

**Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Forum Meeting held at
Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks
On Wednesday 26th September 2018 at 6.30 p.m.**

NOTED PRESENT FROM COMPLETED SIGNED DELEGATE FORM

Cllr Peter Fleming OBE, Chaired the Meeting.

Cllr Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Matthew Dickins	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Elizabeth Purves	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Richard Parry	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Mrs Walshe	Sevenoaks Town Council
Mr John M Bamforth	Hitchin Hatch Lane Residents Association
Mr James Copeland	? tbc
Mr Jonathan Drury	White Hart Residents Association
Mr Henry Pound	Knole Paddock Residents Association
Mr Jim Canet	SDSAF
Mr Keith Loney	Lyle Park Residents Association
Mr Edward Oatley	St Johns School
Dr Geoff Brown	St John's Residents Association
Mr Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks Society
Mrs Helen O'Sullivan	Granville and Eardley Road RA
Linda Larter MBE	Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk
Michèle MacDonald	Committee Clerk

Cllr Peter Fleming congratulated Sevenoaks Town Council, all the community groups and individuals on their fantastic community effort and achievement in the awards received for Sevenoaks in Bloom 2018, namely:

Cemetery	Silver
Upper High Street Gardens	Silver Gilt
Sevenoaks Common	Silver
Vine Gardens	Gold
Town Centre	Gold

The Town Clerk thanked the District Council for their assistance in achieving these awards. Following a query, the Town Clerk confirmed that the WWI benches are permanent, and the cut-out WWI figures will be in situ until the end of the year.

1 Apologies for Absence

Mr John Ingram's apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th June 2018

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

4. Sevenoaks District Council Updates

a) Bentley Garage

Byron advised that the Bentley garage has relocated to North Farm in Tonbridge. The District's Economic Development team is considering how to retain the Sevenoaks site for employment purposes instead of housing opportunities.

Cllr Fleming advised the attendees of the following updates:

- b) Tesco Metro – recently announced that it is due to close at the end of October 2018. Staff are trying to be relocated within the Town of Sevenoaks and the District Council offered their support. The District Council will try to make contact with the owner. The District Council had previously thought of the office accommodation becoming a business hub, but major redevelopment work would be needed as the office accommodation is not modern.
- c) Buckhurst 2 Car Park – is ahead of schedule due to the good weather. By the end of October 2 core towers will be in place and steel works will have commenced.
- d) The works at the junction of the High Street with Pembroke Road and Suffolk Way are delayed.
- e) A225, designated a key road - with all works obliged to inform utilities. Will not start before 8th October 2018.
- f) Bradbourne Car Park – is up for a Kent design award in the infrastructure and renewables category.
- g) Premier-Inn – is now open
- h) Air Quality – air quality tests across Sevenoaks District have shown an improvement in Air Quality. Living Walls, such as the one on the Marks and Spencer building in London Road, are examples of how to improve air quality. In London trials are being undertaken of smaller living walls set up between benches, which are easier to maintain and are seen as nice street furniture.

Cllr Dickins referred members to the SDC website for figures.

- i) Salmon Site – is progressing. The District is in conversation with the residents who asked that the temporary lights be removed at night time with the site extended into the road allowing the pavement to continue.
- j) Edwards Electrical Site – improvements have been made to the pavement to allow step free access.

5. Open Forum

a) Littering –

- i) Byron advised that radio had recently advised that the UK was cited as the “*littering capital of Europe and a National disgrace*’ and that the UK/KCC/SDC authorities should publicise this cost and clearly put the finger of blame on those responsible for this...” Cllr Fleming advised that each bag costs the District £40 to clear up, i.e. the same cost as a pothole repair and that roadside litter costs the UK £850million per annum.

A member of the committee was concerned that playground bins were not emptied at week-ends. The Town Clerk advised that

- the Mayor is to ask the new Youth Council committee for their assistance with a new anti-litter campaign
- there is less graffiti with the town of Sevenoaks as the Open Spaces Team clears this up immediately seen or notified of this
- the Town Council’s playground bins are on the work schedules to be emptied on Saturdays, but not Bank Holidays or Sundays as these are not work days.

- ii) Bin opposite the Bat & Ball station isn’t being emptied. The Town Clerk advised that the Open Spaces Team take on the responsibility of emptying this bin.

- b) Compensation due to poorly maintained roads – Byron advised the local press reported that “£214,800 was spent by KCC in the past 3 years as compensation which did not include administrative and legal costs”.

Cllr Fleming advised the cost to bring up the Nations’ roads to scratch is estimated at £5 billion.

Cllr Parry arrived at 7:30pm

- c) Consultation on Bradbourne Lakes – takes place on 9th October 2018 at 7pm.

6. Date of Next Meetings

To be held in the Council Chamber – 6pm for coffee and 6:30 meeting starts on:

- 16th January 2019
- 9th April 2019

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm

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