

**Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Forum Meeting held at Sevenoaks Town Council Offices,
Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Wednesday 12th March 2014 at 6.00 p.m.**

PRESENT

Cllr Peter Fleming, Chairman

Cllr Richard Parry	Sevenoaks Town Councillor / Kent County Councillor
Cllr Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Mrs Ann Howard	Kent Mediation
Mrs Helen Wills	N.C.W.
Dr Rindy Baker	S.A.H.A.
Cllr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Dr Geoff Brown	St John's Resident Association
Mrs Fiona Pragnell	National Council of Women G.B.
Mr Ian and Mrs Carol Cullis	St James Rd Neighbourhood Watch
Mr Keith Loney	Lyle Park Residents Association
Cllr Elizabeth Purves	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks Town Councillor / Sevenoaks District Councillor
Ms Marcia Walker	Sevenoaks Resident
Mr Edward Oatley	St Johns School / Hollybush Lane Residents Association
Mr John Morrison	Sevenoaks Cycle Forum
Mr John London	Freeman of Sevenoaks
Cllr Merrill London	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Matthew Dickens	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Mr Byron Brown	Bradbourne Residents Association

Also in Attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk, Sevenoaks Town Council

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Cllr David Brazier Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Transportation and Environment provided a talk relating to his portfolio responsibilities.

Cllr Brazier then answered the following questions from those present:-

	Question	Response
1	Cllr E Purves asked what could be done about traffic calming in Seal Hollow Road?	KCC received too many requests from across the country and therefore needed to prioritise against impact such traffic calming would address.
2	Mr Ian Collins asked was it possible to delegate enforcement for 20 mph speed limits to council officials?	Most people want 20 mph speed limits although traffic surveys have shown that in reality people do not drive as fast as perceived. It is only possible to reduce

		speed limits by 10 mph e.g. 30 – 20 mph. Police will not enforce and therefore any schemes need to be self-policing.
3	Mr Byron Brown – what can be done about damage done to the highway by contractors? Could they be made more responsible for repair or resurface? What can be done about streetlights that do not work since new operating times introduced? What can be done about footpath and verge parking, particularly re enforcement?	KCC now examine 50% of reinstatement carried out by contractors. KCC are looking to use new technology to operate street lighting remotely. Cllr Brazier will ask KCC Highway Steward Peter Cook to contact Mr Brown about these matters.
4	Cllr Avril Hunter asked now that KCC has established which gulleys are prone to problems of silt blockage would it be possible to increase gulley emptying to avoid future problems?	KCC is no longer reactive such issues but has a programme in place. KCC would be pursuing farmers to ensure that they no longer allow run off from their fields which increases silt blockage to gulleys. Contact for reporting such matters is KCC Officer Katheryn Lewis.
5	Mrs Fiona Pragnell. Would KCC be receiving any of the government funding for repairing potholes in Sevenoaks?	Yes, this is calculated on length of roads which have become damaged due to recent bad weather. Estimated approx. £6m to KCC, however this is to be confirmed.
6	Cllr Marilyn Canet – expressed concern about traffic safety for school children if the proposed two new schools opened at the former Wildernesse school site. In particular noting that 2000 children approx. would be involved in accessing and leaving schools on the A25. Cllr Fleming commented on the recent press coverage and stated that SDC and KCC had opposed the school plans on highway issues including the junction of A25 and Seal Hollow Road. Everyone was aware of the detrimental impact on traffic. This did not mean that SDC was opposed to the new schools.	KCC agreed this was a major problem and would be preparing relevant traffic plans to consider the capacity of the road and how to absorb peak traffic twice per day.
7	Cllr Peter Fleming (following a query raised) spoke about the problems relating	KCC officers continued to work on addressing the phasing of the traffic / pedestrian lights.

	to the new crossing lights at the junction of Pembroke Road.	
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Cllr Peter Fleming thanked Cllr Brazier for this time in attending the meeting, providing information and answering questions.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Pam Walshe
Mr Peter Scott, Asset Management Office, Highways Agency
Mr J M Bamforth, Hitchen-Hatch Lane's Resident Association
Mr Andrew Smith

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th November 2013.

The following amendments were agreed:-

Minutes 5E – 5J should read 3E – 3J

Min 5H (3H) – Cllr Peter Fleming would write to Thames Water...

Min 5J (3J) - Cllr Peter Fleming would write to Network Rail and South Eastern Rail Association...

Min 5b (Major Developments) DSTC to read DSTL

3. Updates

3A Cycling Speed Watch. Sevenoaks District Council had recently held a productive meeting with Sevenoaks Cycling Forum to discuss these issues.

3B Pedestrian Crossing at Seal Hollow Road. Noted that was being discussed in relation to new school proposals.

3C Zebra crossing at St John's Hill. No further comment

3D Bradbourne Lakes. Successful meeting recently held between the Residents Association, SDC, KCC and Thames Water. Responsibilities and improved maintenance schedules had been agreed. SDC would be applying for funding for improvements from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A liaison group was being set up and STC would be included within this.

3E Oak Tree Pub. Re-opened under new management.

3F Wagamama. Now opened and proving popular.

3G Charity Shops 20% Business Rates Discretionary Relief. SDC confirmed that this had been removed.

3H Parking

New black posts had been installed within the town to hold the illuminated messaging signs regarding real time parking options, the signs were due to be installed soon.

SDC would be submitting a planning proposals for a new 'decked' car park at Buckhurst 2 to address deficit in car parking capacity, highlighted by local businesses. In the future additional planning applications would be submitted for 'decked' car parks at Suffolk Way and Bradbourne Road.

Dr Brown asked if there was a national norm for car parking spaces and capacity.

Cllr Fleming replied that there was not currently a standard car parking provision mainly due to the changes in planning legislation and in particular change of use for properties in town centres to residential which were not required to provide car parking spaces. It was considered positive that more people were living in the town centre however this increased car parking issues.

Mr Brown asked if more could be done to address the confusing evening car parking charges, particularly for visitors to the Stag.

Cllr Fleming that all such matters would be considered within SDC's holistic car parking review.

Cllr Purves stated that she recognised the need for additional long term car parking provision however was concerned about the aesthetics of the provision.

Cllr Fleming responded that the design for the car parks had not been completed and this it was possible to clad the car parks in suitable material. Discussions had taken place with the Knole estate who appeared to be relaxed about the proposals.

3I Lizzy Yarnold Olympic Gold Medallist. It was reported that the Lizzy Yarnold home coming tour would take place on 21st March 2014. SDC were proud to be one of the first sponsors for Lizzy when she started her sporting career.

3J BBC Young Musician of the Year. The Forum was pleased to note that Sevenoaks has some musicians in the final.

4. Major Developments – Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Town Clerk provided details on the work that had taken place to date on the creation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan which would set out proposals for the town for up to the next 20 years. Two newsletters were noted and that a questionnaire would be distributed to all households in the near future. The

Neighbourhood Development Plan would also be discussed at the Annual Town Meeting on 24th March 2014.

5. Open Forum

5A Sevenoaks Society – The Remarkable Trees of Sevenoaks

It was noted that the exhibition would take place in the Orangery at Knole House between 15th September and 12th October 2014.

5B Annual Town Meeting

This would take place in the Stag's Plaza Suite from 6.30 p.m. on Monday 24th March 2014.

5C Resident Associations & Infopods

STC and Sevenoaks Town Partnership were keen to include contact information and links to resident association's activities and websites onto the Town Partnership's website and infopods. In order to do this Resident Associations needed to provide consent and relevant contact information. This could be sent to clerical@sevenoakstown.gov.uk.

5D Town Forum – Terms of Reference

It was agreed to place this as an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting.

6 Next Meeting

This was agreed for 6 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. start on 9th July 2014 at STC offices.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.10 p.m.