

**Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Forum Meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2015
at the Sevenoaks Community Centre**

Present:

Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Avril Hunter (Vice Chairman)	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks Town / District Council/ Stag Theatre
Cllr Mrs Pam Walshe	Sevenoaks Town Cllr
Cllr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town / District Council/SDSAF
Cllr Robert Piper	Sevenoaks Town / District Council
Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks Town / District Council
Cllr Matthew Dickens	Sevenoaks District Council
Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks Society
Helen Wills	National Council of Women
Fiona Pragnell	National Council of Women
Jonathan Drury	White Hart Estate Residents Association
Keith Loney	Lyle Park Residents Association
Marcia Walker	A resident in Sevenoaks
Ann Howard	West Kent Mediation
Graham Lodge	Redland's Resident Association
Henry Pound	KPRA
Mike Bamforth	Hitchen Hatch Lane Resident Association
Dr Geoff Brown	St John's Resident Association / SAHA
Byron Brown	Bradbourne Lakes Resident Association
Linda Larter, Town Clerk	Sevenoaks Town Council
Michèle MacDonald, Cttee Clerk	Sevenoaks Town Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Stephen Arnold (Mayor), Richard Parry, Roderick Hogarth, Elizabeth Purves and Tony Clayton
Peter Scott and Edward Oatley.

2. MINUTES OF THE TOWN FORUM MEETING HELD ON 17TH JUNE 2015

These were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. UPDATES

The main updates are:

- a) Buckhurst Car Park Decking – revised planning application to be submitted soon
- b) Building of a hotel – discussed at SDC Full Council meeting –
<http://cds.sevenoaks.gov.uk/documents/s25825/06c%20Sennocke-Bradbourne%20-%2015-10-15%20v7.pdf> The District Council will be talking to local residents prior to submitting a planning application. Cllr Fleming stated that

the expanded car park will provide for spaces lost through the hotel development on Sennocke plus a number of extra spaces that will reduce the need for long stay parking on-street in the local area. . No planning application has been submitted to date. Cllr Fleming noted the council's priorities as (1) Bradbourne (2) Hotel (Sennocke) (3) Buckhurst 2

- c) Sennocke Car Park – The developer of The Farmers have right to access across the site
- d) Finances – the District Council will be affected by the Government's Autumn Statement and has managed to be the first authority in the UK to achieve a position of not requiring direct financing from Central Government having made savings over the past 10 years.
- e) Business Rates – noted the changes to the Business Rates system by Central government. Details were awaited.
- 4.1 Bradbourne Lakes** - first stage HLF application to be submitted December 2015
- 4.2 Bat & Ball Centre** – The Town Clerk stated the Town Council are in discussions with the architects. No updates at present. Capital receipts were due soon.
- 4.3 Cricket School** – The Town Clerk advised that negotiations are to start again now that the Government has made a decision on the Sevenoaks Grammar School Annexe.
- 4.4 Farmers Site** – having obtained planning permission on appeal, the owners are slowly starting with works.
- 4.5 Edwards Electrical Site** – the owner has apparently appointed architects.
- 5.5 Vine Café** – The Town Clerk reported the café is well received, is open 5 days a week 8:30am to 4pm with employed staff and is forecast to make money as predicted.

5. OPEN FORUM

- 5.1. Shared space – The Town Clerk asked all to access the direct link to the December consultation here <http://goo.gl/forms/4pQyuRguoC>. Cllr Avril Hunter urged all to circulate amongst their Resident Associations asking all to participate in the Neighbourhood Development consultation plan. The consultation closes on 1st January 2016 and all responses received before this date will be entered into a prize draw to win an evening out for two in Sevenoaks courtesy of The Little Garden and the Stag. The next Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Committee meeting will be Monday 7th December 2015 6 - 7pm at the Sevenoaks Town Council Offices.
- 5.2. Taxi Drivers – Cllr Fleming confirmed regular meetings with taxi drivers take place and street cleanliness is mentioned. The District are planning a day to clean the road with no parking permitted.
- 5.3. Blighs Car Park - Cllr Fleming advised that the top car park next to Blighs is contracted to the District Council whereas the car park underneath Marks and Spencer is contracted out to another company.
- 5.4. Sevenoaks Chronicle – It was felt that reporting had been more accurate with the recent staff changes and certainly the District Council have better relationships.
- 5.5. Highways Maintenance – Mr Graham Lodge made several observations regarding the depth of 'pot holes' on carriageways and footpaths before action is taken by Kent Highways. It was also noted that many roads in Sevenoaks are of concrete construction having been laid in excess of 30 years where deep gaps are forming and concrete is separating. Cllr Fleming to take the matter up with

KCC Members and write a letter to KCC. It was urged that residents go on line and report all 'pot holes' to KCC as a matter of course as KCC Highways is not liable until one is reported.

- 5.6. Post Office – the site in South Park was mentioned. Currently no planning applications have been submitted by the owners.
- 5.7. Aldi – Cllr Fleming advised that a site had apparently been looked at but no further progress has been made.
- 5.8. Fly Tipping- Cllr Fleming reported that the District council had successfully charged two criminals for fly tipping with 2 lengthy jail sentences served.
- 5.9. Pound Lane- Mr Henry Pound queried the length of the road closure. Cllr Fleming agreed to liaise with KCC Highways.

6. DATE OF NEXT TWO MEETINGS

Wednesday 13th April 2016

Wednesday 13th July 2016

