27th February 2024



You are summoned to attend a meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council's **PLANNING COMMITTEE**, to be held at **7pm** at the Town Council Chambers on **Monday 4th March 2024.**

Town Councillors are reminded that they have a duty to state a Declaration of Interest prior to the appropriate agenda item and to consider the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.17 when reaching a decision.

Please note that the proceedings of this meeting will be streamed live to YouTube for the public to watch via the following link: <u>https://youtube.com/live/TbDDbU7mNy0</u> may be recorded in line with regulations set out in the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. A copy of Sevenoaks Town Council's procedure for the recording of meetings is available online at <u>sevenoakstown.gov.uk</u> or by request. Members of the public not wishing to be recorded should put this request to the Clerk at the earliest possible opportunity.

Please note that the Planning Committee forward recommendations as a statutory consultee to the local Planning Authority, and therefore the final responsibility for approving or refusing an application rests with Sevenoaks District Council. Sevenoaks Town Council receives 25% of all Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments made by developers to the District Council on new developments in Sevenoaks Town. <u>Click here</u> to find out more about CIL charges and when they apply.

For more information on the role of the Planning Committee, as well as policies which provide a reference point of preferred practices and key considerations of the Planning Committee when making its recommendations, please <u>click here</u>.

Plate

Town Clerk

To assist in the speedy and efficient despatch of business, members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the agenda are asked to enquire of the Town Clerk prior to the day of the meeting.

Committee Members

Cllr Ancrum Cllr Layne Cllr Camp – **Chair** Cllr Dr Canet Cllr Clayton – Leader Cllr Daniell Cllr Dr Dixon Cllr Granville



Cllr Gustard Cllr Michaelides Cllr O'Hara Cllr Shea – Mayor Cllr Skinner OBE Cllr Varley – **Vice Chair** Cllr Willis Cllr Wightman – Deputy Leader

Town Council Offices Bradbourne Vale Road Sevenoaks Kent TN13 3QG

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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

To enable members of the public to make representation or to put questions to the Committee on any planning matters, with the exception of individual planning applications which will be considered under a later agenda item.

AGENDA

- 1 <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive and note apologies for absence.
- 2 <u>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</u>

To consider written requests from Members which have previously been submitted to the Town Clerk to enable participation in discussion and voting on items for which the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. (s.31 & s.33 of the Localism Act 2011).

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosures of interest from Members in respect of items of business included on the agenda for this meeting.

4 MINUTES (Pages 5-13)

To receive and agree the Minutes from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 19th February 2024.

5 <u>APPEALS</u> (Pages 15-21)

a) To receive notice that the following appeal against conditions imposed on planning consent was allowed and planning permission GRANTED, by the Planning Inspector on 17th January 2024, with the below changes made to the planning conditions:

- APP/G2245/W/23/3318386: Summerhill, Seal Hollow Road: 22/03345/MMA
 - Deletion of conditions 14 and 15 relating to retaining a turning area, and to boundary hedge maintenance
 - Revision of conditions 2, 11 and 12 to accurately reflect the approved drawing numbers and to correct a typo.

b) To note that a separate application for a reward of costs was also allowed, and the District Council ordered to pay the costs of the applicant's appeal proceedings.

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

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DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Pages 23-24)

a) To receive notice that the below application is due to be considered by Sevenoaks District Council's Development Management Committee on 7th March 2024. This was previously allocated to Cllr Daniell.

 23/03609/CONVAR – Ground Floor & First Floor Flats, School House, 73 Solefields Road

INFORMATIVE:

6

On 8th January 2024 and then subsequently on 5th February 2024, Sevenoaks Town Council recommended approval with an informative requesting that a condition be put in place to ensure the units remain as affordable housing.

b) To note that the full documentation may be accessed through the District Council's Planning Portal, via the following link: <u>https://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-</u> applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S5K3N8BK0UL00

c) To nominate a Kippington Ward Councillor to attend the meeting, if deemed appropriate.

TRAFFIC SURVEYS COMPLETED BY KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Pages 25-30)
 a) To receive copy of correspondence from Kent County Council, including results of traffic surveys completed in response to the Town Council's Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) Priorities.

b) To discuss the results and any requests to be made to the County Council.

8 <u>GATWICK AIRPORT – DETAILS FROM RECENT AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL</u> <u>UPDATE BRIEFING EVENTS</u> (circulated sepatately)

a) To receive copy of presentation slides and a summary of questions and answers provided by Gatwick Airport Limited, during two recent update briefing events they held on their proposals to redesign the airport's arrival and departure routes.

b) To receive a document outlining the Full Options Appraisal metrics which Gatwick Airport are planning on generating as part of the Stage 3 activities.

c) To note that Sevenoaks Town Council may provide feedback and suggestions on additional metrics that could be appraised, however must do so by 8th March 2024.

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- 9 SEVENOAKS TOWN CENTRE & ST JOHN'S HILL MASTERPLANS (Pages 31-68) To receive and note a proposal document prepared by the Town Council's consultant for the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan, Urban Initiatives Studio. This is to support preparation of Masterplans for Sevenoaks Town Centre and St John's Hill area, and includes detailed Methodology and Project Programme.
- 10 <u>CURRENT MATTERS AND COMPLETED MATTERS REPORTS</u> (Pages 69-71) To receive and note the Current Matters report, with attention drawn to the highlighted items, which are awaiting action of the Planning Committee.
- 11 DECISION NOTICES ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMENTED ON BY SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL (Page 73) To receive and note decisions made by Sevenoaks District Council on applications considered by Sevenoaks Town Council's Planning Committee – between the two weeks ending 26th February 2024.

12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS (Pages 75-76)

a) The meeting will be adjourned to enable members of the public, by prior arrangement, to speak on individual planning applications which are on the current agenda.

Members of the public wishing to speak and address the Planning Committee must register to do so with the Town Council by 12 noon on the date of the meeting, stating that they wish to speak. The Town Council permits one person to speak in favour and one against each Planning Application on a first registered basis. For more details <u>see here.</u>

b) The meeting will be reconvened to consider planning applications received during the two weeks ending 26th February 2024.

13 PRESS RELEASES

To consider any item in this report that would be appropriate for a press release.

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NVESTORS IN PEOPLE

4 Town Clerk

Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Council PLANNING COMMITTEE meeting held on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7:00pm at the Town Council Chambers. Livestreamed and available on You Tube until Minutes are accepted by Town Council Meeting: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rggb2KsY400&t=1754s</u>

Present:

Committee Members

Cllr Ancrum	Present	Cllr Gustard	Apologies
Cllr Layne	Present	Cllr Michaelides	Remote Attendance*
Cllr Camp – Chair	Present	Cllr O'Hara	Present
Cllr Dr Canet	Present	Cllr Shea – Mayor	Apologies
Cllr Clayton – Leader	Present	Cllr Skinner OBE	Present
Cllr Daniell	Apologies	Cllr Varley – Vice Chair	Present
Cllr Dr Dixon	Present	Cllr Willis	Present
Cllr Granville	Present	Cllr Wightman – Deputy Leader	Present

Also in attendance:

Town Clerk Planning Committee Clerk Approx. 30 Members of the Public

*Members attending via Zoom took part in the discussion but were not permitted to vote on matters under consideration, legally they do not constitute as being "present" at the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

- 680 <u>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</u> No requests for dispensations had been received.
- 681 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> None.
- 682 <u>DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING</u>
 a) Written representation was received and forwarded to all Cllrs, objecting to the following application:
 - [Plan no. 6] 24/00068/FUL The Old Meeting House, St Johns Road

b) Cllr Granville declared that she and all other Councillors had been lobbied on the following application,

• [Plan no. 6] 24/00068/FUL – The Old Meeting House, St Johns Road

683 MINUTES

The Committee received the MINUTES of the Planning Committee Meeting held 5th February 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved.

684 <u>APPEALS</u>

The Committee noted that the following appeal was dismissed and planning permission REFUSED by the Planning Inspector on 17th January 2024.

• APP/G2245/D/23/3328771: 22/03572/HOUSE – 72 Brattle Wood

685 <u>TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – GOLDING ROAD – 18TH MARCH 2024 FOR 2 DAYS</u>
 a) The Committee received notice that the above road would be closed for its entire length for 2 days.

b) The alternative route was noted, as well as weblink to up to date information, as below:

https://one.network/?tm=135157438

686 <u>REQUEST FOR PELICAN CROSSINGS TO REPLACE ZEBRA CROSSING ON LONDON ROAD –</u> <u>VIA HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN</u>

a) Councillors received a request from a member of the public, for the zebra crossings on London Road, by Marks and Spencer and also by Branded, to be replaced by a pelican crossing in order to address reported pedestrian safety issues.

b) Councillors agreed that the crossing facilities on London Road aren't providing the level of protection they should be, with the following additional locations having been the subject of safety concern reports to the Councillors:

- Outside the Fish Shop on London Road
- The Crossing onto Hospital Road

c) Cllr Clayton reported that the owner of The Fish Shop on London Road had witnessed four accidents involving pedestrians by the crossing outside the premises within the last two months.

d) It was agreed that this was an urgent safety concern, and it was **RESOLVED** that Sevenoaks Town Council write to Kent County Council (KCC), flagging the near accident report, as well as requesting a review of the existing crossing facilities within the Town Centre triangle in order to make them more visible and safer for pedestrians.

e) Councillors enquired of the Planning Committee Clerk whether KCC had provided an update on any progress made on the priorities submitted in the HIP. The Committee Clerk confirmed that KCC's HIP manager had recently provided traffic data from several of the requested traffic surveys, which would be on the next Planning Committee Agenda for consideration of next steps.

687 SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW

a) The Committee received notice that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) would be undertaking a review of the electoral arrangements for Sevenoaks District Council (SDC), with final proposals expected late 2025.

b) It was noted that LGBCE were expected to commence consultation on the District's warding patterns from October 2024.

688 CURRENT MATTERS AND COMPLETED MATTERS REPORTS

a) The Committee received and noted the Current Matters report, with attention drawn to the highlighted item which is awaiting action of the Planning Committee. It was agreed that this would be deferred to the next Planning Committee meeting.

b) The Committee received and approved the Completed Matters report, which had backdated actions completed by the Planning Committee since the beginning of the new Term 2023-2027.

689 <u>DECISION NOTICES ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMENTED ON BY SEVENOAKS</u> <u>TOWN COUNCIL</u>

a) The Committee received and noted details within the report, which notified of decisions made by Sevenoaks District Council on applications considered by STC's Planning Committee, received during the two weeks ending 12th February 2024.

690 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) Minute Item 690.b. as well as consideration of its corresponding planning application was moved further up the Agenda and considered after Declarations of Interest. This as per Standing Order 10.a.viii, whereby the order of business of the Agenda may be changed without prior written notice.
- (b) The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak for three minutes on the following application, by prior agreement. The meeting remained adjourned for Councillors to address the applicant to clarify points on proposed use, current congregation numbers, and capacity of the site.
 - [Plan no. 6] 24/00068/FUL The Old Meeting House (For)
 - [Plan no. 6] 24/00068/FUL The Old Meeting House (Against)

(c) The Committee considered planning applications received during the two weeks ending 12th February 2024. It was RESOLVED that the comments listed on the attached schedule be forwarded to Sevenoaks District Council.

691 PRESS RELEASES

It was **RESOLVED** that a Press Release be issued detailing the Town Council's safety concerns with the crossing facilities in Sevenoaks Town Centre, and its request for a review of these from Kent County Council.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:15pm.

Signed Chair

Dated

Applications considered on 19-2-24

1	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent
	23/03054/ADV	Stephanie Payne 22/02/2024	Cllr Willis	N/A
Appl	licant	House Name Road		Locality
Miss (C Collins	Ground Floor	26-28 Pembroke Road	Town
Town		County	Post Code	Application date
				01/02/24

23/03054/ADV - Amended plan

Signage to identify the company on the external façade of the premises plus directional signage for car parking and entry way. Covering all four sides of the building and use of boundary wall along with two freestanding pillar mounted signs at angles to the road replacing current signage.

A summary of the main changes are set out below:

The amount and locations of the adverts has been revised and revised information regarding their specifications and illuminations has been provided.

Comment

Sevenoaks Town Council recommended refusal, unless the Planning Officer is satisfied that the steps to address the lighting are satisfactory, and the scale of the signage is in keeping with the area.

2	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent Coleman Anderson Archi	
	23/03232/HOUSE	Stephanie Payne 27/02/2024	Cllr Clayton		
Appli	icant	House Name	Road	Locality	
Mr and	Mrs Ramsay		10 Wildernesse Mount	Eastern	
Towr	ו	County	Post Code	Application date	
				06/02/24	

23/03232/HOUSE - Amended plan

Installation of Samsung Air Source Heat Pump on Front Elevation, with associated acoustic timber fence panelling.

A summary of the main changes are set out below:

Revised drawings have been provided which now incorporate acoustic fencing rather than a covering to the Air Source Heat Pump.

Comment

Sevenoaks Town Council recommended approval, provided noise is contained, and that the rest of the build is completed in line with the approved plans.

Applications considered on 19-2-24

3	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent
	23/03429/HOUSE	Christopher Park 20/02/2024	Cllr Layne	Designhomeplan Ltd
Applicant		House Name	Road	Locality
Micallef			50 St Johns Hill	Eastern
Town		County	Post Code	Application date
				30/01/24

23/03429/HOUSE - Amended plan

Hardstanding to the principal elevation of dwelling.

A summary of the main changes are set out below:

The site location plan includes communal land not within the sole ownership of the applicant. Therefore, given that notice was not served under an ownership certificate, the site location plan has been amended to exclude the land beyond the rear boundary.

Comment

Proposed by Cllr Clayton:

Sevenoaks Town Council recommended approval, providing the Planning Officer is satisfied that there is adequate provision for water run-off, for instance via porous surfaces, as required by the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan Policy L2.

4	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent	
	23/03528/LBCALT	Abbey Aslett 28/02/2024	Cllr Michaelides	Howard Sharp and Partn	
Appli	cant	House Name	Road	Locality	
Mr & M	rs Martin and Cornford		43B London Road	Town	
Town	1	County	Post Code	Application date	
				07/02/24	

23/03528/LBCALT - Amended plan

Change of use from Class E to 1 dwelling. Alterations to fenestration. Internal alterations. Removal of air conditioning units.

A summary of the main changes are set out below:

Updated proposed elevation drawings to correlate with the proposed floor plans.

Comment

Proposed from the Chair with Cllr Michaelides' remote attendance:

Sevenoaks Town Council recommended refusal, unless the Conservation Officer is satisfied that the proposal preserves and enhances the significance of a listed building in a Conservation Area.

Applications considered on 19-2-24

5	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent	
-	23/03620/FUL	Stephanie Payne 26/02/2024	Cllr Ancrum	Carmen Austin Architect	
Applicant		House Name	Road	Locality	
Mr C & D McCready			155 Seal Hollow Road	Eastern	
Tow	'n	County	Post Code	Application date	
				05/02/24	

Subdivision of the plot and erection of new dwelling.

Comment

A recommendation for approval on four conditions was made, seconded, and LOST AT THE CHAIR'S CASTING VOTE.

Through the Chair's casting Councillor vote, Sevenoaks Town Council recommended refusal unless:

- The Planning Officer is satisfied regarding mitigation measures to reduce the impact of loss of light and overlooking on neighbouring properties, particularly at no.4 Pinewood Avenue

- KCC Highways confirm approval of the safety and traffic impact of the new access point - The recommendations of the Tree Officer regarding tree replacement requirements are followed, and that all removed trees are replaced as required by Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan Policy L4

- A Net Gain of 10% Biodiversity will be delivered, as required by Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan Policy L1

- The impact the new access with regards to Pinewood Avenue being a common school drop off/pick up site is given due consideration.

Applications considered on 19-2-24

6	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent	
-	24/00068/FUL	Samantha Yates 28/02/2024	Cllr Camp	DC Hudon & Partner LLP	
Арр	licant	House Name	Road	Locality	
Dr E /	Ansari	The Old Meeting House	St Johns Road	St Johns	
Tow	'n	County	Post Code	Application date	
				07/02/24	
24/0	0068/FUL - Amend	led plan	ļ.		

Change of use to a place of worship. Works to fenestration.

Comment

Sevenoaks Town Council recommended refusal, unless:

- The Highways Department and Planning Officer are satisfied with the full details of the Transport Plan.

- A condition is placed requiring the mitigation measures detailed in section 3 of the Noise Impact Assessment be installed and completed prior to the change of use commencing.

- A condition be placed that prohibits any amplified music (recorded or live) being played. This is in case there is intended to be any other use taking place in the hall, such as private functions or other celebrations.

- The effect of these measures to mitigate noise disturbance is monitored and the results, including an annual report, with any amendments that are reasonably required to these measures, be submitted annually to the Local Planning Authority.

- A Travel Plan is completed which confirms that the change of use would result in no harm in terms of local parking, amenity, highway safety, or capacity efficiency - to be approved by the Local Planning Authority.

- The Travel Plan, once approved, is implemented in full and monitored at yearly intervals, and the results - ncluding an annual report - together with any amendments that are reasonably required to the Travel Plan, is submitted for approval of the Local Planning Authority.

Informative:

Should the District Council be minded to approve this application, this should be a temporary application for one year only, in order to assess the traffic, transport and highway safety implications when the mosque becomes better established.

7	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent Carmen Austin Architecti	
-	24/00168/HOUSE	Summer Aucoin 21/02/2024	Cllr Daniell		
Арр	olicant	House Name	Road	Locality	
Mr M and Mrs A Le Roux		Tanglewood Muchley Ashgrove Road		Kippington	
Тои	/n	County	Post Code	Application date	
				31/01/24	
Dou	ble storey side ext	tension, single storey sid	e extension, porch and		

alterations and roof alterations.

Comment

Proposed by Cllr Varley with Cllr Daniell's apologies:

Sevenoaks Town Council recommended approval.

Applications considered on 19-2-24

8	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent Sevenoaks Plans Ltd	
_	24/00181/HOUSE	Summer Aucoin 28/02/2024	Cllr Dr Dixon		
Applicant		House Name	Road	Locality	
Mr D I	Dennis		25 St Johns Road	St Johns	
Town		County	Post Code	Application date	
				08/02/24	

Extend existing dropped kerb, provision of new permeable driveway and associated landscaping.

Comment

Sevenoaks Town Council recommended approval.

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Appeal Decision

Site visit made on 23 January 2024

by A Wright BSc (Hons) MRTPI

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State

Decision date:16.02.2024

Appeal Ref: APP/G2245/W/23/3318386

Summerhill, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3SH

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a grant of planning permission subject to conditions.
- The appeal is made by Brentfield Homes Ltd against the decision of Sevenoaks District Council.
- The application Ref 22/03345/MMA, dated 1 December 2022, was granted approval by notice dated 7 February 2023 subject to conditions.
- The application sought planning permission for "demolition of existing dwelling; erection of two detached dwellings with garaging and associated works incorporating minor revisions following consents under application references SE/18/00158/OUT and SE/18/02903/CONVAR" by varying conditions 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 attached to planning permission Ref 20/01075/FUL.
- The conditions in dispute are (1) No. 2 which states that "The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: PL/552/101 Rev H, PL/552/102 Rev E, PL/552/103 Rev E, PL/552/104 Rev E, PL/552/105 Rev B, PL/552/106 Rev B, PL/552/107 Rev C, PL/552/108 Rev F, PL/552/109 Rev C, PL/552/110, PL/552/112, PL/552/113 Rev C, PL/552/115 Electric Vehicle Charging Points, PL/552/116 Materials Schedule, PL/552/111 Method Statement and Construction Management Plan, SH/TPP/1679-02 Tree Protection Plan", (2) No. 14 which states that "The turning area shall be kept free with no additional gates, fencing or other boundaries erected without prior consent from the local planning authority" and (3) No. 15 which states that "The hedge on the boundary between Summerhill and Dawnings/Levenhurst (conditioned in 20/10175/FUL) shall be maintained and any parts of that hedge damaged or lost in the process of the development shall be replaced."
- The reasons given for the conditions are: "For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning" (No. 2), "In the interest of highway safety" (No. 14) and "To preserve the visual and residential amenity in accordance with policies EN1 and EN2 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan" (No. 15)

Decision

- 1. The appeal is allowed and the planning permission Ref 22/03345/MMA (for the demolition of existing dwelling; erection of two detached dwellings with garaging and associated works incorporating minor revisions following consents under application references SE/18/00158/OUT and SE/18/02903/CONVAR at Summerhill, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3SH by varying conditions 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 attached to planning permission Ref 20/01075/FUL, granted on 7 February 2023 by Sevenoaks District Council), is varied by deleting conditions 14 and 15 and by deleting conditions 2, 11 and 12 and substituting the following conditions 2, 11 and 12:
 - 2) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: PL/552/101 Rev H, PL/552/102 Rev E, PL/552/103 Rev E, PL/552/104 Rev E, PL/552/105 Rev B,

PL/552/106 Rev B, PL/552/107 Rev C, PL/552/108 Rev F, PL/552/109 Rev C, PL/552/110, PL/552/112, PL/552/113 Rev C, PL/552/115 Rev D Electric Vehicle Charging Points, PL/552/116 Materials Schedule, PL/552/111 Rev C Method Statement and Construction Management Plan, SH/TPP/1679-02 Tree Protection Plan.

- 11) Prior to occupation of the dwellings hereby approved the electric vehicle charging facilities shall be installed in accordance with the details as indicated on Drawing PL/552/108 Rev F and PL/552/115 Rev D Electric Vehicle Charging Points and retained and maintained in accordance with the approved details thereafter.
- 12) The development shall be carried out in accordance with Method Statement and Construction Management Plan as detailed in Drawing PL/552/109 Rev C and PL/552/111 Rev C.

Application for costs

2. An application for costs was made by Brentfield Homes Ltd against Sevenoaks District Council. This is the subject of a separate decision.

Preliminary Matters

- 3. The appellant has confirmed that the scheme which has been implemented for plot 1 is application ref 23/01880/MMA and that all conditions relating to this permission have been discharged. Nevertheless, I must determine the appeal based on the submitted plans and information considered by the Council.
- 4. The parties agree that there are some errors in the plans listed in condition 2 of the decision notice which does not accurately reflect those submitted with the application and on which the Council made its decision. For the avoidance of doubt, I have had regard to correct plans PL/552/111 Rev C and PL/552/115 Rev D instead of plans PL/552/111 and PL/552/115, and to all other plans referred to in condition 2.
- 5. The National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) was revised in December 2023. As the changes do not materially affect the main issues in this case, the parties have not been invited to make further comments. Where reference is made to the Framework in this decision, the paragraph numbers are those that appear in the latest version.

Background and Main Issues

6. Planning permission was originally granted¹ for the demolition of a dwelling and the erection of two dwellings. A subsequent application² gained approval for amendments to the approved scheme, involving the addition of a single storey side extension in place of the proposed single bay attached garage, and resulting in the substitution of drawings for conditions 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The current permission includes conditions 14 and 15 as set out in the banner heading above relating to a turning area and a boundary hedge. The conditions were imposed 'in the interest of highway safety' and 'to preserve the visual and residential amenity in accordance with policies EN1 and EN2 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan (ADMP)' respectively.

¹ Application ref 20/01075/FUL, the 'original permission', granted 8 July 2020.

² Application ref 22/03345/MMA, the 'current permission', granted 7 February 2023.

- 7. Therefore, the main issues are:
 - whether condition 14 is necessary and reasonable with regard to highway safety; and
 - whether condition 15 is necessary and reasonable with regard to the living conditions of adjacent occupiers and the character and appearance of the area.

Reasons

Condition 14

- 8. The appeal site includes a long, shared driveway from Seal Hollow Road. The approved plans show the provision of access gates and a large area for vehicles in front of each plot and a replacement garage for plot 2.
- 9. The Council indicates that the condition requiring a turning area to be kept free was imposed because there are discrepancies between the plans submitted for the building control consent and the planning application. It states that the building control application makes provision for a turning circle to allow larger fire vehicles to leave the site in a forward gear, avoiding having to reverse along the access to Seal Hollow Road. This issue was raised by local members, building control, the Town Council, and neighbouring residents.
- 10. The Framework and the Planning Practice Guidance state that conditions should only be imposed where they are necessary, relevant to planning and to the development to be permitted, enforceable, precise, and reasonable in all other respects.
- 11. The approved plans do not show a turning area, so it is unclear which area needs to be kept free to comply with this planning condition. In addition, the Council's Planning Officer's report does not identify any highway safety issues and there is little evidence to justify the restrictions the condition places on permitted development rights relating to boundary treatments. Further, these requirements were not imposed on previous permissions for development of the site.
- 12. In any event, approved plan PL/552/108 Rev F shows that each plot will be laid with adequate space for vehicles to turn within it. While it is possible that a future occupier might make changes that could restrict or even prevent such turning, the consequence would be that they would have to reverse a vehicle the full length of the shared driveway. I have been given no reason to believe that a future occupier would make that choice, which therefore seems unlikely.
- 13. For these reasons, the condition requiring the turning area to be kept free is not necessary. It is also not enforceable or precise as the turning circle is not shown on the approved plans. Further, the requirement for prior consent from the local planning authority for gates, fencing or other boundaries places an unreasonable and unjustified restriction on future development at the property. Therefore, it fails the policy tests for conditions outlined in paragraph 56 of the Framework.
- 14. Consequently, I conclude that condition 14 is not necessary and reasonable with regard to highway safety.

Condition 15

- 15. The appeal site lies in a predominantly residential area, with the dwellings "Dawning House" and "Levenhurst" located immediately east of it and north of the access road. These neighbouring houses have rear windows facing the site and rear gardens adjoining it. Despite concerns about previous damage to boundary landscaping, on my site visit I observed that there is established planting along the boundary between the site and these properties which did not appear to be damaged. This is identified on the landscaping plan as thuja brabant and a yew hedge.
- 16. The Council states that the condition requiring the maintenance of the hedge on the boundary between the appeal site and Dawning House/ Levenhurst is required to bolster existing conditions relating to landscaping to ensure that it is replaced in the event of any loss. The Council considers that this addresses concerns raised about damage to the boundary as a result of works on the site.
- 17. Policy EN1 of the ADMP requires proposals to respect the character of the area and sensitively incorporate natural features such as hedges within the site, whilst Policy EN2 requires development to avoid an unacceptable loss of privacy or light enjoyed by the occupiers of nearby properties, amongst other things.
- 18. There is no reference to a boundary hedge in the conditions on the original permission or other permissions for the site. However, conditions 6 and 7 of the original permission require landscaping to be carried out in accordance with the landscaping plan and make provision for its replacement with similar size and species if it fails within five years of the development being completed. These conditions are repeated in the current permission.
- 19. Whilst the two versions of condition 6 cite different landscaping plan numbers, both show an existing yew hedge to the north of the access road and existing thuja brabant on the eastern boundary, with the design aims for the latter being upto 3.5m high with bushy 4-5ft planting in 15L pots at 2ft centres. Conditions 6 and 7 ensure that the development complies with Policy EN1 of the ADMP. As the hedge is already protected by existing landscaping conditions, the proposed condition is not necessary and reasonable to protect the character and appearance of the area.
- 20. The proposal is for a side extension instead of a garage attached to a house previously approved on plot 1. As it would have no side windows, the extension would not result in overlooking of the rear gardens and windows of Dawning House and Levenhurst by the occupiers of plot 1. Further, given its single storey height, the retention of a gap to the side of the extension and the separation distance between the structure and the neighbouring dwellings, the proposed development would not cause harmful loss of light for the occupiers of Dawning House and Levenhurst. As such, the proposal without the condition would not conflict with Policy EN2 of the ADMP. Thus, the condition requiring the maintenance of the boundary hedge and its replacement in the event of damage or loss during development is not necessary to protect the living conditions for occupiers of neighbouring properties.
- 21. There are also references to Policy L4 of the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan (NP) though the Council does not allude to this. Policy L4 requires existing trees and hedgerows to be retained and protected as part of development proposals, as well as requiring replacement of any trees/hedgerows to be lost as part of development proposals within or in close proximity to the site. For

the same reasons outlined above, the proposal without the condition would not conflict with Policy L4 of the NP.

22. Therefore, I conclude that condition 15 is not necessary and reasonable with regard to the living conditions of adjacent occupiers and the character and appearance of the area.

Other Matters

- 23. The proposed extension would increase the width of the house on plot 1 and extend along much of the side of the property. Although there is not a similar side extension on plot 2, due to its single storey height, set back from the front gable and design to match the proposed house, the extension would not be overly dominant in relation to the host dwelling or plot 2. As the sizeable rear garden and front driveway would remain and there would be a gap between the building and the eastern boundary, the proposal would not be overdevelopment.
- 24. The amended scheme would result in the loss of a proposed single bay garage. However, as the local highway authority does not count single bay garages towards parking space numbers and the large front driveway could accommodate multiple vehicles, sufficient parking space would be provided.
- 25. There are some concerns about the complex site planning history and potential subdivision of the property, but these have not had any bearing on my decision which is based on the merits of the proposal before me.

Conditions

26. The drawing numbers in conditions 11 and 12 have been corrected to accurately reflect those which were submitted with the application and on which the Council made its decision. I have also corrected another typo in condition 12.

Conclusion

27. For the reasons given above, I conclude that the appeal should be allowed, and I shall vary the planning permission by deleting conditions 14 and 15 and by deleting conditions 2, 11 and 12 and substituting revised conditions 2, 11 and 12.

A Wright

INSPECTOR



Costs Decision

Site visit made on 23 January 2024

by A Wright BSc (Hons) MRTPI

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State

Decision date:16.02.2024

Costs application in relation to Appeal Ref: APP/G2245/W/23/3318386 Summerhill, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3SH

- The application is made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, sections 78, 322 and Schedule 6, and the Local Government Act 1972, section 250(5).
- The application is made by Brentfield Homes Limited for a full award of costs against Sevenoaks District Council.
- The appeal was against the grant subject to conditions of planning permission for demolition of existing dwelling; erection of two detached dwellings with garaging and associated works incorporating minor revisions following consents under application references SE/18/00158/OUT and SE/18/02903/CONVAR by varying conditions 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 attached to planning permission Ref 20/01075/FUL.

Decision

1. The application for an award of costs is allowed in the terms set out below.

Reasons

- 2. The Planning Practice Guidance (the PPG) advises that, irrespective of the outcome of the appeal, costs may only be awarded against a party who has behaved unreasonably and that behaviour has directly caused the party applying for costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense in the appeal process.
- 3. The application is seeking to recover the full costs incurred in the appeal process. The applicant considers that the Council behaved unreasonably as it: imposed conditions that do not comply with the guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework on planning conditions; put forward vague, generalised or inaccurate assertions about the proposal's impact which are unsupported by any objective analysis; and did not determine cases in a consistent manner.
- 4. Planning permission was originally granted (application ref 20/01075/FUL) for the demolition of a dwelling and the erection of two dwellings. A subsequent planning application (application ref 22/03345/MMA)¹ gained approval for minor amendments to the approved scheme, involving the addition of a single storey side extension in place of the proposed single bay attached garage.
- 5. The current planning application does not include a plan showing a turning area and I have found it unlikely that a turning area would not be retained. Therefore, condition 14 requiring the turning area to be kept free is not necessary, enforceable, or precise. As such, the imposition of such a condition is not necessary or reasonable.

¹ The 'current planning application/permission'

https://www.gov.uk/planning-inspectorate

- 6. The current planning permission includes landscaping conditions which require the implementation of landscaping and its replacement with similar size and species if it fails within five years of the development being completed. There are references to a plan which shows the thuja brabant planting along the eastern boundary. The Council's Planning Officer's report states that the proposed amendment even if the eastern boundary hedgerow is deteriorating would not alter the extent of light loss or privacy loss for the occupiers of Levenhurst and Dawning House. I have also found that the proposal would not harm the living conditions of the occupiers of these neighbouring properties. Consequently, the condition requiring the maintenance of the boundary hedge and its replacement in the event of damage or loss during development is also not necessary or reasonable.
- 7. The Council's planning officer's report addresses the impacts of the proposal, and its appeal statement indicates that the conditions were in response to plans submitted for building control consent and concerns raised regarding damage to the boundary. Although other proposals for the site did not include the requirements outlined in conditions 14 and 15, the Council states that the planning application was determined in accordance with its constitution and that it is authorised to include additional conditions within a Section 73 application. Therefore, even though I have found that the conditions are not necessary or reasonable, the Council substantiated its reasons for imposing them.
- 8. The Council accepts that it made errors in the drawing numbers listed in the conditions, has apologised, and has offered a free non-material amendment application.
- 9. Therefore, I conclude that by imposing conditions that were not necessary or reasonable, the Council's behaviour has been unreasonable. It thus follows that the applicant has incurred unnecessary expense. I therefore find that unreasonable behaviour resulting in unnecessary or wasted expense, as described in the PPG, has been demonstrated.

Costs Order

- 10. In exercise of the powers under section 250(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Schedule 6 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended, and all other enabling powers in that behalf, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Sevenoaks District Council shall pay to Brentfield Homes Limited, the costs of the appeal proceedings described in the heading of this decision; such costs to be assessed in the Senior Courts Costs Office if not agreed.
- 11. The applicant is now invited to submit to Sevenoaks District Council, to whom a copy of this decision has been sent, details of those costs with a view to reaching agreement as to the amount.

A Wright

INSPECTOR

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The Parish/Town Clerk

Direct Dial: Ask For: Email: My Ref: Your Ref: Date:

01732 227000, Option 3 Samantha Yates dmcommittee@sevenoaks.gov.uk 23/03609/CONVAR 27 February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

- Site: Ground & First Floor Flats School House 73 Solefields Road Sevenoaks Kent TN13 1PH
- **Development:** Variation of condition 2 (occupation of accommodation) of SE/89/02141 for erection of Headmasters house and subsidiary staff accommodation. To remove occupancy condition for staff accommodation

The current application on this site is due to be considered at the meeting of the Development Control Committee, on **7 March 2024** at 7 pm. The Meeting will take place at the Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks Kent, TN13 1HG and will be live streamed to YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIT1f_F50fvTzxjZk6Zqn6g

We operate a system of public speaking at meetings of the Committee. For advice on speaking on planning applications and further information about the Development Control Committee please view: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/developmentcontrolcommittee.

If a representative from the Parish/Town Council would like to speak on the application, please register your interest with our Customer Solutions Team on 01732 227000, who can also answer any questions you may have regarding the public speaking procedure. You need to register your interest by 5pm on the day of the meeting at the latest. Only one person can be registered. However, in the case of deferred applications being reconsidered by the Committee, further representations will not normally be heard at the meeting.

Please be advised once you have registered to speak, if you wish to show any photographs or plans (no more than three), these must be submitted electronically to the Development Control Team by 5pm the day BEFORE the meeting date (email: <u>dmcommittee@sevenoaks.gov.uk</u>.) This deadline is to ensure sufficient time is available to prepare and check the presentation before the meeting. Material received after this time will be rejected. Any photomontages or other visualisations of the appearance of the development will only be accepted if they are accompanied by a statement showing how they have been created based on the application plans.

Please note that written information is not permitted to be used as a "visual aid".

Those wishing to speak may do so remotely or in person. Joining details for Zoom will be sent out the day before the Committee by Democratic Services. Please make it known

Chief Executive: Dr. Pav Ramewal Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG Telephone: 01732 227000 DX 30006 Sevenoaks Email: information@sevenoaks.gov.uk www.sevenoaks.gov.uk when registering to speak whether you will be participating remotely or attending in person.

Copies of the committee agenda, including the report relevant to this application, will be available to view and download 5 working days before the Committee Date, via our website, <u>www.sevenoaks.gov.uk</u>.

Yours faithfully

Richard Momis

Richard Morris Deputy Chief Executive Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services

From: Nigel Rowe
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 4:27 PM
To: Sevenoaks Town Planning
Cc: Emma Tilbury
Subject: RE: Sevenoaks Town Council HIP

Hello Georgie,

I hope you are well. As an interim I want to share with you the results of the surveys carried out on 4 of the locations we discussed being the High Street, London Road and 2 separate surveys on Tonbridge Road. I have attached a document which includes the front page and dashboard summary of each survey. On the first page I have included the class key which will help when deciding how many of each type of vehicle. All surveys were in place for a 24/7 period with no lapse in between.

High Street, Sevenoaks. I know your main reason for this survey was to measure the amount of HGV's that are using the High Street. Unsurprisingly the speeds are reading an average of North 15.4mph and South 18.5mph. In terms of HGV's this is going to be difficult to gauge from delivery trucks servicing the High Street and through traffic, then of course buses.

London Road, Sevenoaks. Here we are showing average speeds North 22.4mph and South 23.2mph, traffic flow appears to be less than the parallel High Street though.

A225 Tonbridge Road. Bearing in mind we are in the 40mph zone here the average speeds are quite low being North 24.5mph and South 25.5mph. I can see no engineering interventions being required here. For the further south readings on the same road, it does understandably speed up but only to North 34.2mph and South 34.1mph indicating we have very good speed compliance on this road.

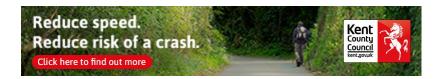
I hope these figures make sense; the data reports can be quite daunting but just sending you this for info at this time. They are good evidence to have when you get enquiries though.

Many thanks and best wishes

Nigel

Nigel Rowe | **Community Engagement Officer (West)** | Road Safety & Active Travel Group | Highways, Transportation & Waste | Kent County Council | 03000 41 81 81 | www.kent.gov.uk/highways

VisionZeroKent Delivering Safer Roads and Streets visionzerokent.org



From: Nigel Rowe
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 6:11 PM
To: Sevenoaks Town Planning
Cc: Emma Tilbury
Subject: Sevenoaks Town Council HIP

Hello Georgie,

Thank you so much for setting up today's meeting, and it was good to meet the committee and yourself in person finally.

At this stage I just want to summarise what was discussed and check that you are happy with all the points raised. Please confirm or feel free to add anything in I have missed. Once confirmed I will update the HIP accordingly with actions to date. Just for note I will be away on leave for next w/c 11/9/23 returning on 18/9/23.

- 20mph limit NR to liaise with Jamie Watson about the history and to confirm that his team will continue to project manage. NR to make enquiries regarding the number of objectors to the original TRO and to check whether you will need to go out to consultation again if you reduce the extent of roads originally consulted on but do not add any new roads.
- HGV's through the High Street, main focus being the triangle of High St, London Rd, Pembroke Rd back up to Sevenoaks School site. NR to arrange ATC surveys with a view to counting amount of HGV's over a 24/7 period. Also to carry out a review of existing signage from strategic routes.
- 3. Railway Station NR Look at Pedestrian Guard Rails and investigate why they were installed. Explore options regarding desire line for crossing.
- 4. Hillingdon Ave, Hospital Rd A25 junction NR to investigate 'Keep Clear' or potential widening of footway to narrow the road down further essentially making it a one way with priority markings for those coming off the A25.
- 5. Seal Rd Feasibility of zebra crossing near Greatness Rec where there is already tactile paving. Emma has already had a closer look at this and pointed out that the footpath is not wide enough on the Trinity School side. This is likely to be an issue but NR to raise with P&A and explore any possible solutions.
- Bradbourne Vale Rd NR to explore crossing options at the jct with Betenson Avenue. Initial investigations post meeting do show this to be quite a tricky junction to facilitate a pedestrian crossing. I will raise the enquiry to be certain of any options though.
- 7. Clare Way NR to clarify with Rob Dudman as to scheme he has in mind here, if so a drawing to be obtained to assist STC with informal consultation.
- 8. Tonbridge Rd reduce speed limit from 40mph to 30mph from Sevenoaks sign at Letterbox La. NR to arrange for ATC surveys to ascertain current speed trends over a 24/7 period. Then refer to Planning and Advice.

- 9. Multiple Roads- STC to provide details of roads they would like corner protection DYL's.
- 10. Bat and Ball Jct NR to investigate with Toby Butler regarding the removal of the push button. Upon reflection I feel this could be dealt with separately from the HIP as just an enquiry which is dealt with by a different team. I will leave it up to you though.
- 11. Hillingdon Ave NR to investigate history with Jamie Hare and previous Keir consultations.
- 12. Additional item raised by Cllr Streatfield regarding crossing between hospital sites. Can you add this to the HIP please.
- 13.20mph and 30mph speed toolkits one 30 kit provided at meeting, please advise how many you would like and NR can arrange for kits to be made up and dropped off. May be a few weeks as kits are in Ashford and have to be put together.

I hope that all makes sense, as I said let me know if I have missed anything.

Many thanks and best wishes

Nigel

Nigel Rowe | **Community Engagement Officer (West)** | Road Safety & Active Travel Group | Highways, Transportation & Waste | Kent County Council | 03000 41 81 81 | www.kent.gov.uk/highways





You may have provided Sevenoaks Town Council and associated companies with some personal data relating to you. Under the General Data Protection Regulations, we as the data controller in respect of that personal data are required to provide you with a set of specific information about how we will use, hold and retain this data as well as making you aware of various rights that you have. For more information please view our full Privacy Notice:

https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/GDPR/Privacy%20Notice.pdf

Sevenoaks Town Council ATC Survey Results

Class key for info.

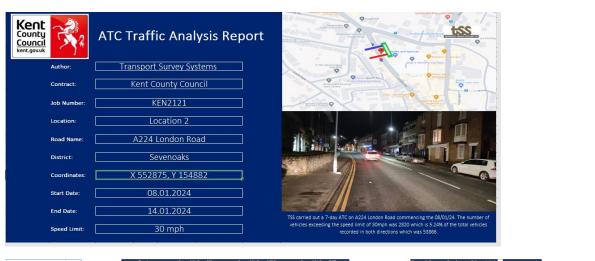
<u>a</u>	lass	Axles	Groups	Description	Parameters	Dominant Vehicle	Aggregate
1	SV	2	1 OR 2	Short - Car, light Van	d(1)>=1.7m, d(1)<=3.2m & axles=2	4	15-ba
2	SVT	3, 4 OR 5	3	Short Towing - Trailer, Caravan, Boat, etc.	groups=3, d(1)>=2.1m, d(1)<=3.2m, d(2)>=2.1m & axles=3,4,5		Light
3	TB2	2	2	Two axle truck or Bus	d(1)>3.2m & axles=2	El	
4	TB3	3	2	Three axle truck or Bus	axles=3 & groups=2	R	Medium
5	T4	>3	2	Four axle truck	axles>3 & groups=2	a and a and a second	
6	ART3	3	3	Three axle articulated vehicle or Rigid vehicle and trailer	d(1)>3.2m, axles=3 & groups=3	*	
7	ART4	4	>2	Four axle articulated vehicle or Rigid vehicle and trailer	d(2)<2.1m or d(1)<2.1m or d(1)>3.2m axles = 4 & groups>2		1
8	ARTS	5	>2	Five axle articulated vehicle or Rigid vehicle and trailer	d(2)<2.1m or d(1)<2.1m or d(1)>3.2m axles = 5 & groups>2	Calification	
9	ART6	>=6	>2	Six (or more) axle articulated vehicle or Rigid vehicle and trailer	axles=6 & groups>2 or axles>6 & groups=3	GL	Heavy
10	BD	>6	4	B-Double or Heavy truck and trailer	groups≈4 & axles>6		
11	DRT	>6	5	Double road train or Heavy truck and two trailers	groups=5,6 & axles>6		
12	TRT	>6	>6	Triple road train or Heavy truck and three (or more) trailers	groups>6 & axles>6	Elarma array array	
14	M/C	2	1 OR 2	Motorcycle	d(1)>=1.18m, d(1)<=1.7m & axles=2	هيره	Light
15	CYCLE	2	1 OR 2	Cycle	d(1)<1.18 & axles=2	670	ugnt

A225 High Street, Sevenoaks





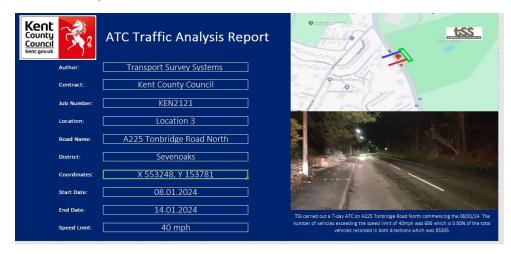
A224 London Road, Sevenoaks





Direc	ion Number of Vehicles	Average speed over 7 days	85 percentile speeds	Percentage of vehicles complying with the 30mph speed limit	Percentage of vehicles under enforcement threshold of 35mph	complying with a proposed signed only 30mph speed	complying with a proposed signed only 30mph speed
N	25604	22.4mph	26.7mph	95.8% (24529)	99.3% (25432)	95.8% (24529)	95.8% (24529)
SC	28262	23.2mph	27.7mph	93.8% (26517)	99.2% (28036)	93.8% (26517)	93.8% (26517)

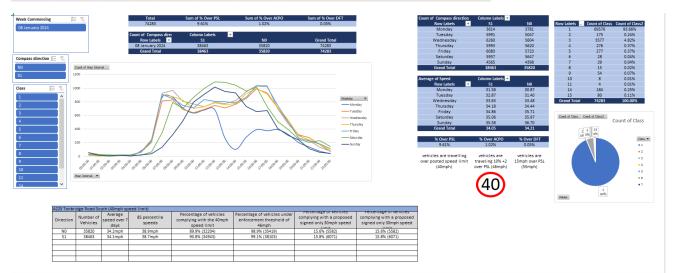
A225 Tonbridge Road, Sevenoaks





A225 Tonbridge Road South, Sevenoaks

	ATC Traffic Analysis Report	
Author:	Transport Survey Systems	and the second s
Contract:	Kent County Council	the second se
Job Number:	KEN2121	Bransen Lin Drachan Lin Bransen Lin Bransen Lin
Location:	Location 4	
Road Name:	A225 Tonbridge Road South	
District:	Sevenoaks	
Coordinates:	X 553547, Y 152781	
Start Date:	08.01.2024	
End Date:	14.01.2024	TSS carried out a 7-day ATC on A225 Tonbridge Road South commencing the 08/01/24. The
Speed Limit:	40 mph	number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit of 40mph was 7136 which is 9.61% of the total vehicles recorded in both directions which was 74283.
al.		



4347 SEVENOAKS TOWN CENTRE & ST. JOHN'S HILL MASTERPLANS TENDER



THE CLIENT: SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL

PROJECT CONTACT: HUGO NOWELL

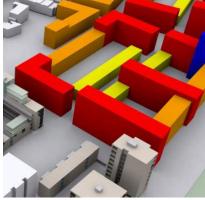
TEAM: URBAN INITIATIVES STUDIO URBAN MOVEMENT

DATE: 21/02/2024





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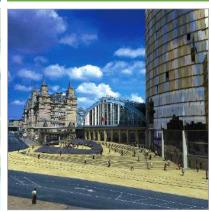
Start with the park

Creating sustainable urban green spaces in areas of housing growth and regeneration

cabe space













EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

URBAN INITIATIVES STUDIO is delighted to submit this Proposal to prepare a town centre masterplan for Sevenoaks Town Centre and St. John's Hill Neighbourhood Centre.

Our proposal sets out how we will engage with stakeholders and the wider community to prepare plans that will shape the agenda, help to inform future decision making and guide development and investment in the town. In particular the masterplans will provide design guidance for sites, explore opportunities to improve the walking and cycling environment, reduce the impacts of traffic and develop the spatial aspects of the cultural strategy.

The masterplans will build on the vision and objectives set out in the Neighbourhood Plan and critically they will provide spatial plans for these two areas that shows how delivering against the neighbourhood plan and masterplan objectives can shape a successful future.

Our Team

Urban Initiatives Studio (UIS) have considerable experience in preparing town centre masterplans and an excellent understanding of Sevenoaks from our work preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. We will provide urban design and planning expertise and also lead the project management and consultation and engagement aspects of the commission.

UIS will be supported by award-winning transport and urban design practice **Urban Movement** (UM) who will provide. transport and public realm design expertise. UIS have worked with UM on numerous commissions over the last decade including town centre masterplans for Slough, Aylesbury, Woolwich and Loughborough and the A23 Corridor Design Code.

The Urban Initiatives Studio Team will be led by **Hugo Nowell**, Director. Hugo is an urban designer and landscape architect with considerable experience preparing town centre masterplans and design guidance including for Aylesbury, Loughborough, Slough, Basingstoke, Mid Sussex and Redhill. Hugo knows Sevenoaks well from his work in North Sevenoaks and on the Neighbourhood Plan for the town. Hugo will be supported by fellow director **Matthias Wunderlich** and by **Ross O'Ceallaigh** (senior urban design and planning consultant) who will help in report drafting and **Subham Banerjee** (urban design consultant) who will prepare drawings and analysis. The UM team will be led by **Oliver Davey** an accomplished traffic engineer and by Assistant Landscape Architect **Catanya Anderson**.

All team members are committed to working together in a collaborative and inclusive way.

Our Experience

Urban Initiatives Studio has considerable expertise and experience in developing deliverable masterplans for town centres similar to Sevenoaks. In recent years we have prepared town centre masterplans for Aylesbury, Woolwich, Dovercourt, Loughborough, Dorking, Basingstoke, Grays, Feltham, Alton, Romford and Norwich. We have worked with Urban Movement on many of these commissions and value their creative contribution to the design process.

Our Proposal

This tender sets out our proposed approach and methodology to deliver the requirements set out in the brief. It provides:

- 01 A step by step METHODOLOGY for carrying out the commission;
- 02 A project PROGRAMME for delivering the commission
- 03 Our TEAM for delivering the project including CV's; and
- 04 Our EXPERIENCE of similar work.



01 METHODOLOGY

THE CHANGING ROLES OF TOWN CENTRES

In recent years there has been a substantial change in the retail environment across the country with a significant growth in online shopping and a reduction in people visiting local high streets. This has had a profound impact on town and city centres nationwide with well-known high street retailers disappearing and many town centres experiencing high levels of vacancy and decline.

The Covid pandemic has accelerate this process and also brought about a change in the way that people work with a realisation for many people that working from home is a realistic and preferable option. This changes patterns of behaviour with some centres benefiting from additional footfall from those staying at home and others losing custom.

The future requirements for office accommodation in town centres is unclear but what is becoming apparent is that towns and cities that offer a more diverse or distinctive town centre offer are more resilient to these changes.

The success of a town centre is dependant on many interrelated factors. Successful town centres provide an environment where people want to be; providing an offer and experience that delivers much more than the functional opportunity to carry out day-to-day tasks.

SEVENOAKS AND ST. JOHN'S HILL

Sevenoaks has many strengths that can allow it to prosper in the future including an attractive and compact historic centre, a relatively wealthy catchment population and a number of cultural assets within or close to the centre. Shop vacancy levels have increased a little in recent years but are still well below national averages.

However traffic passing through the centre impacts on its attractiveness and on the quality of the pedestrian experience. Some of Sevenoaks assets are poorly connected to one another and others, notably Knole Park, are hidden from view despite their spatial proximity. The public realm in parts of the centre is tired and in need of renewal and there are vacant sites that undermine the attractiveness of the centre.

The smaller centre on St. John's Hill to the north of the town centre provides local facilities close to Bat and Ball station and Sevenoaks Hospital. Traffic queuing towards the Bat and Ball junction has a profound impact on this centre.

The Neighbourhood Plan adopted last year sets out a long-term vision for Sevenoaks Town through a series of Objectives, Policies and Aims. It also identifies additional strands of work that should be progressed to help to deliver on these objectives. This includes providing design guidance for potential sites, exploring opportunities to improve the walking and cycling environment, reducing the impacts of traffic and developing the spatial aspects of the cultural strategy.

ROLE OF THE MASTERPLANS

The Sevenoaks Town Centre and St. John's Hill Neighbourhood Centre masterplans will build on the Neighbourhood Plan but critically they will provide spatial plans for these two areas that show how delivering against the masterplan objectives can shape a successful future.

The plans must be developed through a process that engages with stakeholders and the community so that they help to shape the plan and get excited about the opportunities and contribute to delivering positive change in both centres. Through the plans preparation different options will be tested including introducing one way working on High Street and London Road and these ideas will be discussed and debated.

Fundamentally the plans will shape the agenda, help to inform future decision making and guide development and investment in the town.

DEFINING AND APPLYING A CLEAR OVERALL METHODOLOGY

Getting the methodology right is essential to the overall success of the project. It will ensure that our recommendations are grounded in reality, built on consensus and ultimately deliverable.

We have structured our methodology for delivering the Sevenoaks Town Centre masterplan in four workstages:

- Workstage 1: Baseline, Vision and Early Engagement;
- Workstage 2: Prepare Concept Masterplan;
- Workstage 3: Draft Masterplan and Public Engagement; and
- Workstage 4: Final Masterplan and Launch.

The methodology is both rigorous and robust allowing for regular engagement and input from the Town Council, District Council, other stakeholders and the wider public.

A task by task methodology for each workstage is set out on the following pages. For each task we have identified who will be involved and the outputs of the task.

WORKSTAGE ONE: BASELINE, VISION AND EARLY ENGAGEMENT

TASK 1.1: INCEPTION AND INFORMATION GATHERING

The Inception Meeting will kick start the project and provide an important opportunity to clarify the core details of the appointment. This will include agreement of the brief, work programme (including dates for future meetings), contract details, milestone dates, the invoice schedule and reporting procedures.

We already have access to digital mapping (OS mapping) and have most of the relevant policy information as GIS layers. We may need to obtain some further information from the District Council.

We will also need:

- Details of relevant consented planning applications and other development pipeline in the area;
- Planning policy documents (existing and emerging); and
- Previous and ongoing studies including for the area east of the High Street including sites on Buckhurst Lane.

The meeting will be used to discuss, refine and agree the methodology for the study. We would also wish to discuss who will be involved through the process and when and set the programme of public engagement. It will be important to achieve a shared consensus on the opportunity and challenges facing the town centre and the agreement to the vision and masterplan as these are prepared. If required we will amend the approach set out in this proposal and submit a revised methodology for approval.

Following the inception meeting we will visit the study area. We ask that members of the Client Team are available to join us on this site visit. This will give us the chance to discuss the project on site and allow you to show us the key issues that you think should be addressed through the masterplan.

Resources:

Hugo and Ross (UIS) and Oliver and Cayetana (UM) will attend this session.

OUTPUTS:

- Information exchange and agreement of the core details of the commission
- Agreement on the engagement process through the course of the commission
- Site visit

TASK 1.2: REVIEW EXISTING PLANS, STRATEGIES + DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

We will establish a thorough evidence base for the study. This will include:

- Review of current and emerging planning policy including the Local Plan (existing and emerging), Neighbourhood Plan, Transport Plan, the SDC Town Centre Strategy and the Sevenoaks Town Cultural Strategy;
- Review of other studies and evidence base documents including The Town Centre Healthcheck and Economic Needs Study, Character Study, and Draft Development Briefs;
- Review of previous proposals including those within the SDC Town Centre Strategy and the sketch ideas for the town centre prepared by local architect Roger Fitzgerald; and
- Identification and review of significant development proposals (approved and submitted planning applications).

We anticipate that the Town Council (and District Council) will support us in identifying any other documents and strategies that we should review at this stage.

Resources:

Ross will carry out this task under Hugo's supervision.

- Review of relevant planning policy and existing projects
- Plan showing location of planning applications / development activity in the study area

TASK 1.3: URBAN DESIGN AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT ANALYSIS

The masterplan will be focused on Sevenoaks Town Centre and the St. John's Hill Neighbourhood Centre however we will also need to understand the wider context for these two areas, how they are connected and also the approaches into the town and in particular the gateways and arrival points as identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. We will therefore identify a wider study area that includes this wider context.

We will carry out a desktop appraisal of the study area complemented by site visits. This analysis will build up a series of layers of information that can be overlaid to help understand their interrelationship. This will be based on information provided in Task 1.1, background from the Neighourhood Plan and our own analysis, and include:

- Historical development;
- Topography and land form;
- · Land uses, facilities and destinations;
- Structure, nodes and connections;
- Townscape features (frontages, landmarks, features, edges, gateways, visual relationships, views etc.);
- · Height and grain of development;
- Quality of public spaces and the public realm;
- Green and blue infrastructure;
- Heritage designations (Conservation areas, Listed Buildings and locally listed buildings);
- Planning designations and constraints;
- · Land ownerships (where available);
- · Identification of vacant and soft sites; and
- Socioeconomic profile of the centre and its hinterland; and others.

Resources:

Subham will carry out this task under Hugo's supervision.

OUTPUTS:

- Baseline analysis diagrams of the study area and its environs
- Understanding of the townscape character
- Opportunities for development and improvement

TASK 1.4: TRANSPORT, MOVEMENT, PUBLIC REALM + CAR PARKING ANALYSIS

A proper understanding of the baseline is critical to developing the right Vision and proposals. A big part of the reason for this are the complex demands that are placed on our streets and public spaces as well as their potential to address such a broad range of issues. Our streets impact upon far more than just journey times. Whether it's about enabling people to live independent lives for longer, addressing perceptions of safety for women and girls, incorporating art and culture in people's daily lives or encouraging us all to be more active and healthier, our streets have a significant role to play.

We will therefore begin by understanding the policy context and any parallel workstreams. Then we will consider the strategic movement context of the area before focusing on the local conditions and associated choices that people are currently making.

We will then review walking and cycling infrastructure, public transport infrastructure and services, traffic management and car parking, green and blue infrastructure, opportunities to pause, and the morphology of public spaces. This will include a review of the current bus station and the potential pros and cons of its relocation.

Resources:

Cayetana (UM) will carry out this task under Oli's supervision

OUTPUTS:

- Policy review
- Summary of parallel workstreams
- $\cdot\,$ Mapping of the strategic context
- Review of existing conditions and choices
- Options associated with the bus station

TASK 1.5: STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

During this work stage it will be important to meet with key stakeholders to understand their objectives and aspirations either for the town centre or for particular sites. These meetings will be important to let people or organisations know about the work being undertaken, the process through which the masterplan will be prepared and when they can contribute their thoughts and ideas.

We will work with the Town Council to agree who we should meet and anticipate that the Town Council will set up the meetings and that they will generally be online. Meetings may be held with organisations including Sevenoaks District Council, the Sevenoaks Society, representatives from the cultural community (Stag Theatre, Arts Societies etc), Chamber of Commerce / traders, Public transport providers, the National Trust or with individual landowners.

Resources:

Hugo and Oliver will attend stakeholder meetings

OUTPUTS:

 An understanding of stakeholder aspirations for the town centre and St. John's Neighbourhood Centre

TASK 1.6: PREPARE DRAFT VISION AND EARLY IDEAS

Having established the baseline understanding and aspirations of stakeholders we will draft a series of vision objectives and ideas for both Sevenoaks Town Centre and St John's Hill Neighbourhood Centre. The starting point for this will be the Vision and Objectives set out in the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan. The intention of this task will be make these more place specific and to prepare some initial thoughts that can be discussed and debated initially with elected Town Council members in Task 1.7 and later in a first Stakeholder Workshop in Task 1.8.

Resources:

Hugo and Oliver will draft the vision and early ideas

OUTPUTS:

• An initial vision / objectives for Sevenoaks Town Centre and for St. John's

TASK 1.7: CLIENT / TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

We will present the findings of Workstage 1, including the initial vision and objectives, to the Town Council and elected Town Council members and seek agreement to proceed with the Stakeholder Workshop – Task 1.8.

Resources:

Hugo will attend the Town Council meeting

- Input and agreement to initial vision / objectives for Sevenoaks Town Centre and for St. John's
- Agreement to proceed with Stakeholder
 Workshop

TASK 1.8: STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ONE - VISION AND PLACECHECK

We will hold separate stakeholder workshops in both Sevenoaks Town Centre and the St. John's Hill area and use these to bring stakeholders and members of the community together to introduce and discuss the purpose of the masterplans, and to discuss and debate the future vision and objectives.

We anticipate that the workshops will be invite only and will be held in or close to the centres perhaps at the Bat and Ball Centre for St John's and the Kalaidescope or Stag Theatre for Sevenoaks Town Centre.

The workshops will be used to:

- Introduce the aims and purposes of the Masterplan and its scope;
- Describe the process through which it will be prepared and the opportunity to get involved and contribute to its content; and
- Provide an opportunity for people to feedback their views on the vision and objectives for the centre.

We anticipate that each workshop will be structured in three parts:

- A presentation and discussion facilitated by UIS /UM on the purpose and scope of the Masterplan and its role and our first thoughts on some of the challenges and opportunities facing the centre and the potential vision and objectives;
- A focused walkabout which uses the Placecheck process as a means for participants to feedback their thoughts on the area; and
- Round table facilitated discussions to gather feedback, thoughts and ideas.

We anticipate that a range of stakeholders and community representatives with an interest in the centre will be invited to the events. Our experience is that bringing a range of participants together can help to facilitate a more collaborative and engaged process.

Feedback will be recorded and will help to shape the plans at the next stage.

We will facilitate events but anticipate that the Council will identify participants, invite them to the events and organise hire of venues and refreshments as required. We also anticipate that Town Council officers will support at the workshops through welcoming participants, recording attendees and if required helping to facilitate roundtable discussions.

Resources:

Hugo and Oliver will attend and facilitate the workshops. Ross and Subham will support the preparation of material

- Positive collaboration with stakeholders and community representatives
- Input and agreement to initial vision / objectives for Sevenoaks Town Centre and for St. John's

WORKSTAGE TWO: PREPARE CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

TASK 2.1: IDENTIFY AND ASSESS POTENTIAL SITES

Through this task we will identify potential development opportunities within Sevenoaks Town Centre and St. John's Neighbourhood Centre and consider how change on these sites could contribute to the vision and objectives established for the centres through stage 1.

Through this Task we will provide the additional design guidance identified in the Neighbourhood Plan in particular:

- Prepare design guidance for sites not included within the Residential Character Area assessment including around Sevenoaks Station, Buckhurst Lane area and the South Park area (Aim C7);
- Prepare design guidance in relation to gateway and arrival points into the town centre (Policy C10);
- Consider replacing some surface car parking with multi storey facilities (Policy E3);
- Explore opportunities to expand market provision in the town centre (policy E4); and
- Consider in greater detail the opportunities / design principles for town centre sites (Policy D1).

The starting point for this task will be sites identified in the Neighbourhood Plan but we will also explore other sites should they be identified through the masterplan process.

This task will be carried out in parallel with Task 2.2 below - initial public realm and movement strategy.

We understand that the District Council is progressing a separate piece of work that will explore the potential development opportunities on sites in their ownership on Buckhurst Lane / Suffolk Way to the east of the High Street. We will liaise with SDC to understand these proposals, comment as appropriate and incorporate proposals for these sites into the masterplan.

Resources:

Hugo will lead this Task with the wider team

OUTPUTS:

• Initial design guidance and proposals for potential development sites

TASK 2.2: PREPARE INITIAL PUBLIC REALM AND MOVEMENT STRATEGY

In parallel with Task 2.1 we will prepare a public realm and movement strategy for Sevenoaks Town Centre and St. John's Neighbourhood Centre.

This will explore:

- Opportunities to encourage more walking and cycling to the centre (Policy M1);
- The opportunity to improve pedestrian and cycle crossings at major junctions (Policy M5);
- The potential to improve the public realm at Sevenoaks Station (Policy M7);
- The potential for innovative proposals to improve the pedestrian environment and reduce the impact of traffic in the town centre (Aim M11). This will include consideration of one way working on High Street and London Road; and
- Opportunities to enhance the green infrastructure and biodiversity within the centre (Policies L1 and L2).

We will develop high level public realm concept designs for up to four locations within the study area. We will agree these with you but anticipate that these may be for High Street and London Road in the town centre, London Road at Sevenoaks Station and St. John's Hill. These will be prepared as plans supported by a street level sketch.

Alongside these tasks we will develop the spatial aspects of the Cultural Strategy through consideration of how improvements to the public realm can help to link attractions in the centre and provide spaces and opportunities for events and activities (Objective 13).

Resources:

Oliver and the UM team will lead on this task working closely with Hugo. Subham will prepare the street level sketches

OUTPUTS:

- An initial public realm and movement strategy for the centres
- Up to four sketch schemes prepared in plan form with supporting illustrations

TASK 2.3: PREPARE INITIAL CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

We will draw the outputs from Tasks 2.1 and 2.2 together to prepare an initial concept masterplan for both Sevenoaks Town Centre and St. John's Neighbourhood Centre.

Resources:

Subham will carry out this task under Hugo's supervision.

OUTPUTS:

• Concept masterplan for Sevenoaks Town Centre and St. John's Neighbourhood Centre

TASK 2.4: CLIENT / TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

We will present the concept masterplan, public realm and movement strategy options and potential development opportunities to the Town Council and elected Town Council members and seek feedback and agreement to proceed with the Stakeholder Workshop Two – Task 2.5.

Resources:

Hugo will attend the Town Council meeting

OUTPUTS:

- Input and agreement to concept masterplan, public realm and movement strategy options and potential development opportunities Sevenoaks Town Centre and for St. John's
- Agreement to proceed with Stakeholder Workshop

TASK 2.5: STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP TWO - DESIGN IDEAS

We will engage again with community representatives and stakeholders in a second invite only workshop. Again we will hold separate workshops in both Sevenoaks Town Centre and the St John's area.

These workshops will take a similar format to the first:

- A presentation and discussion facilitated by UIS /UM on the emerging concept masterplan, public realm and movement strategy options and potential development opportunities; and
- Round table facilitated discussions to gather feedback, thoughts and ideas.

Feedback will be recorded and will help to shape the plans at the next stage.

We will facilitate events but anticipate that the Council will identify participants (similar to the first workshop), invite them to the events and organise hire of venues and refreshments as required. We also anticipate that Town Council officers will support at the workshops through welcoming participants, recording attendees and if required helping to facilitate roundtable discussions.

Resources:

Hugo and Oliver will attend and facilitate the workshops. Ross and Subham will support the preparation of material

- Positive collaboration with stakeholders and community representatives
- Feedback and input on proposals and design options

WORKSTAGE THREE: DRAFT MASTERPLAN AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

TASK 3.1: PREPARE DRAFT MASTERPLAN REPORT(S) AND ILLUSTRATIONS

We will hold a meeting with the Client Team at the outset of this task to review comments made on the design ideas presented at the workshop. We will agree any changes to make.

We will the update the concept masterplan to prepare an illustrative masterplan for Sevenoaks Town Centre and St. John's Hill Neighbourhood Centre that responds to suggested changes. We may still retain some options for some sites or parts of the town centre including perhaps the movement proposals for the town centre.

We will update illustrations of the concept designs and these will help the wider public to engage with and understand the proposals as part of the public consultation.

We will capture the information in a fully illustrated masterplan report or reports. We will discuss with you whether you would prefer a stand-alone report for the St. John's Hill centre or whether you would prefer both centres to be covered in a single report.

Resources:

Hugo will lead the team through this task

OUTPUTS:

- Agreement to changes to the draft proposals
- Draft masterplan report(s) and illustrations (electronic versions in high and low res will be provided)

TASK 3.2: PREPARE PUBLIC CONSULTATION MATERIAL

We will prepare presentation material for both online and in person public engagement. This includes a narrative with illustrations that can be used online, up to 8 A0 size exhibition boards for display in a prominent location in the town and neighbourhood centre and will provide questions for a questionnaire that can be used online or in person.

We will prepare draft material for discussion and sign off with the Client Team.

Resources:

Hugo will lead the team through this task

OUTPUTS:

Presentation material for public consultation

TASK 3.3: CLIENT / TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

We will present the draft masterplan, illustrations and draft consultation material to the Town Council and elected Town Council members and seek feedback and agreement to proceed with the Public Consultation – Task 3.4.

If required we will also meet with Sevenoaks District Council at this stage to seek their support for the emerging masterplan.

Resources:

Hugo and Oli will attend the Town Council meeting

- Input and comments on draft masterplan(s)
- Agreement to proceed with public consultation

TASK 3.4: PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT MASTERPLAN(S)

We will agree the extent and nature of the public consultation that you require on the draft masterplans and the best way to engage with the wider public to inform the plan. We suggest a mix of in person events and on-line engagement and will use the presentation material prepared in Task 3.2 to help to facilitate this.

In person consultation could take place in a variety of places across the town both inside or on-street where it is often easier to attract passers-by. For the on-street consultation a prominent public location is required perhaps under the canopy at the entrance to Bligh's Meadow off the High Street and on the wider forecourt outside shops on St John's Hill.

We have allowed for attendance at a consultation event in each centre but are happy to vary this as you require.

Resources:

Hugo, Ross and Oliver will attend the public consultation. Ross will prepare on-line engagement information

- Feedback on the emerging masterplans
- Opportunity for wider public to engage on the future of their town

WORKSTAGE FOUR: FINAL MASTERPLAN AND LAUNCH

TASK 4.1: PREPARE DRAFT FINAL MASTERPLAN

We will hold a meeting with the Client Team at the outset of this task to review comments made through the public consultation. We will agree any changes to make and update the masterplans accordingly.

Resources:

Hugo will coordinate the team to complete this task

OUTPUTS:

• Draft Final Masterplan (electronic versions in high and low res will be provided)

TASK 4.2: CLIENT / TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

We will present the draft Final Masterplan to the Town Council and elected Town Council members and seek feedback.

Resources:

Hugo will attend the Town Council meeting

OUTPUTS:

• Final comments on the Masterplans for Sevenoaks Town Centre and for St. John's

TASK 4.3: PREPARE FINAL MASTERPLAN REPORT(S)

We will amend the masterplan report or reports to take account of comments made by the Client Team and Town Council and issue electronic versions in high and low resolution.

Resources:

Hugo will coordinate the team to complete this task

OUTPUTS:

 Final Masterplans for Sevenoaks Town Centre and for St. John's Neighbourhood Centre (electronic versions in high and low res will be provided)

TASK 4.4: MASTERPLAN LAUNCH

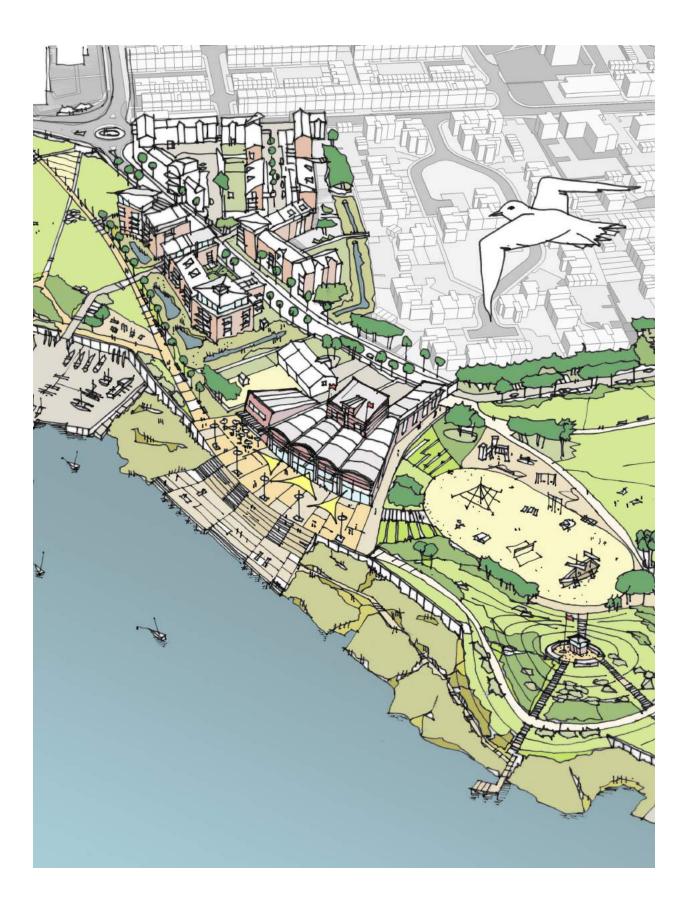
We will discuss with the Town Council the best way to launch the masterplans possibly combining this with another event in the town. The masterplan will identify some early win projects and progress on these may be a positive way to raise profile and demonstrate value from the plan.

Resources:

Hugo will attend the masterplan launch

OUTPUTS:

Profile raising launch event

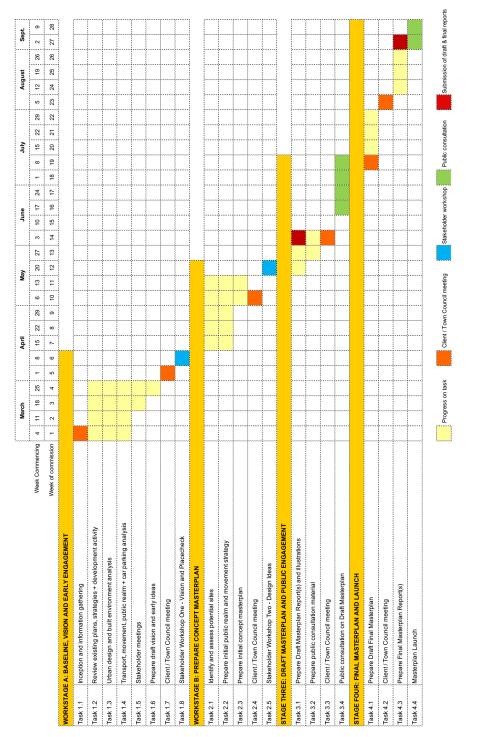


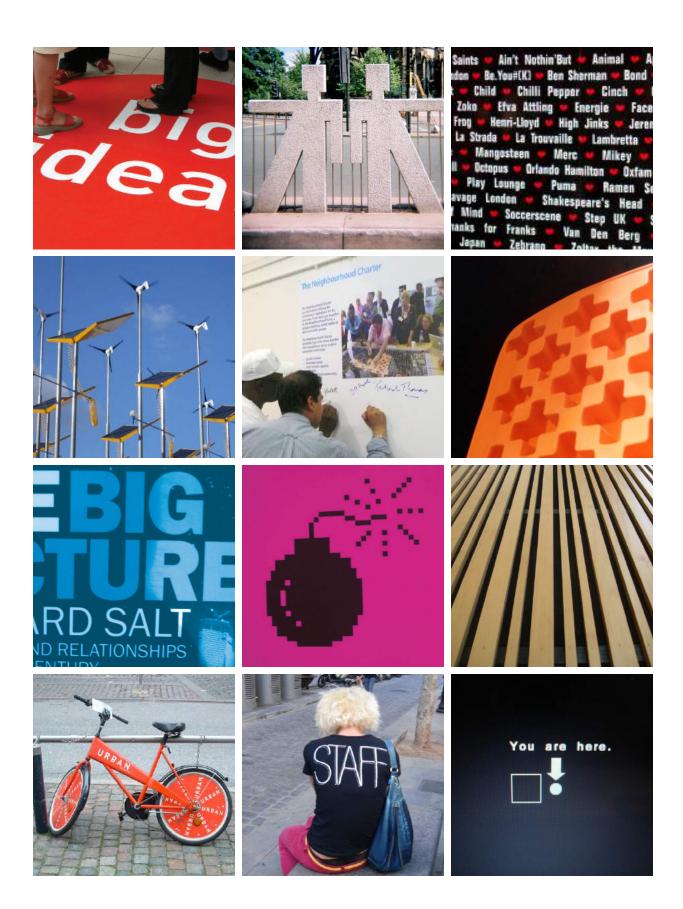
02 PROJECT PROGRAMME

PROJECT PROGRAMME

We have prepared a draft programme that indicates how the commission could be delivered over a six month period with a start date in the first week in March. This programme is structured around a programme of stakeholder and community engagement. We have allowed for a number of Client Team / Town Council Meetings as the commission progresses allowing for the sharing of progress and the signing off of workstages.

The programme is draft and can be amended or fine tuned to meet your requirements.





03 OUR TEAM

THE URBAN INITIATIVES STUDIO TEAM

Urban Initiatives Studio (UIS) has assembled an experienced team with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake the commission. The assignment requires a blend of disciplines including urban design, planning, landscape architecture and transport expertise.

Urban Initiatives Studio have considerable experience in preparing town centre masterplans and an excellent understanding of Sevenoaks from our work preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. We will provide urban design and planning expertise and also lead the project management and consultation and engagement aspects of the commission.

Hugo Nowell will be the PROJECT DIRECTOR for

this commission and will lead The Urban Initiatives Team. Hugo is a landscape architect and urban designer with over 30 years experience.

Hugo knows the ins and outs of these types of projects and has recently led the preparation of town centre masterplans for Basingstoke, Dorking, Loughborough, Slough and Aylesbury, and design guides for Mid-Sussex, Aylesbury Vale, and most recently a Pathfinder Design Code the A23 corridor from Redhill to Horley.

Hugo will be the main point of contact for the Town Council on the commission and will manage the UIS team.

Matthias Wunderlich will be the DESIGN DIRECTOR and support Hugo on the commission and be available to step in should Hugo be unavailable.

Matthias is a highly experienced and creative Urban Designer with degrees in Architecture and Town Planning and over 20 years of experience in architectural, urban design, masterplanning and regeneration projects.

Matthias also has considerable experience in relation to town centre masterplanning including in Woolwich, Grays, St Stephen's Street Norwich, Feltham and Dovercourt town centres. Both Hugo and Matthias know the UK design and planning policy framework and in many cases have helped to shape it through work on design codes, characterisation and tall buildings policies. Both directors are Design South East panel members. Hugo is also a member of the Kingston and Bromley design review panels and has previously been on the Haringey and Hertfordshire Panels.

They will be supported by **Ross O'Ceallaigh** (Associate) who will act as project manager for the commission and will be responsible for drafting reports. **Subham Banerjee** (Urban Designer) will manage GIS layers and prepare drawings.

UIS will be supported by award-winning transport and urban design practice **Urban Movement (UM)** who will provide. transport and public realm design expertise. UIS have worked with UM on numerous commissions over the last decade including town centre masterplans for Slough, Aylesbury, Woolwich and Dorking and the A23 Corridor Design Code.

The UM team will be led by **Oliver Davey** an accomplished traffic engineer with a broad range of experience in designing and justifying holistic transport solutions. Oli will be supported by Assistant Landscape Architect **Catanya Anderson**.

CV's of team members are provided on the pages that follow.

COLLABORATIVE WORKING

We will work collaboratively with you throughout the commission, and find that this is the best way to deliver successful outcomes.

We work collaboratively on all our projects and enjoy the process of sharing ideas, challenging assumptions and working towards a collective agenda.



Hugo is a Director of Urban Initiatives Studio with over 25 years experience of urban design, masterplanning and public realm design. His work ranges from city centre and residential masterplanning, preparation of design codes and design guidance through to detailed design and delivery on site.

Hugo has led many of our town centre masterplan projects including for Aylesbury, Slough, Basingstoke Top of the Town, Loughborough, the St. Stephen Street Area in Norwich and The Edgar Street Grid in Hereford. Hugo has also led on many Design Code projects including currently on a code for the A23 corridor from Redhill to Horley, which is part of the DLUCH Pathfinder Design Code programme. All of these projects were developed through a collaborative process of engagement with local communities and stakeholders.

Hugo has extensive experience working both for public and private sector clients on a range of sites often within an historic context and where there are landscape sensitivities. Hugo takes a strategic approach to understand the challenges to delivery and look for quick wins as well as the bricks and mortar development projects.

Hugo sits on several design panels and acts as an expert advisor for a number of clients.

2012 Director Urban Initiatives Studio

2006

Associate Director Urban Initiatives

2004 Associate Urban Initiatives

2003

Consultant, Urban Initiatives

1998

Principal Landscape Architect, CLU Ltd, London

1995

Landscape Architect, Woking Borough Council

HEADLINES

- Strong leadership and interpersonal skills in managing inter-disciplinary teams
 Character and tall buildings studies
 Expert witness and design review
 Urban design framework and masterplan design
 Preparation of design codes and guidance
 Residential masterplanning and housing market renewal
 Management of projects from inception to completion including appointment of consultants and contractors
 Design of public realm improvements from initial concept through to implementation
- Preparation of contract documentation, tender action, and appointment of contractors
- Supervision of contractors during implementation of work on site and administration of contract
- Urban and landscape analysis
- Commissioning of and working in collaboration with artists
- Development and implementation of public consultation strategies, including playing of interactive role playing, facilitating charettes and community workshops
- Urban Design Training for council officers and residents and leading stakeholder workshops and events
- Landscape Institute Professional Practice examiner
- Visiting lecturer at the Bartlett and University of Westminster and a tutor on the Bartlett Major Projects programme.
- Member of Hertfordshire and Haringey Design Review Panels

HUGO NOWELL

BSC(HONS) MA MAUD CMLI

DIRECTOR

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE/URBAN DESIGN

RECENT PROJECTS

Tower Hamlets Characterisation and Growth Strategy Aylesbury Town Centre Framework Chelmsford Site Capacity Study Westferry Printworks Expert Witness Redhill to Horley Pathfinder Design Code Tower Hamlets Tall Building SPD Aylesbury Vale Design SPD Mid Sussex Design Guide Slough Regeneration Framework Loughborough Town Centre Masterplan Camden Character Study Hackney Scenario Planning Northern Sevenoaks Masterplan Talbot Masterplan Westminster Tall Building Study St James Hospital, Dublin Ordsall Riverside, Salford Chapel Street West and Salford Central Station Salford University masterplan Lime Street Gateway, Liverpool Roeshot Hill. Christchurch Vale Design Guide Royal Pier, Southampton Middlehaven Park Harmsworth Quays, Canada Water Poplar Baths, Tower Hamlets Brixton Central Masterplan Church Street, Westminster Vaux Masterplan, Sunderland York Central Masterplan St Stephens Street, Norwich Green Man Lane Estate, Ealing BBC Broadcasting House, London





RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Hugo has considerable experience in the following areas of relevant experience:

- Strategic masterplanning, visioning, characterisation and tall buildings strategies
- Understanding and formulation of new planning policy to guide development
- Understanding of the competing forces facing our urban areas and the need to balance transport, economic development and landscape and historic sensitivities
- Working with stakeholders and the wider public to prepare long term visions and build consensus often within a workshop format

AYLESBURY TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

Role: Project Director

Client: Buckinghamshire Council

Relevance: Prepared a town centre regeneration framework vision for the fast growing Aylesbury Town Centre. The strategy sets out a clear overarching vision as well as site specific proposals. It also links several town centre sites as part of a spatial vision for the town to enhance opportunities for movement and access for people travelling by all modes and encourages and facilitates a shift to more movement by foot, bicycle and public transport.

Outcome: Framework Plan and Strategy have been endorsed by Buckinghamshire Council.

REDHILL TO HORLEY A23 CORRIDOR

Role: Project Director

Client: Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Relevance: Hugo is currently leading the on the preparation of a DLUCH Pathfinder Design Code for the A23 corridor from Redhill to Horley. The code will set design standards for the development of a green corridor connecting Redhill and Horley and will help to guide important design features such as street character, building type and layout, use of public space, and the sustainability of new development. In particular, it will ensure that new development encourages sustainable travel, including walking and cycling.

Outcome: The project is ongoing.

LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

Role: Project Director

Client: Charnwood Borough Council

Relevance: Loughborough is going through a period of growth with a planned urban extension to the west of the town expected to deliver 3,000 new homes by 2028 and the expansion of important employment sites. The purpose of this masterplan was to revitalise and regenerate the town centre so that it can take advantages of this growth and encourage new and existing residents and workers to support the shops and services in the town centre.

Outcome: The study is being used to inform the evidence base for the new local plan.

MID-SUSSEX DESIGN GUIDE SPD

Role: Project Director

Client: Mid Sussex District Council

Relevance: Hugo led the preparation of the Design Guide for Mid Sussex. The aim of the Design Guide is to deliver high quality new development across the District that responds appropriately to its context and is inclusive and sustainable. It sets out clear principles and objectives that aim to inspire developers and designers and assist landowners, developers, applicants and planners in the process of delivering high quality and well designed development.

Outcome: The public and stakeholders were consulted on the draft Guide and it was adopted as an SPD in November 2021.





MATTHIAS WUNDERLICH

DIPL.-ING.(ARCH) MSC

DIRECTOR

URBAN DESIGN

Matthias is a Director at Urban Initiatives Studio with a specialism in urban design and masterplanning. He has worked on regional strategies, regeneration schemes, masterplanning, urban design and architectural projects throughout the United Kingdom and Europe. Following his architecture studies and work experience he obtained a second degree in Planning Studies at the London School of Economics.

Matthias has extensive expertise in regeneration, town centre and masterplanning projects. He has led numerous commissions in complex urban environments, including plans for Feltham Town Centre, Woolwich Town Centre, the Great West Corridor in Hounslow, North East Cambridge urban extension, Heathrow Gateway, Middlehaven in Middlesbrough, Purfleet Masterplan Rainham and Beam Park Housing Zone and Grays Town Centre Framework. All of these projects involved establishing areas visions, design of the layout and massing of development sites, 3d modelling and testing. The majority also benefited from extensive engagement with stakeholders and/or the local community. Matthias has also led on many Design Guide projects and has recently completed the RB Greenwich Urban Design Guide SPD.

2012

Director, Urban Initiatives Studio

2008

Senior Associate, Urban Initiatives

2005

Associate, Urban Initiatives

2004

MSc Regional and Urban Planning, London School of Economics

2003

Consultant, Urban Initiatives

2001

Architectural Designer, Maccreanor Lavington Architects Rotterdam & London

HEADLINES

- Wide analytical and design skills in the analysis, design and development of urban design strategies; development frameworks; masterplanning; comprehensive planning and urban regeneration schemes.
- Building heights and tall buildings expertise.
- Public Realm Design including landscape treatment, street furniture, lighting and public art.
- Architecture design experience from conceptual design through detailing with focus on residential schemes and public buildings.
- Project Management Skills
- Good interpersonal skills in team working, client liaison and public consultation.
- Strong drawing, visualisation and presentation skills using various computer packages, concept and freehand sketches.

RECENT PROJECTS

Greater Cambridge Skyline and Tall Buildings Study

Camden Building Heights Study

Hillingdon Characterisation & Intensification Study

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Opportunity Areas Capacity Studies

Carrickmines Urban Design Support

Blanchardstown Town Centre Height Strategy

North East Cambridge Townscape Strategy

RB Greenwich Urban Design Guide SPD

Custom House Cork, Tall Building Support

Albert Quay Cork, Tall Building Support

RB Greenwich Character and Intensification Study

Liverpool Tall Buildings Study

Derby Tall Buildings Strategy

RBWM Tall Buildings Strategy

LB Islington Character Study

Woolwich Town Centre Strategy

LB Islington Tall Buildings Study Rainham and Beam Park Housing Zone

Feltham Town Centre Framework Punto Nueva Lima Urban

Expansion, Peru Grays Town Centre Framework

South Ockendon Centre Study

Top of Town Basingstoke

Romford Urban Strategy

Middlehaven Development

Framework & Design Codes

Outline Masterplan for the St. Stephens Street area Norwich







RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Matthias has considerable experience in the following areas:

- Masterplanning and design of mixed-use schemes
- Delivery focussed masterplanning and regeneration projects
- Tall buildings studies
- Working with the client, the council and other stakeholders in building shared objectives and reaching consensus around a tailored design solution
- Design review and expert witness services

GRAYS TOWN CENTRE FRAMEWORK

Role: Project Director

Client: Thurrock Council

Relevance: This masterplan aimed to deliver a coherent spatial vision, identify key design principles and help guide Grays' regeneration. The starting point of this project was to consider how the construction of an underpass and major public realm scheme next to the railway station could act as major regeneration opportunity for the town centre and help reconnect Grays with its neglected riverside. The project included the preparation of an urban design strategy, stakeholder/public engagement consultation and a high level public realm strategy.

Outcome: Funding has been secured to develop and deliver parts of the plan

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH CHARACTER STUDY AND URBAN DESIGN GUIDE

Role: Project Director

Client: Royal Borough of Greenwich

Relevance: The purpose of this study is to conduct a detailed characterisation of Greenwich, based on open space and building typologies, and to assess the levels of coherence and sensitivity throughout the borough. This forms the baseline for identifying intensification and redevelopment opportunities. Following this, Matthias led the UIS commission to produce an Urban Design Guidance SPD which provides clear design principles that aim to deliver high quality new development responding to the borough's unique character.

Outcome: The Urban Design Guidance is in the process of being adopted as an SPD.

DOVERCOURT PLACEMAKING

Role: Project Director

Client: Tendring District Council

Relevance: UIS developed a masterplan which set out a town centre strategy that identifies a great number of ideas, proposals and initiatives for the regeneration of Dovercourt Town Centre. A catalogue of twenty key regeneration projects was compiled which identified delivery partners and ranked the regenerative impact of each project to aid the prioritisation of projects.

Outcome: Dovercourt have started implementing capital works around the redevelopment of the car park and the creation of a new surface car park.

ST. STEPHENS STREET AREA OUTLINE MASTERPLAN

Role: Design Director

Client: Norwich City Council

Relevance: Preparation of a framework plan for the commercial and retail quarter of Norwich to guide coherent and incremental change over a 20 year period. The plan includes provision of a mix of uses, extended restaurant and leisure offer, new connections, an improved public realm, reduction in traffic and better pedestrian and public transport facilities. This was supported by stakeholder workshops, a public exhibition and was successfully reviewed by CABE.

 $\ensuremath{\textbf{Outcome}}$: Informed the Core Strategy and led to the pedestrianisation of Westlegate.





ROSS O'CEALLAIGH

MAUD (HONS), LEED GA

SENIOR URBAN DESIGN AND PLANNING CONSULTANT

URBAN DESIGN/PLANNING

In his role as Senior Consultant, Ross assists the studio Directors with project management and inputs to all aspects of projects. In addition to general planning and urban design expertise, he is our in-house GIS technician. Ross also works part time with Design South East leading learning programmes and design training

Ross is currently engaged with several tall building and town centre studies, providing topography and building height mapping, and analysing urban density and context height. This provides a robust baseline which informs later design work and policy writing. He also engages in policy review and research to ensure our approach is always based on current best practice and policy.

He has a background in Planning and Urban Design at a variety scales in both the public and private sector, having previously worked with Dar al-Handasah and Brighton & Hove City Council.

At Dar al-Handasah, Ross was involved in large-scale city planning and design projects in the Middle East and Africa. This included conducting stakeholder engagement events in Nigeria, creating 20-year planning strategies and designing site-specific development interventions.

Ross is a LEED Green Associate is leading the studio's ongoing research into climate change and resilience. He is also a passionate sustainability advocate and runs a podcast called the Green Urbanist.

CAREER

2021

Programme Manager, Design South East

2019

Senior Urban Design and Planning Consultant, Urban Initiatives Studio

2018

Urban Design and Planning Consultant, Urban Initiatives Studio

2017

Urban Planner/ Designer, Dar al-Handasah, London

2014

Assistant Planning Officer, Brighton & Hove City Council

EDUCATION

2014/15

MA Urban Design, Leeds Becket University

2011-2014

BA Planning and Geography, University College Dublin

HEADLINES

- Project management
- Design training and workshop facilitation
- Visioning and "Big Picture" approach
- Strategic planning and policy writing
- Policy review and best practice research
- Masterplanning
- Heritage-led regeneration
- · Urban design principles and development guidance
- Stakeholder engagement and public consultation
- GIS analysis including building heights, topography, demographics and density.
- Proficient in GIS, Adobe CC (Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop), Microsoft Office and SketchUp



RECENT PROJECTS

RB Greenwich Character. Intensification and Tall Buildings Study Islington Characterisation Study Derby Infrastructure Strategy Derby Western Fringe Masterplan Derby Tall Buildings Study Liverpool Tall Buildings Study Westminster Building Height Study RB Windsor and Maidenhead Tall **Buildings Study** Mid Sussex Design Guide Great West Corridor Masterplan Woolwich Town Centre Urban Design and Public Realm Strategy Sevenoaks Economic Study Dovercourt Town Centre Masterplan Ibadan City Masterplan, Nigeria Epe Masterplan, Nigeria

TEAM



SUBHAM BANERJEE

MA ARCHITECTURE & URBANISM (DISTINCTION), MSA

JUNIOR URBAN DESIGN CONSULTANT

URBAN DESIGN / ARCHITECTURE

Subham joined Urban Initiatives Studio in 2022 as a Junior Urban Designer and is currently engaged with several strategic projects of different scales and complexity. He is an Urban Designer and a qualified Indian architect holding a master's degree MA Architecture and Urbanism at Manchester School of Architecture. He previously worked as an Architect with public and private sector clients on multiple projects across India, Singapore and South-East Asia.

Before joining Urban Initiative Studio, Subham has worked in several large scale public realm and masterplanning projects part of the ongoing Smart City Urban Initiative Programmes in India. He has also collaborated with Foster + Partners for the masterplan development of the new government complex of Amaravati, India.

Subham has a keen interest in public spaces and town centre development and was engaged in developing strategies for urban regeneration, infrastructure development, site analysis and feasibility studies. Coming from India with a rich architectural background, he has developed his interest in encouraging inclusive, safe and walkable environments with a focus on supporting better health and wellbeing.

CAREER

2022

Junior Urban Design Consultant, Urban Initiatives Studio, London

2020 Senior Architect,

Morphogenesis, Mumbai

2017

Architect, Morphogenesis, New Delhi

EDUCATION

2021-2022

MA Architecture and Urbanism, Manchester School of Architecture

2012-2017 BArch Architecture, School of Planning and Architecture, India

HEADLINES

- Urban design and research
- Residential and commercial masterplanning
- Town centre masterplans
- Cultural and Heritage-led design
- Research on Sustainable Design solutions
- Project management & Consultant Coordination
- Community and stakeholder consultation
- Graphic design and effective visual presentation techniques
- Proficient in Auto CAD, Revit-BIM, Adobe CC (Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop), Lumion, Sketchup and Microsoft Office

RECENT PROJECTS

Greater Cambridge Tall Buildings Study

Alderholt masterplan, Dorset

Redhill Horley Corridor

Innovation District (UMIST Campus), University of Manchester

Port Blair Smart City, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

Area Based Development, Aligarh Smart City Programme, Uttar Pradesh, India

Warangal Smart City Vision and Masterplan, Telengana, India

Commerzone - IT Park for Qualcomm, Hyderabad, India

Keppel Campus Concept Masterplan, Singapore

Kalyan Residential Township Concept Masterplan, Mumbai, India

Amaravati Towncentre development. Andhra Pradesh, India





OLI DAVEY

BENG (DIS) MSc MCIHT

CO-FOUNDER PRINCIPAL STREET DESIGN ENGINEER

Oliver is an accomplished traffic engineer with a broad range of experience in designing and justifying holistic transport solutions. He is a Civil Engineer (BEng) with a Masters in Transportation Planning and Engineering (MSc) and over 18 years' experience developing exemplar streetscape designs and contributing to a variety of high profile and challenging Masterplans. His breadth of skills and comprehensive understanding of contemporary transport issues are complimented by his ability to successfully communicate with other built environment professionals. Oliver has an ability to produce truly innovative designs that not only represent best practice, but are responsive to local aspirations without losing sight of the need to ultimately be deliverable.

Oliver's broad range of experience in the design, justification and delivery of streetscape schemes is grounded in his ability to take ambitious Council policies and, through close working relationships with Officers and Members, turn these into tangible change that attracts broad support. He has also demonstrated his ability to successfully challenge traffic and highway engineering conventions that too frequently place an inappropriate emphasis on provision for motor traffic. Whether this is as part of a Vision or Masterplan for towns like Newbury, Kidderminster or Boscombe, a Design Code for the A23 in Surrey, or transformational proposals for individual streets from Glasgow to Brighton. Oliver's experience has led him to be selected to be part of Active Travel England's Inspection and Planning Framework, where he has undertaken independent Design Review audits of bids from local authorities as well as follow-up workshops to assist them in overcoming challenges associated with introducing LTN 1/20-compliant schemes. He is also a design review panel member for Design South East, the London Borough of Kingston, the London Borough of Sutton, and Transport for London, as well as a guest lecturer at Southampton University.

NEWBURY MASTERPLAN

Market towns have always been the confluence of major movement routes, which has been central to their existence and success. But like so many other towns. movement, especially of cars, has come to dominate Newbury. Whilst recognising that a dispersed rural catchment will continue to need to access the town by car, Oli has helped to increase travel choices for local residence and maximise the potential of existing historic settings and previously under-utilised areas of the town



Following on from a highly successful masterplan for the town centre, the Council are building upon the moment that has been created by asking Urban Movement to develop a Public Realm Manual. Alongside this, we are also applying the principles that it contains to six key sites, ensuring that each one reflects the character areas defined by the manual. This iterative process enables true collaboration between the design process and policy development.



BOSCOMBE MASTERPLAN

Surrounded by a 'moat' of blank walls and major highway infrastructure carrying local through-trips and tourist traffic, Boscombe town centre desperately needed a new approach to movement. Working closely with the rest of the team, Oli has worked to reinstate the original. Victorian street pattern. This has created the framework that has allowed the Masterplanners to introduce active frontages along those routes connecting the town centre with its surrounding neighbourhoods, supporting those residents that visit most often and spend the most.



urban

CAREER 2011

Co-Founder + Principal Street Design Engineer Urban Movement

2008 Consultant **Urban Initiatives**

2004 Engineer Peter Brett Associates

OTHER RECENT PROJECTS

- Kidderminster Town Centre Vision, Wyre Forest District Council
- Greenwich Streetscape Design Guide, Royal Borough of Greenwich
- Clapham Old Town Regeneration, London Borough of Lambeth
- Lea Bridge Road + Baker's Arms Streetscape + Public Realm Design, London Borough of Watham Forest Richmond Cycling Strategy, Richmond Council
- Park Royal Liveable Neighbourhoods Bid, OPDC
- Sutton Liveable Neighbourhoods Bid, Sutton Council
- Woolwich Town Centre Masterplan, Royal Borough of Greenwich
- Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Cycling Strategy, LLDC
- Reopening High Streets Safely and Welcome Back Funds, London Borough of Sutton
- North Street Redesign, Brighton, Royal Bank of Scotland
- Southampton Station Public Realm Design, Southampton City Counil
- Brighton Station Gateway Public Realm Design, Brighton and Hove City Council
- Better Streets Research, London Road Safety Unit, TfL
- Nine Elms Cycling Strategy, Transport for London

@UM_Streets o.davey@urbanmovement.co.uk www.urbanmovement.co.uk

Urban Movement Exmouth House, 3-11 Pine Street, London, EC1R 0JH

TEAM



CAYETANA ANDERSON

MA Landscape Architecture

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ASSISTANT

Cayetana is studying Landscape Architecture at the University of Edinburgh. Throughout her degree, Cayetana has gained skills in designing spaces of different scales in a variety of different contexts. She has learnt how to apply different levels of detail design from drawing large scale masterplans to small detailed design components of planting schedules, and hard landscape materials.

These skills have equipped her to shape spaces that adapt to the changing social, ecological, and political environments of each of the sites that have been studied throughout her degree. She has applied these skills to both rural and urban sites and through both group site analysis projects and individual research, has aimed to understand and meet the needs of each individual space and community.

She has joined Urban Movement and has gained further skills in urban streetscape design, learning to incorporate elements of landscape architecture within the urban public realm. Creating proposals for landscapes that are more inclusive and can evolve over time are the parts of Landscape Architecture she enjoys most.

FLOURISHING MOLENDINAR

Cayetana has assisted in illustrating plans for a project in Glasgow that responded to several community engagement ideas. Utilising her existing knowlege and skills of designing for a community she, along with the team at urban Movement, has proposed a design that looks at creating safer spaces for people. The project will include the pedestrianisation of a road currently used for rat-running and the redevelopment of an outdoor park space to incorporate new spaces for play in the community. The design has to consider antisocial behaviour concerns as well as creating a place

that people can enjoy.

Urban Movement Exmouth House, 3-11 Pine Street, London, EC1R 0JH

WATERLOO ROUNDABOUT

Cayetana has been working with the team to assist in the proposals for a potential public space that will accompany the new layout of the Waterloo roundabout. The site will include a bidirectional cycle track and traffic will be moved to the east, leaving room for a new public space to the south west of the roundabout. The space can be transformed into a more peoplefriendly and ecologically rich space providing an area for many to use that pass through the space each day. Cavetana has used her knowlege of planting to incorporate different schemes such as SuDS and Ornamental Planting



SUTTON GYRATORY

Cayetana has been working to develop a strategy and proposal for the transformation of Sutton's Gyratory. The project seeks to reclaim public space from an area predominately dominated by cars and traffic. The implementation of a bidirectional cycle track and the reduction of several lanes of traffic will create the opportunity to add planting, play and enhance the quality of the space for pedestrians and cyclists. Cayetana has worked on the baseline mapping for the project and visual proposals and plans for the space.



CAREER

2022 Landscape Architecture Assistant **Urban Movement**

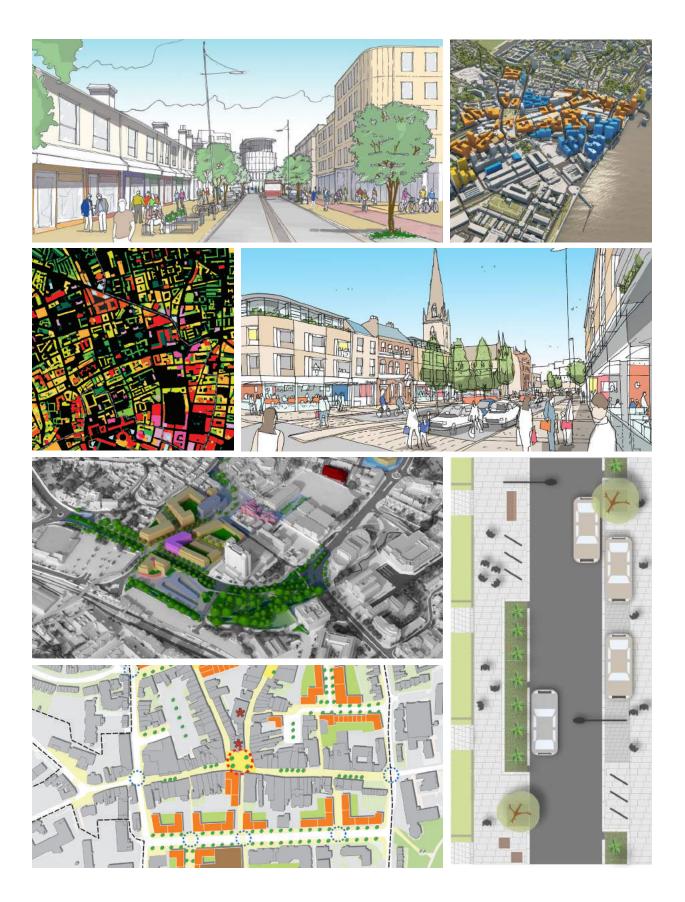
urban movement

2019 Landscape Architecture Student **University of Edinburgh**

OTHER RECENT PROJECTS

- Whitesands Quarry Climate Hub
- Seafield Planting Project specification and design
- Greenford and Perivale Site Analysis and illustration
- Carrigaline Public Realm Design -Concept and Detail Design

@UM_Streets hello@urbanmovement.co.uk www.urbanmovement.co.uk



04 OUR EXPERIENCE



Urban Initiatives Studio has considerable expertise and experience in developing deliverable masterplans for town centres similar to Sevenoaks. We always look at the bigger picture and at how potential development sites can be integrated into an holistic and forward-looking vision with a strong sense of place.

Most town centres have been around for a long time and have been shaped through commercial and other pressures, often at the expense of the historic fabric and public realm. Understanding townscape is an integral part of our work, which aims to strengthen the distinctiveness of places and preserve and enhance their unique aspects and characteristics.

We understand how town centres function in terms of their retail and commercial spaces, the access and servicing, parking and public transport, the connectedness of routes and the quality of the public realm, and as places to live. The challenge is often how to combine these, often conflicting, aspects into a workable and aspirational framework.

We have considerable expertise in consensus building and engaging with stakeholders and recognise the importance of building consensus amongst key players around a common vision to ensure the success of a project. We have developed a range of techniques to communicate urban design and planning issues clearly and imaginatively to stakeholders when this is required.

In recent years we have prepared town centre masterplans for Aylesbury, Woolwich, Dovercourt, Loughborough, Dorking, Basingstoke, Grays, Feltham, Alton, Romford and Norwich. These have either been adopted as SPD, directly informed local plans or guided positive change. We have worked with Urban Movement on many of these commissions and value their creative contribution to the design process.

A selection of our projects are presented on the following pages.



PROJECT	Grays Town Centre Framework	
CLIENT	Thurrock Council	
SCOPE	Preparation of framework masterplan	

Grays is a chartered market town in Essex at the banks of the River Thames and the administrative centre of Thurrock. It benefits from excellent train links into central London, and has the potential to benefit from substantial residential growth in the future. The recent opening of the South Essex College has shifted the centre of gravity of the town centre, towards Grays' neglected riverside.

Urban Initiatives Studio were commissioned to prepare a Framework for Grays that establishes a coherent spatial vision, identifies key design principles for sites and helps to guide Grays' regeneration. Our town centre framework proposes a number of strategies including for the distribution of uses and activities, response to heritage, changes to the transport and movement network and proposals for the enhancement of the public realm and open spaces. A major opportunity in Grays is to establish an enhanced relationship with the river.

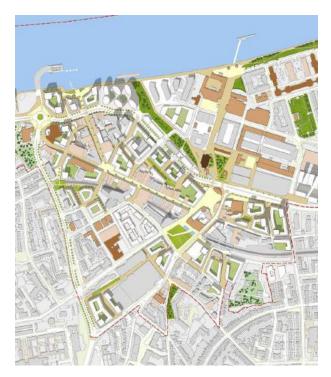


Our proposals consolidate a number of disjointed green spaces, integrate the flood defences and animate the riverside with a new visitor destination and residential development.

Through the commission we identified potential development sites, tested different development scenarios and established their optimal development capacity.

We consulted on both the Town Centre Framework and the more detailed riverfront study, with an overwhelmingly positive response.

EXPERIENCE





People's Voices participants

PROJECT	Woolwich Town Centre Strategy	
CLIENT	Royal Borough of Greenwich	
SCOPE	Preparation of town centre strategy	

Urban Initiatives Studio were commissioned by the Royal Borough of Greenwich to prepare an urban design and public realm strategy for Woolwich Town Centre. The purpose of the project was to re-evaluate the town centre in respect of recent and ongoing developments that have taken place (development of the Royal Arsenal, Queen Elizabeth Line Station, development pressures in the town centre, Conservation Area designations), and to establish a new strategy to guide development and public realm interventions in the town centre.

The project was commissioned as the previous Town Centre Masterplan had become less effective in driving appropriate and meaningful change in the area and many of the development proposals that informe it were either nearing completion or had completely stalled. With the imminent arrival of Crossrail there was a renewed level of development interest in the town centre and the need for a forwardlooking strategic plan to provide a framework to proactively manage development and drive positive change in the town centre. The masterplan also informed site allocations, site specific planning briefs and emerging development proposals.

In order to develop a robust strategy and to complement our own urban design expertise we brought Urban Movement (transport) and Ash Sakula Architects (meanwhile uses) into our team.

It was clear from the outset that in order for this project to be successful, it needed to be built on engagement with local people and stakeholders that reflect the diverse local community.

As part of our project we prepared an engagement strategy that set out our approach to engaging with stakeholders and local people, within the time and budget constraints of the project. This included capturing 'People's voices' - the undertaking of street interviews in the town centre to get a snapshot of views and perceptions from a broad array of town centre visitors and residents. We also held successful stakeholder surgeries, two stakeholder workshops and a public exhibition.

Inputs from these engagements established priorities for change and helped to shape the framework. They also delivered a broad basis of support and corporate buy-in the process and promoted projects.



PROJECT	'Top of Town' Basingstoke, Masterplan	
CLIENT	Basingstoke and Deane Council	
SCOPE	Preparation of Concept masterplan	

Urban Initiatives Studio was appointed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to establish a vision for the Top of the Town, the historic focus of Basingstoke. Our work re-defined the role of the Top of the Town area in the context of the wider town centre and established a path towards successful regeneration.

Following extensive consultation with stakeholders our masterplan promoted a range of interventions from promotion and marketing of the town centre, events and temporary uses, reviving of Basingstoke market, public realm and shop front improvements, alteration to town centre access and parking and the development of under-used sites.

Detailed feasibility work was carried out to test the potential to re-develop council owned car park sites for residential development with car parking re-provided within multi-storey structures. Property consultants GVA provided commercial advice to the team.



Following completion of the work the council committed significant investment in the public realm, revived the market and is considering proposals to develop a number of key sites. We have since advised the Council on a strategic framework for the wider town centre.



PROJECT	Loughborough Town Centre masterplan	
CLIENT	Charnwood Borough Council	
SCOPE	Preparation of masterplan	

Loughborough is going through a period of growth with a planned urban extension to the west of the town expected to deliver 3,000 new homes by 2028. This will be accompanied by the expansion of important employment sites such as the Science and Enterprise Park. The purpose of our masterplan was to revitalise and regenerate the town centre so that it can take advantage of this growth and encourage new and existing residents and workers to support the shops and services in the town centre.

We worked with stakeholders to establish a vision for the town centre that builds on the positive characteristics of the town including its history and heritage, attractive market, the presence of Loughborough University and its walkable centre. The masterplan guides development and change through a spatial strategy that identifies the location and form of new development and public realm improvements and alterations to the movement network.



Through the masterplan process we explored the capacity of key development sites and tested viability through development appraisals. An important part of the plan was a programme of smaller interventions that includes a lighting and arts strategy for the towns' numerous lanes and a programme of temporary interventions and meanwhile uses. The masterplan also includes a marketing and promotional strategy to support the proposed spatial interventions and an implementation and delivery strategy.

PROJECT	East Dorking Regeneration Masterplan
CLIENT	Mole Valley District Council
SCOPE	Preparation of masterplan

Urban Initiatives Studio was commissioned by Mole Valley District Council to prepare a masterplan for the 'East Dorking Regeneration Site'. Our challenge was to identify a viable mix of uses that can be delivered to both provide a long-term future for the former council offices 'Pippbrook House' a listed building which has been vacant for several years and to regenerate the eastern approach to the town.

Our study area was the civic focus for the town and includes the councils' offices and Dorking Halls and leisure centre. The land is owned by the Council and whilst the immediate curtilage of Pippbrook House includes many mature trees the area is generally under-utilised, dominated by surface car parking and presents a poor quality pedestrian environment and approach into the town.

We worked with property advisors Montagu Evans and with transport advisors Urban Movement to test the viability and deliverability of numerous options for the site. These balanced the value of development (hotel and residential uses) with the cost of re-providing existing surface car parking within a multi-storey structure and refurbishing Pippbrook House as a potential community asset.

The proposals were politically sensitive and we worked closely with officers and members to weigh up the pros and cons of different scenarios and recommend a positive way forward.

Our plan considers the sites relationship with the wider town, the potential for sensitive development that enhances the setting of Pippbrook House and maintains attractive views to Box Hill. It delivers a hotel, new housing (resisting pressure on greenfield sites out of the town) and significant public realm improvements. These improve connectivity between the Pippbrook site and Dorking Halls and enhance the eastern approach into Dorking.





PROJECT	Aylesbury Regeneration Framework
CLIENT	Buckinghamshire Council
SCOPE	Preparation of regeneration framework

Aylesbury is one of the fastest growing towns in the country and was awarded Garden Town status in 2017 by the Government. The town centre is at the heart of this growth and UIS was appointed alongside Montagu Evans and Urban Movement to prepare a regeneration framework that sets a clear and overarching vision and spatial plan that will guide change in the centre.

The regeneration framework was prepared through a collaborative process and with ten principles established to guide change.

The plan identifies and promotes site specific proposals set within a wider framework that encourages and facilitates a shift to more movement by foot, bicycle and public transport. Critical to this is reducing the barrier created by the ring road and delivering a finer grain of animated safe, streets and spaces within the centre. The plan also promotes a redevelopment of the existing shopping centre and a new bus station and interchange at the station.





PROJECT	Venn Street, Clapham	
CLIENT	Glasgow City Council	
SCOPE	Street Design and Implementation	

Urban Movement designed the multi-award winning Venn Street proposals in the historic heart of Old Town Clapham transforming a utilitarian expanse of concrete and asphalt to provide space for cafes, restaurants and pubs to spill out over widened footways and adding to the vibrancy of this local centre.

Through traffic was encouraged to by-pass the centre of the Old Town, whilst maintaining access for residents and businesses, through inventive junction design. Traffic speeds were reduced by narrowing carriageways and introducing twenty mph zones making it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross. The several zebra crossing in the Old Town were all retained but re-sited to relate to the new circulation patterns.

Over 100 new trees were planted in the widened footways and public spaces. A mix of species were used including native Field Maples, Limes and London Planes. The footways and public spaces were paved with traditional yorkstone slabs in standard and narrow widths where they were to be over-run by vehicles. Most of the historic wide granite kerbs were lifted and re-laid to edge the carriageways but set at a new lower height of 50mm to reduce the step height and make informal crossing easier.



PROJECT	The Avenues, Glasgow	
CLIENT	Glasgow City Council	
SCOPE	Street Design and Implementation	

Firstly as part of a team including Gehl Architects, and currently as part of a team with Austin Smith Lord, UM led the development of Glasgow's public realm, streetscape and transport Regeneration Framework. This 10-year Action Plan developed 15-minute city principles for Glasgow, packaging these into easily actionable projects at a variety of scales and levels of complexity. Designs were developed to demonstrate the potential of future interventions and raise excitement, with several having been delivered.

A hugely ambitious project worth of £100 million followed which is creating (over the next ten years) a connected network of streets in Glasgow city centre that carry substantial elements of green and blue infrastructure in the form of planted raingardens with semi-mature street trees, within streets designed to encourage active travel.

Urban Movement is the lead designer on several of the 'Avenue' streets including Argyle Street, Cambridge Street, Dixon Street and North Hanover Street. All these streets will carry raingardens, planted with a mix of grasses, shrubs and herbaceous material along with native and non-native semi-mature trees at strategic points through each street, carefully placed to avoid conflicts with utilities.



PROJECT	Andover Town Centre Masterplan	
CLIENT	Test Valley Borough Council	
SCOPE	Public realm concept design	

Urban Movement were recently commissioned by Test Valley Borough Council to develop RIBA Work Stage 2: Concept Designs, with costings, for six key areas identified within the Andover Masterplan. These included the high street and western gyratory.

UM worked alongside specialist ecological consultants, to re-imagine the western gyratory in the town in order to release existing highway and to create a new linear park that will both reconnect the town with its unique chalk stream and open-up new development opportunities.

The project necessitated close collaboration with Hampshire County Council as the highway authority, including their term consultants who managed a strategic traffic model for the town centre. Based on UM's recommendations and subsequent feedback, Urban Movement worked with the County to test and optimise their proposals. Furthermore, UM worked closely with the County to ensure that the proposals represented exemplar application of their latest policy direction described within their draft Local Transport Plan.

Constructive engagement was also required with the local bus operator in order to optimise the routing of buses serving the town's bus station. UM's proposals also responded to Test Valley Borough Council's parallel aspirations to expand and enhance the cycling network, introducing high-quality, segregated cycling infrastructure along two strategic corridors to better connect the town centre with key destinations including the train station, sixth form college and main park.

Crucially, UM worked closely with council officers to develop a compelling narrative around the proposals that linked specific interventions back to ambitious, far-reaching policies. This strong project narrative also assisted the council when bidding for potential funding.

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URBAN INITIATIVES STUDIO

www.uistudio.co.uk

Current Matters – for Sevenoaks Town Council's Planning Committee 04/03/2024

Items requiring Action by the Committee are highlighted ORANGE. Those awaiting update before they can be actioned are not.

Minute Number and Date	Action	Update/Status
294 29 th August 2023	To run a second consultation on KCC and	Consultation documents prepared by STC with Cllr
(Action agreed)	the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board's (JTB)	Shea and Cllr Clayton's oversight.
367 25 th September 2023	revised 20mph proposals. To fund implementation of	Consultation completed and ran 1 st November to 14 th
(Working Group formed)	any resulting approved 20mph scheme.	December 2023. Data analysis completed by STC and Lake Market Research. Data supplied to KCC and JTB for consideration at next JTB meeting.
145(e) – bullet point 3 3 rd July 2023 (Action agreed) 335	RESOLVED to request traffic mirrors at: • The junction where Brittains Lane meets Oak Lane,	KCC's site investigations found no accident data recorded and the locations therefore unviable. Because their data is a year behind
11 th September 2023 (Action delayed by lack of KCC accident data)	 Where Burntwood Road meets Ashgrove Road, On Brittains Lane 	and Cllrs are aware of at least two reported accidents within the last year however, KCC have agreed to
407(c) 9 th October 2023 (Action agreed)	where Ashgrove Road meets Oak Lane,	reinvestigate in April 2024, once their traffic data has been updated.
	Also a concealed entrance sign on Oak Lane, past Dibden Lane where it approaches Brittains Lane and Ashgrove Road.	
232(c) 17 th July 2023 (Action agreed)	To continue working with Otford Parish Council on active travel options between the two parishes.	Working Group membership updated comprising Cllr Clayton, Cllr Shea and Cllr Dr Dixon. Awaiting action from SDC on their proposed Otford to Sevenoaks cycling route.
HIP Priority Number 9	STC to prepare a map of locations for a Traffic Regulation Order to provide corner protections at various locations.	Recommendation: That a Working Group be formed to progress this, or Councillors send in their suggestions for collation and agreement at a future Committee meeting.

468 6 th November 2023 (land above Wildlife Reserve) 510 29 th November 2023 (Allotment site) 405 9 th October 2023	 RESOLVED for the following sites to be submitted as Assets of Community Value Land above the Wildlife Reserve through which the Darent Valley path cuts Additional allotment site as proposed in STNP (priority) St Johns Hill Car Park Public Toilets Play space at the end of Watercress Drive Allotments at the end of Heathfield Road Depo building on Otford Road Horse field on Bradbourne Vale Road Scout huts located left of the above horse field 	 Application Status: Pending Pending SUCCESSFUL, Listed on the Asset Register. Application complete, awaiting decision Pending Pending
Agreed verbally 19 th February 2024	To add guidance to the Planning Committee Policy document on the Committee's stance on boreholes as private water supply, and instances where it would be supported.	Recommendation: a) That this be progressed via a Working Group, or Councillors send in their suggestions for collation and agreement at a future Committee meeting. OR b) Same as above, but also that all policies in the document be reviewed for adoption by the new Term of Town Councillors.
657.c.i 5 th February 2024 657.c.ii 5 th February 2024	RESOLVED to note Sevenoaks Residential Character Area Assessment locations where trees and hedgerows contribute significantly in the Planning Committee's responses to planning applications. RESOLVED to liaise with Kent Wildlife Trust regarding STNP objectives.	Pending: These will be extracted and collated into one document for Councillors' easy reference, when considering planning applications which propose impact on trees or hedgerows. Pending

657.c.iii 5 th February 2024	RESOLVED to prioritise Community Asset nomination for the land proposed in the STNP for future allotments.	Pending
657.c.iv 5 th February 2024	RESOLVED for Biodiversity Policy L1 to be strengthened	Recommendation for this to be completed at the STNP's 5-year review is to be included in STNP Annual Report. Due to be agreed by the STNP Monitoring & Implementation Group 7 th May 2024, and approved by the Planning Committee with any amendments 20 th May 2024.
657.c.v 5 th February 2024	RESOLVED for Policy L7 to be amended to include reference to Mill Pond (in addition to Bradbourne Lakes).	Recommendation for this to be completed at the STNP's 5-year review is to be included in STNP Annual Report. Due to be agreed by the STNP Monitoring & Implementation Group 7 th May 2024, and approved by the Planning Committee with any amendments 20 th May 2024.
438(3) 30 th October 2023	To implement a Town Centre and St John's Hill Masterplan.	Urban Initiatives Studio have been commissioned to complete two separate Masterplans. Proposals and methodology statements have been provided.
440 30 th October 2023	To pursue Feasibility Study for a Sevenoaks Dunton Green walking and cycling route, as identified in the STNP.	Phil Jones Consultants have been commissioned to produce this. Currently waiting on land owners about potential wayleave conversations in the future.
	Monitoring of STNP policy application in planning application decisions, and actioning of projects.	In progress via Monitoring & Implementation Group. Annual Report expected 20 th May 2024.

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Decision Notices published by Sevenoaks District Council OR Kent County Council from **13**th **February 2024 to 26**th **February 2024** on plans which Sevenoaks Town Council was consulted upon for comment, in order of reference number (ascending).

STC Comment dates are written in **bold** text, where the comment was made by a Town Councillor during the **current** electoral term (2023-2027). Instances where SDC have decided against STC's recommendation are written in **red**.

Reference Number	Address & Ward	Ward Cllr	STC Recommendation (abridged)	SDC Decision (abridged)
23/03185/FUL	Wetton Cleaning Services Ltd, Estate House, 2 Pembroke Road – Town	Cllr Michaelides	4 th December 2023: STC recommended approval, 5 conditions.	23 rd February 2024: SDC Granted, 20 conditions. <i>Officer Report appears to</i>
		Cllr Granville	22nd January 2024: STC recommended refusal, 3 grounds, 1 informative (overshadowing, against RCAA, impact on street scene and Conservation Area)	be temporarily unavailable on Planning Portal.
23/03428/HOUSE	9 Crownfields – Town	Cllr Camp (as Chair)	18th December 2024: STC recommended refusal, 3 grounds (loss of amenity, overlooking, lack of environmental information)	13 th February 2024: SDC Granted, 6 conditions. (Impact on amenity and privacy found compliant, and landscaping secured by condition)
23/03515/HOUSE	Royston, 27 St Johns Road – St Johns	Cllr Dr Dixon	8 th January 2024: STC recommended approval, 1 condition.	13 th February 2024: SDC Granted, 3 conditions.
23/03519/HOUSE	5 Redlands Road – Kippington	Cllr Varley	8 th January 2024: STC recommended approval, 2 conditions.	14 th February 2024: SDC Granted, 4 conditions.
23/03571/HOUSE	5 Farnaby Drive – Kippington	Cllr Gustard	22nd January 2024: STC recommended approval, 1 condition.	15 th February 2024: SDC Granted, 4 conditions.

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Planning Applications to be Considered

Planning Applications received to be considered on 04 March 2024

1	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent
	23/03054/ADV	Stephanie Payne 07/03/2024	Cllr Willis	
Case	e Officer			
Appl	icant	House Name	Road	Locality
Miss (C Collins	Ground Floor	26-28 Pembroke Road	Town
Tow	n	County	Post Code	Application date
				15/02/24

23/03054/ADV - Amended plan

Signage to identify the company on the external façade of the premises plus directional signage for car parking and entry way. Covering all four sides of the building and use of boundary wall along with two freestanding pillar mounted signs at angles to the road replacing current signage.

A summary of the main changes are set out below:

Further clarification relating to the illuminated signs has been provided.

Web link https://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S2SA0RBKJCK00

2	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent
	23/03567/FUL	Samantha Yates 08/03/2024	Cllr Varley	Offset Architects
Case	Officer			
Appli	icant	House Name	Road	Locality
Mrs M	atthews		22 Burntwood Road	Kippington
Towr	า	County	Post Code	Application date
				16/02/24
		tions to the existing dwell cessed via a new vehicula	-	•
Web		noaks.gov.uk/online-		D 000

applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S5B3EZBKKP600

3	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent	
-	24/00003/MMA	Samantha Yates 05/03/2024	Cllr Camp	Scandia-Hus	
Case	Officer				
Appli	icant	House Name	Road	Locality	
Mr & N	Mrs Lambourne	Gardens rear of	83 to 91 Bradbourne Park Road	St Johns	
Towr	า	County	Post Code	Application date	
				13/02/24	
Amer	ndment to 23/0020	60/FUL.	_	<u>н</u>	
Web		https://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online- applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S6N8Q8BKL6F00			

4	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent
-	24/00322/MMA	Sean Mitchell 18/03/2024	Cllr Shea and Cllr Dr Canet	SJM Planning Limited
Case	Officer			
Applie	cant	House Name	Road	Locality
M Felto	วท	Pinehurst House Nursing Home	Pinehurst	Northern

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Planning Applications to be Considered

Planning Applications received to be considered on 04 March 2024

Town		County	Post Code	Application date
				26/02/24
Amendme	nt to 20/03293	/FUL.	ł	
	https://pa.sevenoa applications/applic		veTab=summary&keyVal=S8JRBC	RKM5500

5	Plan Number	Planning officer	Town Councillor	Agent
•	24/00341/HOUSE	Christopher Park 18/03/2024	Cllr Gustard	EK Planning Ltd
Case	Officer			
Appli	cant	House Name	Road	Locality
Ms C N	Noble	Hilbre Cottage	21 Croft Way	Kippington
Town	ו	County	Post Code	Application date
				26/02/24

applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S8R64KBKM7800

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