

**Minutes of the Town Forum Meeting held at
Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks
On Tuesday 9th April 2019 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present (details from signed attendance sheet):

Cllr Peter Fleming OBE, Chairman	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Elizabeth Purves	Sevenoaks District Council / Hollybush Residents Assoc.
Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Pam Walshe	Sevenoaks Town Council
Mr Byron Brown	Bradbourne Residents Association
Cllr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town Council / SDSAF
Mr Jonathan Drury	White Hart Residents Association
Mr Edward Oatley	St Johns School
Mrs Helen O'Sullivan	Granville and Eardley Road Residents Association
Ms Jana Petkova	Granville and Eardley Road Residents Association
Mr Henry Pound	Knole Paddock Residents Association
Mr Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks Society
Mrs Linda Larter	Sevenoaks Town Council

1. Apologies for Absence

The following apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Richard Parry and Mr Doug Elish.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January 2019

These were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Pam Walshe enquired about the new town car park when it would be opened and what would the impact be on residential parking. The Chairman responded that the new car park had opened quietly on 8th April 2019, and some of the temporary on street car parking had been removed.

Further discussion took place about the car park and car parking needs in general within the town. The Chairman stated that Sevenoaks District Council would be conducting a further holistic car parking review and resident associations views and ideas would be key to this.

Mr Jonathan Drury requested an update relating to the Town Council's request to move the Wednesday market to the High Street. The Chairman confirmed that the District Council had not agreed to the request and were considering methods to assist the Town Council in promoting the current market provision.

4. Updates since the last meeting

Edwards Electrical

The owners had applied for planning permission for a temporary car park for three years. The application had been considered by the Planning Committee on 3rd April 2019 and unanimously refused.

Sevenoaks Town Car Park

The new and enlarged car park formerly known as Buckhurst II Car Park had been completed and opened on 8th April 2019.

Tesco Site

There were no further updates available from the owners of the premises. Sevenoaks District Council had been working to address anti-social matters taking place in the walkway and found temporary accommodation for the two men who had been sleeping there. A request had been made to the owners to ensure the lighting remained in use and the litter bins were taken away.

Town Centre

It was noted that Sevenoaks town had a 2% vacancy rate of shops compared to the national average of 16%. Turnover rate was good and charity shops were closing and being replaced by retail companies.

5. Open Forum

20s Plenty

Mr Doug Elish had requested that the topic of '20s Plenty' be discussed however unfortunately was not able to be at the meeting.

The topic was briefly discussed, and it was agreed to invite a Kent County Council Highways Officer to a future meeting to provide information about 20 mph limits and zones and speed limit matters.

Operation Brock

Mr Byron Brown informed the meeting that the Bradbourne Residents Association had contacted both the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge MPs to express concern that an impact assessment had not been undertaken in relation to the proposed Operation Brock. The Chairman stated that Sevenoaks District Council were now involved in the discussions for the project and that the proposal had moved far down the list that it was unlikely to happen on the M26.

Voluntary Clear Up Days

Mr Byron Brown congratulated Sevenoaks Town Council on their initiative to hold local voluntary clear up days in various locations within the town and also disappointment that it was needed.

Sevenoaks Society Exhibition

Cllr Elizabeth Purves informed the meeting that the Sevenoaks Society were holding a Heritage Exhibition at the library taking place 19th June to 6th July 2019. A book on the same topic would also be produced.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next Town Forum meeting would take place on 3rd September 2019. 6 p.m. for coffee, meeting to start at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.52 p.m.