

**Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Forum Meeting held at Sevenoaks Town Council Offices,
Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Wednesday 9th July 2014 at 6.30 p.m.**

PRESENT

Cllr Avril Hunter, Chairman

Cllr Richard Parry	Sevenoaks Town Councillor / Kent County Councillor <i>[arrived 6:44]</i>
Mrs Ann Howard	Kent Mediation
Mrs Helen Wills	N.C.W.
Cllr J M Canet	Sevenoaks Town Councillor & SDSAF
Mrs Fiona Pragnell	National Council of Women G.B.
Mr Keith Loney	Lyle Park Residents Association
Cllr Elizabeth Purves	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Mrs Marcia Walker	Sevenoaks Resident
Mr Byron Brown	Bradbourne Residents Association
Mrs Anthea Belsey	St John's R.A
Mrs Helen O'Sullivan	Granville & Eardley Roads RA

Also in Attendance:

Linda Larter ^{MBE}, Town Clerk, Sevenoaks Town Council

Michèle MacDonald, Council Committee Clerk/Secretary to Linda Larter ^{MBE}, Sevenoaks Town Council

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr A S Clayton
Cllr M Dickins
Cllr A Eyre
Cllr P Fleming
Cllr R L Piper
Mr J M Bamforth, Hitchen-Hatch Lane's RA
Mr H Pound – Knole Paddock RA
Mr P Scott, St Botolph's RA
Mr A Smith resigned – new member Mr George Porter
Mr G Wood resigned – new member David Lewis

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th March 2014.

The following action was AGREED that:-

Cllr Brazier's questions

No 3 Cllr A Hunter to chase Mr P Cook, KCC, for an update and to note he is contactable on 03000 41 81 81

No 6 Mr B Brown advised that the speed limit in the vicinity of the school was reduced from 40mpn to 30mph. The Grammar School and the Trinity School was one planning application.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2014 were thus noted and agreed.

3. Updates

- a. **Bradbourne Lakes** - Mr B Brown updated all on past events. On 13th March 2014 Thames Water, KCC, SDC and Bradbourne RA met to discuss responsibility and way forward. A successful meeting, which resulted in:
- Thames Water have since emptied the silt traps accepting their responsibility for this
 - KCC still to meet their responsibility of water running off the roads
 - SDC , lobbied by Bradbourne RA, have stepped in to co-ordinate progress. Cllr M Dickins together with Bradbourne RA met the Heritage Lottery Fund [HLF] representative to discuss means of applying for a grant. Pre-submission has concurred that a grant should be put to the HLF under "Parks for People" via the owners of the site, i.e SDC, who will need to obtain an engineer's report for submission to the HLF.

Mrs L Larter reminded SDC that Cllr P Fleming had promised that STC would be involved going forward and requested an invite to all future meetings.

- b. **Sevenoaks Railway – Network Rail and South Eastern Rail Association** – it was noted that SDC had no member representatives on the Sevenoaks Rail Transport association [SRTA].
It was AGREED that:
- SDC nominate a member with experience of travelling on the trains during peak hours in view of the closure of London Bridge in 2015 and the effects on Sevenoaks Rail commuters travelling from the second busiest stations in South East England
 - SDC be updated regarding the economic significance and the benefit of Sevenoaks Railway Station to the whole of the district
 - Cllr R J Parry speak to SRTA to ask that they write to Cllr P Fleming to take action to enable commuters to travel by bus and tube at no extra expense
- c. **Pedestrian Crossing at Seal Hollow Road** - no further updates had been given by Cllr P Fleming. Cllr J M Canet queried the outcome of planning permission regarding the schools at Wilderness as this would be an influence. Cllr R J Parry advised that the Secretary of State has chosen not to call in the Planning application and that a KCC Officer would shortly be issuing consent.
- d. **SDC Car Park @ Buckhurst** – A clear majority from the consultation said there is a need for the car park. The aim is to submit a planning application in the very near future to enable work to start in early January/February 2015 to avoid the Christmas shopping season.

4 Terms of Reference

It was AGREED that the Terms of Reference be considered out of date in view of the numerous forums currently existing with Sevenoaks and that they be updated as follows:

Terms of Reference

The Sevenoaks Town Forum will act as a discussion group and information exchange between the residents of Sevenoaks Town and interested parties and is supported by both Sevenoaks District Council and Sevenoaks Town Council, as administrator.

Membership

Is open to all those who live, work and visit Sevenoaks Town it's environ.

Function

To promote the interest of those who live, work and visit the Town.

Actions

Feedback to go to the Leader of Sevenoaks District Council.

5 Open Forum

- a. **Grounds surrounding the SDC offices – Eardley/London Road –**
It was REQUESTED that Cllr A Hunter report back to Cllr P Fleming that this land needs to be properly tended to enable the original planting to thrive and growth to be cut back.
- b. **Section 106 funds -**
All agreed that the Town doesn't look prosperous and upon entering the town, it appears run down and a town of the third world. Mrs L Larter advised that many businesses with Sevenoaks are investing money and time to tidy up the town, but as a result of many years of neglect, this will take time.

It was REQUESTED that Cllr A Hunter ask Cllr P Fleming to update the Sevenoaks Town Forum on monies spent under the Section 106 agreement to show how such money had benefited areas within the town of Sevenoaks. It is noted that the new Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL] comes into force on 4 August 2014.

Mrs L Larter confirmed that the Town Council had written to SDC asking for a list. Going forward under the new CIL, the Town Council will received 15% of funds and 25% of funds, once its Neighbourhood Plan is adopted and all such funds will be ploughed back into the Town in consultation with the Sevenoaks Town Forum. There will be a monitoring mechanism providing transparency.

- c. **Advertising BT Boards** - Cllr P Fleming had promised to look into the boards being taken down.
It was AGREED that Cllr A Hunter remind Cllr P Fleming.
- d. **Hitchen Hatch Lane – Hedgerow** – The Residents Association to be contacted by Mrs M Walker to up keep.
- e. **Bowls Club** – Mrs L Larter advised all about the Sports Strategy Consultation, which has been running for the past 14 months. Raleys will close and is up for sale. The conclusion to date is that there is a combined benefit for both the indoor Bowls Club and indoor Cricket Club. Mrs L Larter together with the Sports Strategy are working on feasibility plans.
- f. **Parking Issues outside the Bowls Club along the pavement and road**
It was AGREED that Cllr A Hunter take this up with the enforcement team at SDC.
- g. **Lidl**
Cllr A Hunter advised that the enforcement team are pursuing the on-going matter of Lidl to date not planting the trees/landscaping as part of their planning application.
- h. **Dorton House** – all were advised to check the SDC planning portal to see the outline planning currently being consulted upon
- i. **Foreign Cars and traffic issues**
It was AGREED that Cllr A Hunter check comments noted that SDC are not pursuing traffic offences by foreign vehicles not paying parking fees.

6 Next Meeting

This was agreed to take place on 29 October 2014 at STC offices, coffee at 6 p.m. with a 6.30 p.m. start

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m.