

**Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Forum Meeting held @ Sevenoaks Town Council
Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks
Wednesday 6th December 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 Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Senior District Action Forum
Cllr Tony Clayton	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks Town Councillor/Stag Theatre
Cllr Richard Parry	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Robert Piper	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Cllr Mrs Pam Walshe	Sevenoaks Town Councillor
Mr Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks Society
Mr Jonathan Drury	White Hart Estates Residents Association
Mr Edward Oatley	White Hart Estates Residents Association
Mr Mike Bamforth	Hitchen Hatch Lane Residents Association
Dr Geoff Brown	St John's Residents Association
Mr John Ingram	Bradbourne Resident's Association
Mr Henry Pound	Knole Paddock Residents Association
Mrs Fiona Pagnell	National Council of Women
Mr R Stringer	Sevenoaks Model Scale Boat Association
Mr D Reynolds	

Also in Attendance:

- Mr Andrew Loosemore, Management and Delivery of Highways Maintenance
- Mrs Linda Larter MBE, Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk, Sevenoaks Town Council
- Mrs Michèle MacDonald, Council Committee Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Purves	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Cllr Matthew Dickens	Sevenoaks District Councillor
Mr Byron Brown	Secretary, Bradbourne Residents' Association

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JUNE 2017.

The Minutes of the meeting were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Fleming updated as follows:

- a) [referring to Minute 6b] – the hotel works are progressing and currently are two weeks behind schedule which will be made up to complete in the summer of 2018 as planned.
- b) [referring to Minute 6c] – Buckhurst 2 works start on 8th January 2018 with an expected programme of works for 60 weeks to include work to landscape the Environmental Park e.g. with a grass amphitheatre.

Cllr Fleming advised that the meeting to discuss the extended car parking at Raleys will be held on 14th December 2017. Cllr Avril Hunter advised that the public notice for Knole Paddock is currently being produced.

- c) *[referring 6d]* – Famers site no update regarding this site.
- d) *[referring to Minute e]* – Electrical site – it is understood that the developer has been invited back by the land owners to enter discussions. The Sevenoaks Town Partnership/Town Council provided a beautiful vinyl to enhance the site. It was suggested that the Planning Department add an informative that it be desirable that vinyls be included, maintained and kept in good order. Cllr Fleming to check and revert.

4. KCC HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE

A presentation of an overview of the Management and Delivery of Highways Maintenance was given by Mr Andrew Loosemore as follows:

Slide 1 – Assets – it is important to note that Highway asset is the most valuable asset owned by KCC.

Slide 2 – Asset Management – need to understand the life left in any one road to know how to maintain it. The right materials must be chosen for the right location and be sustainable in the future. A balance of materials against cost of maintenance is required.

To choose the right treatment relevant at the time

(a) loose chippings, not used in residential areas, where one would use 3 (b), a slurry, hand spread which cures more rapidly, which isn't very structurally sounds and is no good for roads used by heavy good vehicles, in which instance 3 (a) would be used. Lay bitumen covering the road surface to stop water penetration or use (d) which is very expensive and used for road failure. 3 (c) is where the top road surface is worn out.

Slides 4 and 5 show different surfaces used in different locations.

Slide 6 shows the road resurfacing website for KCC.

Slide 7 shows the pot hole blitz over the 2017 summer period. Currently 90% of repairs have been delivered.

Slide 8 shows the history over the last 5 years which peaked in 2014 with the worst severe weather record with the highest rainfall levels. November 2017 shows the lowest 5year customer enquiries, which is a good outcome following the work done.

Slide 9 shows KCC having converted the largest number of Streetlight call outs in the country. Currently November 2017 figures show approximately 120,000 with 77,000 conversions to LED. KCC have converted all residential lamps other than concrete columns. Contractors should complete by March 2019, but expecting to be completed early in November 2017.

Slide 10 – LED lights have a greater robustness with a 25 year life span with a central management system identifying repairs so they may be completed during day light hours, thereby avoiding night time checks and overtime pay.

Slide 11 – statistics since 1st April 2017

Slide 12 – Mr Andrew Loosemore recommended that the online reporting tool be used in order that enquiries are logged for the right team to deal with them and invited questions from the floor:

QUESTION [Q] AND ANSWER [A] SESSION:

Q1: why do the utilities not work jointly with KCC?

A1: KCC Highways works within the constraints of the New Roads and Street Works Acts and their method of control. KCC issues permits and is able to control when works are carried out. KCC have no powers to prohibit a utility company working in the highway. KCC tries to put an embargo on newly resurfaced roads for two years. However, emergency permits enable utilities to turn up and deal with repairs. Once the emergency is mitigated discussions between them and KCC can take place to schedule in works.

Q 2: *How are pot holes prioritised?*

What is the measure of contractor's accountability?

A2: *KCC had a £5.2m budget in 2017/2018 for the whole of Kent to deliver the Pothole Blitz campaign with a budget for Sevenoaks of £322,000 and £500,000 for the district.*

Highway inspectors check annually, 3 monthly and monthly and base their Risk Assessment based on the best approach regarding depth:

- *20mm pavements*
- *50mm roads.*

Contractors give KCC a 12-month warranty, with failures repaired at their own cost, with the caveat that underlying surface may require reconstruction in which case pot holes are filled in to remove danger to the public as soon as possible, resulting in a repair but not always the best repair available. The work would then be put into the road repair longer works programme.

Q3: *To what extent is damaged to cars paid for?*

A3: *KCC has an insurance policy excess of £100,000 to pay. Over £100,000 the insurers pay. So far in 2017 approx £40,000 has been paid out whereas in previous years the sum was. Over a million.*

Q4: *Fly tipping – how is this dealt with?*

A4: *The KCC highways team works with Sevenoaks District on fly tipping matters, The cost of fly tipping to KCC is approx £180,000 pa. Sevenoaks has the highest fly tipping in Kent.*

Q5: *Concrete Slabs laid on sand are deteriorating. What is action plan?*

A5: *KCC in not relaying bitumen on top of concrete surfaces as this is proven not to be cost effective. Slabs are cut out and removed physically by equipment and road is resurfaced – trials of this method are ongoing however it is a costly repair*

Q6: *Is Churt still used?*

A6: *Mr Andrew Loosemore to find out and revert.*

Q7: *Street Lights – do these include illuminated signs?*

A7: *yes, and these may also be logged.*

Q8: *storm gulleys and roadside verges – how accurate is KCC's data?*

A8: *KCC has recently logged the inventory in their Asset Management process and have GPS plotting gulleys and roadside ditches. Mr Andrew Loosemore will sent an educational document to STC. A regular programme gulley emptying is cost saving. Road side verges are proving contentious with owners of land in dispute with KCC.*

Q9: *Road subsidence – how is this treated?*

A9: *roads can be closed to prevent accidents in an emergency. An engineer inspection is carried out to investigate the cause and ascertain how to put the road right with an impact assessment to the local community. E.g. sometimes a road remains closed as in the Shepway District where a badger set has caused damage to a small road, which to repair would cost £500,000.*

Q10: *lots of roads suffer from weeds in gutters and on pavements. Is there a work schedule?*

A10: *KCC carries out one weed kill annually costing the whole of Kent £150,000. Recently in 2017 there was an underspend on winter service which enabled a second spraying of weeds this year.*

General questions:

Silt traps – Councillors to log areas on the website

Concrete Roads – Swaffield and Wickenden Road – no works for last 50/60 years
– Mr Andrew Loosemore to revert

Buckhurst Avenue is severely damaged leading into Waitrose car park. Mr Andrew Loosemore asked this be logged on the website

Moss on pavements - cleansing is in the District Council's remit

Heavy Snowfall – Public may clear pavements in front of their property and are not liable

Cllr Fleming and those present applauded Mr Andrew Loosemore on this presentation and invited him to attend in future to discuss other topics of interest, which Mr Andrew Loosemore accepted.

5. UPDATES SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Fleming covered these under point 3 above and advised that Fort Halstead would now be vacated in 2020.

6. OPEN FORUM

a) Premier Inn Hotel – car park

It was confirmed by the District Council that 70 less all-day parking permits are issued since Bradbourne Car Park was built. Short stay parking continues. Mr Bamforth asked how the use of Bradbourne Road Car Parking for hotel guests will be monitored. Cllr Fleming to arrange a meeting regarding hotel car parking with Mr Bamforth.

b) Broadband Service

The District Authority would be interested to learn of problem areas in order that they may be targeted.

c) Local Plan

Cllr Peter Fleming thanked the Sevenoaks Town Forum as the District Council received the highest consultation to the local Plan which is currently being collated and asked all to feedback thanks to their Resident Associations.

d) Vine Waste - parking

Cllr Fleming confirmed that there has been ad hoc parking on the Vine Waste over many years. The district has been consulting with statutory consultees and responses will be collated ready to send to the Secretary Consultees.

e) Old Police Masts

The unused police radio masts have been unused for many years and are not included in the Local List. Cllr Fleming advised that it is a condition of the private housing that the masts remain.

f) Lack of Disabled parking in the Town Centre

Cllr Fleming advised that mother and toddler bays as well as parking on yellow lines in the High Street. Cllr Canet and Cllr Piper advised that the Access Group on 7th December 2017 would take this matter further.

7. NEXT MEETING

This was agreed to take place on 14th March 2018 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 8.20 p.m.