

Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Forum Meeting held @ Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Wednesday 4th February 2015 at 6.30 p.m.

NOTED PRESENT FROM COMPLETED DELEGATE FORM

Cllr Avril Hunter, as Chairman

Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks Town Councillor; Mayor of Sevenoaks
Mr Keith Loney	Lyle Park Residents Association
Cllr Elizabeth Purves	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Matthew Dickins	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Mr Geoff Brown	St John's Residents Association/SAHA
Mr J M Bamforth	Hitchen Hatch Lane Residents Association
Cllr Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Mrs Pam Walshe	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Mrs Ann Howard	St Johns School, Hollybush Residents Association
Mr John Ingram	West Kent Mediation
Cllr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Mrs Marcia Walker	Sevenoaks Town Residents
Mr Henry Pound	Knole Paddock

Also in Attendance:

Linda Larter MBE, Town Clerk, Sevenoaks Town Council

Michèle MacDonald, Council Committee Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Mr Edward Oatley	St Johns School, Hollybush Resident Association

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29TH OCTOBER.

The Minutes of the meeting were agreed subject to the following addition:

- 4 (iii) Mr John Ingram mentioned two shabby and misleading tourist information posts, one outside the Stag and the other in Bank Street. They give tourists a bad image of the town and should either be removed altogether or properly renovated, to include advice as to where to find the Town Council's Information Pods.

3. UPDATES

(i) Lidl

Cllr Marilyn Canet advised that she noticed that trees had been planted and settled in well outside Lidl.

(ii) Shared Space

Cllr Avril Hunter on behalf of Cllr Peter Fleming, updated the group stating that the shared space proposal outside Sevenoaks railway in station square is being promoted by the Town Council and would be delivered by KCC Highways. Mrs Linda Larter stated that response from the Neighbourhood Development Plan had been finely balanced for and against the idea. The matter would be continued to be reviewed as part of the development plan. Should any proposals be formalised they would be the subject of public consultations, as will the complete Neighbourhood Development Plan.

(iii) **Street Cleaning in Hitchen Hatch Lane**

Cllr Peter Fleming's comments about the frequency of street cleaning were conveyed to the group:

This road is cleaned every Thursday except when a public holiday. With Christmas day and New Years Day falling on Thursday this year the weekly frequency had lapsed. However weekly cleaning resumed on the 8th January, and will continue. The street cleansing supervisor hasn't reported particular difficult accessing litter.

It was agreed that Cllr Avril Hunter would request that Cllr Peter Fleming discuss the issue of litter with the Taxi Licensing team as it was thought to be generated by taxi drivers and suggest the possibility of having two days per annum possibly on Saturdays with no parking in the road. Also the issue of Hollybush Lane and Bettensen Drive not being cleaned for several years, resulting in the build-up of debris which could result in blocked drains and galleys.

(iv) **Railway journeys to London**

South East Railway was announced as the worst operator, prior to the works at London Bridge. Mrs Marcia Walker noted that Waterloo and Charing Cross stations are to be closed on Sundays for the next 18 months. Cllr Merilyn Canet advised that Sevenoaks Railway Travellers Association's website is a good source of information: <http://srta.org.uk/>

(v) **Section 215 Notices**

Cllr Avril Hunter, on behalf of Cllr Peter Fleming, advised that SDC would soon display luminous posters on properties of untidy appearance. Owners would be expected to tidy up said property within a specified time line otherwise SDC would do so and charge the owner. If the fee remained unpaid, a charge on the property would be sought and money reclaimed upon the sale of such property. Suggestions of such properties would be welcomed from the public.

(vi) **Bradbourne Lakes**

Cllr Mathew Dickins reported that an interesting meeting had taken place recently with the Residents Association and the SDC Portfolio holder, Cllr Robert Piper and SDC officers. There had been some degree of progress with the Heritage Lottery Funding with the outcome of Stage 1, the pre-application, due within the next two months. Stage 2 would release funding to prepare the full funding application. All agreed that the proactive partnership with SDC is now progressing.

(vii) **Bowls Club**

Mrs Linda Larter advised that the New School at Wildernesse is currently being considered for the replacement Indoor Cricket School, but this has not yet been agreed. The process is currently at planning stage.

4. **CAR PARKS**

The SDC pricing increases were discussed. SDC Cabinet would discuss the matter further at 7pm on 5th February 2015 to which public were invited. It was agreed that Cllr Avril Hunter will ask to speak at SDC Cabinet on behalf of Sevenoaks Town Forum to state that:

- tickets need to be clear in all car parks to indicate expiry times
- a vote by this committee showed All In Favour that there should be no increase in charges

5. OPEN FORUM

(i) **Health and Safety Matter - Drain Cover in Dorset Street**

Mr Henry Pound raised the matter asking that those responsible to make safe the dangerous drain cover. Cllr Avril Hunter will raise the matter with Cllr Peter Fleming.

(ii) **Roadside Litter**

The problem of noticing litter at road sides on major trunk roads and roundabouts was raised. Cllr Avril Hunter will raise the matter at the next meeting of the Kent Resource Partnership in March. Mrs Linda Larter confirmed that the Town Council staff do a daily early morning litter sweep of the town itself and that the Town Council are proactive in resources for litter picking and graffiti cleaning.

(iii) **Community Centre Update**

Cllr Elisabeth Purves asked for an update on the proposed new Community centre. Mrs Linda Larter advised that the RIBA had at 12 noon launched an invited design competition for a new community & Conference Centre in the Bat & Ball area of Sevenoaks. The competition runs to 12th March 2015 after which there will be a meeting to reduce the number of applications to 5. The proposal will be publicised in May the week after elections. Construction may start in March 2016 if all goes to plan.

In brief the current Sevenoaks Community Centre will remain open and in use. Building construction would take place behind the current one. Upon completion the current site would be demolished and a car park built. The process would depend upon whether or not construction vehicles could gain access throughout the build period and health and safety matters.

(iv) **Sale of Raleys Gym**

Mrs Linda Larter confirmed that users and staff had been notified of the closure of the gym on 31st May 2015. A preferred bidder had been chosen subject to contract.

(v) **Farmers and Edwards Site**

Cllr Avril Hunter confirmed that the Farmer's site is currently at the appeal stage and that there was no further news regarding the Edward's site.

(vi) **Publication of Town Forum Minutes**

It was requested that minutes be published sooner than they are currently, which would be endeavoured.

6 NEXT MEETING

This was agreed to take place on 17 June 2015 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 7.36 p.m.

