

**Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Forum Meeting held @ Sevenoaks Town Council
Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks
Wednesday 1st February 2017
at 6.30 p.m.**

NOTED PRESENT FROM COMPLETED SIGNED DELEGATE FORM

Cllr Peter Fleming, as Chairman

Cllr Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Councillor [Vice Chairman]
Cllr R J Hogarth	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Elizabeth Purves	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr R L Piper	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Mrs Pam Walshe	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Mr J M Bamforth	Hitchen Hatch Lane Residents Association
Dr Geoff Brown	St John's Residents Association/SAHA
Mr Alvin Chantler	Buckhurst RA
Mr Jonathan Drury	White Hart Estates Residents Association
Mr Nigel Jepps	Linden Chase RA
Mr Ian Marsh	White Hart Estates Residents Association
Mr Henry Pound	Knole Paddock
Mrs Fiona Pagnell	National Council of Women
Mrs Marcia Walker	Sevenoaks Town Resident
Mr Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks Society
Ms Helen Willis	National Council of Women Sevenoaks Branch

Also in Attendance:

Linda Larter MBE, Town Clerk, Sevenoaks Town Council
Michèle MacDonald, Council Committee Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr A Eyre	Mayor of Sevenoaks
Cllr R E Parry	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Mrs R J Parry	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Mrs Ann Howard	West Kent Mediation
Ms Helen O'Sullivan	Granville & Eardley Court RA
Dr Rindy Bakker	Quaker Hall RA

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2016.

The Minutes of the meeting were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Further to Minute points:

- 4) Planning Information Session: Cllr Avril Hunter advised that the Local Plan Advisory Committee regarding Green Belt met on 17th January 2017 and next goes to Cabinet.

Conclusions following Mr Lancaster's presentation at the last meeting are:

Green Belt land in Sevenoaks: only previously developed land will be built upon. Every bit of land has fulfilled the criteria. The two exceptions are the Westerham area and the garden village of Swanley, whereby exceptional circumstances have to be proved if necessary. Cllr Piper confirmed that 12,400 homes can be reached without any Green Belt land being built upon. This has yet to go to Cabinet. Cllr Fleming advised that the Knole site would not be built upon. The Inspector decides. The entrance into the Knole site is increasing traffic congestions now that the National Trust have moved to open 364 days p.a. It is Green Belt land and if tested it is unlikely to be developed as it meets one of the five tests. Cllr Fleming advised that contact may be required to ask Knole Estate and the National Trust their long term vision re accessibility into the estate.

- 5 a) Highways Maintenance: the back log is 10-12 years with a programme running for 20 years. More urgent repairs interrupt the programme where needed. Cllr Fleming will invite KCC Highways to attend the next meeting to explain the backlog programme and how work is prioritised. Cllr Canet advised that the Senior Action Form wished KCC Highways would cut overlapping hedges for easy access along pavements.
- 5 c) Budget: Cllr Fleming advised that with effect from April 17, there would be no Government Revenue Support Grant. This reduced budget, £600,000 this financial year, has met with ongoing savings by the District Council in increasing its investment property portfolio by purchasing sites bringing a return of 6% plus some benefit to the town. Recently SDC purchased the office in Pembroke Road and houses in Suffolk Way. SDC have added value by inserting a new floor in the roof with a new tenant. A financial Risk Assessment was carried out according to the council's Red Book, which states that the value return must equate to a minimum return of 6%.
- 5 e) Edwards Electrical Site: Cllr Fleming confirmed new hoardings are in the hands of the owners with no planning conversations having taken place for a long time now.

4. Updates:

- a) Farmers Site: Cllr Fleming that there had been no change.
- b) Tubbs Hill: Cllr Fleming advised their new name is Bouchier Court
- c) Car Parks: Cllr Fleming advised car park in Bradbourne Park Road is nearing completion April 2017. Hotel site is next to be developed. A planning application would be coming forward for the expansion of the long stay Buckhurst II car park.

5. Open Forum:

- a) Kent Fire & Rescue Service: The Town Clerk advised that a volunteer programme had been launched asking residents to find and make more visible fire hydrants posts for emergency fire services to locate and gain access to water. Local maps could then be updated. The Committee Clerk to invite a representative to attend a future meeting.
- b) Sevenoaks Masterplan and Bat & Ball Station: The Town Clerk advised that the planning applications for Bat and Ball station would be submitted shortly and the New Sevenoaks Community Centre would be submitted in May /June 2017. The Town Clerk also requested all present to invite and inform their Resident Associations that the Northern Sevenoaks Masterplan would be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on 20.03.2017 in the Sevenoaks Community Centre.

- c) Raleys: The Town Clerk advised that planning consent is expected 16th February 2017.
- d) Post Office Site: site awaits to be repaired by the KCC owners. Cllr Fleming to write to KCC as this has been outstanding since October/November 2016.

6 NEXT MEETING

This was agreed to take place on 7th June 2017 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 7.10 p.m.

