

**Minutes of the Town Forum Meeting held at
Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks
On Tuesday 3rd September 2019**

Present (details from signed attendance sheet)

Cllr Peter Fleming OBE, Chairman	Sevenoaks District Council
Anthea Belsay	St John's Resident Association
Geoff Brown	St John's Resident Association
Jonathan Drury	White Hart Estates Residents Association / Wednesday Market Traders
Henry Pound	Knole Paddock Resident Association
Cllr Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Victoria Granville Baxter	Sevenoaks Town Council
John Harris	St John's Resident Association
Naomi Annable	St John's Primary School
Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks District / Town Council
Bob Carpenter	St John's Resident Association
Byron Brown	Bradbourne Residents Association
Keith Loney	Lyle Park Residents Association
Cllr Elizabeth Purves	Sevenoaks District Council / Hollybush Residents Association
Edward Oakley	St John's Primary School
Lesley Smith	St John's Resident Association
Miss Helen O'Sullivan	Granville Road and Eardley Road Residents Association
Jana Petkova	Granville Road and Eardley Road Residents Association
Cllr Tony Clayton	Sevenoaks District / Town Council
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks District / Town Council
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks District / Town Council
Linda Larter MBE	Sevenoaks Town Council
Doug Elish	Sevenoaks Cyclist User Group

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllr Richard Parry and Roger Walshe.

The Chairman changed the order of the agenda to enable the presentations and debate relating to '20s Plenty' to take place at the beginning of the meeting.

2. '20s Plenty'

Cllr Fleming had met with officers from KCC who had provided him with information relating to '20s Plenty' which was provided to the Forum as a presentation. During the presentation Cllr Fleming attempted to answer numerous questions as they were raised. The key points were:

- i) In preparing for a submission for a 20 mph provision most of the residents of the road involved need to support the proposal and ideally submit it.
- ii) The submission to KCC requires a councillor to sponsor it.
- iii) If i) and ii) are in place KCC would carry out 24hr traffic study (not during school holidays).

- iv) Following the survey KCC calculate mean speed and 85th percentile of traffic
- v) KCC do not fund capital costs relating to implementation of 20mph
- vi) The process for the introduction of 20 mph would be either via Traffic Regulation Order or Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (lasts 12 months)
- vii) 20 mph is normally applied to an area or single road with natural road calming. This would be done via signage only.
- viii) 20 mph zone is normally for residential streets and requires installation of physical traffic calming measures at least at entrance and exit of zone.
- ix) KCC state that they have a direct relationship with Town and Parish Councils for discussion of such matters via its Highway Improvement Plan. Bullfinch Corner in Riverhead was considered a good example.

Jonathan Drury stated that KCC need to make it clearer in relation to 20 mph what was its policy and what was legislation.

Byron Brown asked if the Speed Watch programme was continuing as Bradbourne Residents Association found this most effective. It was noted that it was.

It was noted that the Joint Transport Planning Meeting to be held on 10th September 2019 was discussing the provision of 20 mph close to St. John's Primary School. The meeting would be open to the public.

It was agreed that Cllr Fleming would request that KCC officers attend a meeting with residents (during the day) to enable further discussion about 20 mph.

Jonathan Drury informed the Forum that if they were not happy with KCC **process** they could submit an official complaint to KCC and then the local government ombudsman. He also recommended that Resident Associations made contact with their local Highway Engineer Officer to discuss local problems on site.

Doug Ellish from the Sevenoaks Cyclist User Group then addressed the Forum. It was noted that a petition of over 1,000 signatures had been submitted to KCC for the introduction of 20 mph close to St. John's Primary School. General discussion took place with the main points being

- i) 20 mph is being introduced close to schools around the country, residents would continue to push for this happening in Sevenoaks.

- ii) Reiterated the need to meet with KCC officers.
- iii) Would prefer 20 mph zones rather than streets.

3 Minutes of the Town Forum Meeting held on 9th April 2019

The following was noted:

- i) Jonathan Drury stated that he had raised the matter of the Wednesday Market on behalf of the Market Traders.
- ii) Helen O' Sullivan stated that she had requested, and Cllr Fleming had agreed that a representative from the SDC Environmental Health Team attend the Town Forum to discuss air pollution data and air quality.
- iii) Byron Brown stated that he did not agree with the previous minutes that stated that the retail vacancy rate for Sevenoaks was 2%. It was agreed that any figures would be a moment in time.
- iv) Byron Brown stated that he had not agreed that Operation Brock was unlikely to impact the M26.
- v) Helen O' Sullivan asked for clarification on when SDC Parking Review would start and what were its Terms of Reference?
Cllr Fleming reiterated his previous notification that the SDC Parking Review would commence 6 months after the opening of the new town centre car park, therefore would be October 2019. The Parking Review would be holistic to ensure that improvements in one area did not negatively impact another area. Cllr Fleming reminded the Forum that public and resident associations would be encouraged to become involved. The scope of the SDC Parking Review would be made available to Forum members.
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet stated that she hoped northern Sevenoaks would be included.

4 Sevenoaks District Council's updates since the last meeting

- i) Local Plan
The Local Plan hearing sessions will take place over four weeks.
 - Week one - 24 to 27 September 2019
 - Week two - 1 to 3 October 2019
 - Week three - 5 to 7 November 2019
 - Week four - 12 to 15 November 2019

The venue for weeks one, two and three will be the Stag Theatre, London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ.

The venue for week four will be Sevenoaks District Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1HG.

Further details were available on Sevenoaks District Council website.

<https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/localplanexamination>

- ii) **Tesco Site**
Cllr Fleming has met with agents of Freshwater who were owners of the site. The owners were reviewing options for development which could include smaller retail units and other combined uses, possibly rental residential units. Matters relating to lighting and bins in the alleyway had been addressed. 'Meanwhile usage' over the Christmas period was being discussed.
- iii) **Sevenoaks Town Car Park**
The car park was open and operational to schedule at approximately three quarters full. Houses were being constructed with the show home due to open in December 2019. The capital income from the houses contributed towards the cost of the car park.
- iv) **Electric Car Charging Points**
These were being installed in SDC off street car parks, using a company called Polar. All new developments as part of a new planning policy would require installation of infrastructure to enable cars to be charged. Long term plans were being reviewed to enable rental of electric cars.
- v) **Operation Brock and Operation Fennel**
The Kent Resilience Forum was overseeing the plan in relation to the impact of Brexit. SDC had been provided with the following government funding two x £17.5k and £70k to assist in relation to potential impact.

5. Open Forum

- i) Byron Brown requested clarification on the article in the Sevenoaks Chronicle relating to the potential impact of Brexit on waste collection and the possible need to use the old park and ride site in Otford Road for storing waste. Cllr Fleming confirmed it was not SDC's plan to use the Otford Road site. They were reviewing a variety of options for movement of waste should there be problems relating to Brexit.
- ii) Henry Pound requested an update on the Wednesday market. Cllr Fleming stated that SDC would be writing to the operator on the matter.
- iii) Jana Petkova requested that provision of plastic refuse bins be provided to residents of flats to prevent them being opened by foxes etc. and making a mess in the roads.

Cllr Fleming stated that there was a procedure in place for residents of flats to request these.

- iv) Byron Brown asked that the Minutes record that the Bradbourne Residents Association appreciated the work of the newly appointed Ashley Walmsley, SDC Open Spaces Manager.
- v) Jonathan Drury also requested that the Minutes record gratitude to the SDC road and footway sweepers.
- vi) It was noted that a Sevenoaks Common Festival was taking place on 15th September 2019. This had been arranged jointly between Sevenoaks District Council and Sevenoaks Town Council.

6. Date of Next Meeting

This was scheduled for 14th January 2020.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.