

Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Forum Meeting held at Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Wednesday 3 April 2013 at 6:30pm

PRESENT

Cllr Peter Fleming Chairman

Cllr Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Mrs Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks District Councillor & Town Councillor & General Manager of the Stag Community Arts Centre
Cllr Elisabeth Purves	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks District Councillor & Town Councillor
Cllr Mrs Pam Walshe	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Mrs Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town Councillor and Sevenoaks Allotment Holders' Association
Ms Ann Howard	West Kent Mediation
Mr J M Bamforth	Hitchen Hatch Lane Residents' Association
Mr Keith Loney	Lyle Park Residents' Association
Mr Andrew Smith	Acorns Residents' Association
Dr Geoff Brown	St John's Residents' Association
Mr Gerry Wood	White Hart Estates Residents' Association (WHERA)
Ms Marcia Walker	Sevenoaks Resident
Mr Edward Oatley.	St Johns School

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Larter, Town Clerk, Sevenoaks Town Council

Michèle MacDonald, Committee Clerk, Sevenoaks Town Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Ms Fiona Pragnell

Mr Roy Walker, Drive Residents Association

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2013

It was noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2013 were a true record of events.

3. UPDATES FOLLOWING THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2013 FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FLEMING: PREVIOUS MINUTE NO:

- 4C EMPTY SITES – positive news was received to advise that the Farmers site's Boarding has been repaired and that Edwards Electrical site had been put up for sale
- 4E BLIGHS MARKS AND SPENCER'S – Cllr Peter Fleming advised that there are 28 supporting legal agreements being looked at simultaneously. As far as shared space is concerned, this is an idea being floated out of the control of the District and Town Council.

- 5A OPEN SPACES CONSULTATION – Cllr Peter Fleming advised that this is all on line at the District Council. Please follow the link to <http://planningconsult.sevenoaks.gov.uk/consult.ti/ADMPsubmissiondraftFebruary2013/consultationHome> Cllr Fleming – is this correct? FYI this is the link used in the January minutes
- 5E PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT SEAL HOLLOW ROAD – Cllr Peter Fleming advised that Kent County Council (KCC) have been asked to update all crossings in the town to be in the new style for greater visibility. It was agreed by all that the District Council keeps up pressure for this to happen as the KCC has a programme of replacement especially as the ones existing in Sevenoaks are nearing the end of their lives.
- 5F ZEBRA CROSSING AT SEAL HOLLOW ROAD – It was agreed by all that Cllr Peter Fleming keep pressure on the KCC in order that Section 106 funds be used to update this crossing as soon as possible.
- 5G PEMBROKE ROAD CROSSING - KCC advised that there would be a 17 second tail back of traffic each side. As the High Street has no refuge in the centre of the road, it would thus need a new road layout. Cllr Peter Fleming asked KCC to advise how the crossing may be made safer and awaits their response in order that the Section 106 money may be used for this project.
- 5H BRADBOURNE LAKES – Cllr Peter Fleming advised that the District Council is working with a local architect. He is in support of a local clean up but the lakes are dangerous. The pressure is on Thames Water to pay for removing the silt from the lakes. The bigger plan for the lakes is giving support to Bradbourne Residents Association as they take forward their lottery fund application.
- 5J SEVENOAKS RAILWAY – DOUBLE DECKING CAR PARK – in engineering terms this is feasible. However a 5 year franchise is not long enough for such an investment. All agreed that Cllr Peter Fleming ask Rail Track to investigate the income stream for a double tier car park in its bid for the TFL bid to be at Sevenoaks.

4. OPEN FORUM

- a. **Undeveloped Sites within Sevenoaks Town** - Cllr Peter Fleming advised that there will be no compulsory purchase of the two and that he will write to Cllr Piper.
- b. **Sevenoaks Living Landscape Project (SOLL)** - Mr Gerry Wood advised that a reported going back 5 years recorded South East Wild Life and that now corridors are to be created between reserves to join up sites. The new link to the SOLL website is sevenoakslivinglandscape.org and if you would like to find out more about SOLL and/or the SOLL Gardening Group please contact Fidelity Weston, Leader of the SOLL Project, on 01732 463372.
- c. **Old Slug and Lettuce** -The new manager at Tesco Metro wishes to open a Tesco cafeteria here.
- d. **Thai Square** - Cotes will open a new brasserie here.
- e. **Handelsbanken** - Are looking for a property in town to open a branch in Sevenoaks
- f. **Town Partnership** – is supporting local businesses:
 - i. In the Summer Months it will provide a Vintage Bus Service to circulate footfall around the town.
 - ii. by organising Business Awards for the town
 - iii. by regularly holding Business Breakfast meetings
 - iv. by locating screens at Knole and the Stag designed to advertise local events
 - v. by locating digital Ipods around the town following the closure of the TIC

- g. **Decluttering town** – barriers in the High Street and in Pembroke Road have been removed. KCC Highways have decided that the barriers will remain in place at Sevenoaks Railway Station for Health and Safety reasons. It was agreed that Cllr Peter Fleming ask KCC Highways to remove the barriers or make it safer and easier for people to cross the road.

5. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- a. **Broadband** – KCC has successfully bid for Broadband for faster broadband within Kent. Cllr Fleming advised that Sevenoaks District has the greatest number of people in Kent saying and showing there is a need.
- b. **Fort Halstead** – a spin-off company will set up on the site and will increase the size of footprint
- c. **KCC Highways** - Cllr Fleming will invite the KCC representative of Kent Highways to attend the next meeting
- **Pot Holes** – are to be directed to KCC via their website
 - **Road Repairs** – KCC Highways has a duty to inspect the quality of repairs and all complaints should be reported directly to them.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 3 July 2013

- 6pm for Coffee
- 6:30pm meeting starts

in the Council Chamber at Sevenoaks Town Council, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG.

AGENDA items to be with Sevenoaks Town Council by Friday 14 July 2013 – council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting closed at 7:35pm

Chairman