a planning permission grant.

It was noted that Cllr Fleming would pass on any reports of shops breaking conditions to SDC's enforcement team

g) Nuisance caused by urban foxes

It was reported that there had been an increase in the number of urban foxes within Sevenoaks.

It was noted that any reports of actual nuisance caused be reported to SDC's Environmental Health department.

h) Traffic Lights at Sevenoaks Railway Station

The phasing of the lights was queried. The Chairman reported that liaison took place with Kent Highways, and the situation was being monitored.

i) Speed Limits

The new government proposals for lower speed limits were raised. The chairman Suggested that local communities may wish to consider the use of speed guns as part of KCC's community speed watch scheme.

j) Cycling on Pavements

The problem of people cycling on pavements was raised. The Forum would like to request that the police to have another look into this safety hazard posed by this.

5. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

a) Lidl (development at 80 London Road, former Caffyns dealership)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Forum request via Cllr Peter Fleming that this application go to the Development Control Committee due to the following concerns;

- Traffic Management issues
- Parking issues
- Potentially constitutes an out of Town retail development, contrary to the Sevenoaks District Local Development Framework.

b) Marks and Spencer Development

Discussed above during the Open Forum.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 6:30pm on 24th October 2012 in the Council Chamber at Sevenoaks Town Council, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG.

The meeting closed at 7:32pm.

Chairman

Kent Karrier Service

Tel: 01622 605349 for membership details, application form and further information. Please ask for "Transport Integration". Kent Karrier provides a service for those who have difficulty using public transport. Residents pay an annual membership fee of £5 and then a subsidised fare for each return journey they make. The following Kent Karrier services cover the Sevenoaks District:

North West Kent Karrier Service

Members Tel: 0845 600 6501

(for application form, please ring 01622 605349)
Covers Ash-cum-Ridley, Crockenhill, Eynsford, Farningham, Fawkham, Hartley, Hextable, Horton Kirby, New Ash Green, South Darenth, Swanley and West Kingsdown areas. Operated by Kent Top Travel with support from Kent County Council.

Sevenoaks Kent Karrier Service

Members tel: 01892 722297

(for application form, please ring 01622 605349)
Covers Brasted, Chevening, Crockham Hill, Dunton Green, Edenbridge, Halstead, Hever, Kemsing, Knockholt, Otford, Riverhead, Seal, Sevenoaks, Shoreham, Sundridge, Weald and Westerham areas. Operated by Compaid Trust with financial support from Kent County Council.

Tonbridge & Malling Kent Karrier Service

Members tel: 01892 722297

(for application form, please ring 01622 605349)
Covers Chiddingstone and Leigh areas. Operated by Compaid Trust with financial support from Kent County Council.

Tunbridge Wells Kent Karrier Service

Members tel: 01892 722297

(for application form, please ring 01622 605349)
Covers Cowden, Fordcombe and Penshurst areas. Operated by Compaid Trust with financial support from Kent County Council.

Community Transport Services

for older people in the Sevenoaks District

This publication is available in large print.
For a copy, call **01732 227414**

This publication can be explained in other languages by calling **01732 227000**

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Published 15 March 2011

For more information, please call **01732 227000**
Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks,
Kent TN13 1HG

As many will already be aware, the Sevenoaks District Council minibus service will not continue beyond the end of March 2011.

Several voluntary organisations in the District already provide transport services and the District Council has donated its minibuses to various groups to help them to extend their services.

This leaflet gives details of the community transport services available for older people or people with mobility needs.

If you are unsure of which service might be best for you, you can telephone the Council on **01732 227000**.

