

Town Team

Sevenoaks Town Team Executive Board

Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 6.30pm

To be held via Zoom

Zoom joining instructions:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88929050374?pwd=eUpKY01TUkhnL1Fvbk92TjZwTDIHZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 2905 0374

Passcode: 465935

Executive Board Members:

Representing	Number	Current Member	Current Organisation
Sevenoaks Town Council	3	Cllr Simon Raikes Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter CEO / Town Clerk	
Sevenoaks District Council	1	Cllr Avril Hunter	
Transport	3	Tony Clayton Austin Blackburn Elliott Waters	Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association Go Coach Southeastern
Leisure Facilities	3	Jane Parish CEO Andrew Eyre (Chairman) Knole	Sencio Stag Hannah Kay
Chamber of Commerce	1	Julie Phillips CEO	
Blighs Meadow	1		Savills, agent for Bligh's owners Standard Life Investments
Sevenoaks Chronicle	1		
Sevenoaks Society	1	Roger Walshe	
Large Business	2	Maxine Morgan (Vice-Chairman) Elizabeth Dolding	Specsavers Warners Solicitors
Small Independent Business	2	Roberta Ware Glenn Ball	Francis Jones Jewellers Local Architect
Resident Association	1		
Round Table	1		
Police	1		
	21		

Town Team

AGENDA

Presentation by Austin Blackburn, Go-Coach

1. **Apologies for Absence**
 2. **Declarations of Interest**
 3. **Minutes**
To receive and approve the minutes of the Town Team Meeting held on 16th December 2020 (attached)
 4. **Post Lockdown – Sevenoaks being ready and encouraging use of local businesses**
 5. **Virtual Business Show & Awards**
 6. **Business Hub**
 7. **Reports from Partnership Members**
To receive updates from partnership members and their organisations activities.
 8. **Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th April 2021
 9. **Press Release**
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**Notes of the Sevenoaks Town Team Executive Virtual Board Meeting
Wednesday 16th December 2020**

Meeting started 6.30 p.m.

Meeting concluded: 7.40 p.m.

Executive Board Attendance:

Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Cllr Victoria Granville Baxter	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Linda Larter, Town Clerk	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Cllr Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Council	Apologies
Cllr Tony Clayton	Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association	Present
Austin Blackburn	Go Coach	Present
Elliott Waters	Southeastern	Absent
Jane Parish	Sencio	Apologies
Hannah Kay	Knole, National Trust	Apologies
Andrew Eyre, Chairman	Stag	Present
Julie Phillips	Chamber of Commerce	Present
	Blighs Meadow	Absent
	Sevenoaks Chronicle	Absent
Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks Society	Present
Maxine Morgan Vice Chairman	Specsavers	Apologies
Roberta Ware	Francis Jones Jewellers	Present
Glenn Ball	Architect	Absent
Cllr Elizabeth Purves	Hollybush Residents Association	Apologies
	Round Table	Absent
	Police	Absent

In attendance: Cllr Richard Parry, Jim Hughes, Richard Baxter, Emily Haswell

1. Declaration of Interest – none received

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 7th October 2020

Agreed as a true record.

3. Christmas 2020 Promotion

All the promotions are to encourage the public to shop safely and support local businesses.

i) Sevenoaks Christmas Promotional video

Positive feedback received.

The Chairman thanked Julie Phillips, Linda Larter and Jamie Wilson for their work on this video.

ii) Christmas Spirit Trail

Positive feedback, additional promotion arranged.

iii) Window Wanderland

Successful first year with 120 participants and over 5000 visited the website.

4. Virtual Business Show & Awards

Consideration was for combining the two either with the Business Show during the day and Awards early evening. Potentially in April 2021. Jamie Wilson was available to assist with the digital content – as he did with the first Business Awards.

AGREED: That Julie Phillips and Linda Larter would research the viability of the idea.

5. Use of Buckhurst 1 Car Park for outdoor retail, etc

It was agreed that consideration for a scheme to operate on Buckhurst 1 would be considered in the new year and would be dependent on government public health guidelines.

6. Business Hub

Construction of Business Hub was now well under way with a planned opening for April 2021. Expressions of interest would be welcomed for use of the facility and potentially as an operator.

7. Reports from Partnership Members

i) Senior Action Forum

Cllr Canet reported that the Forum now had 1500 members. Members were reporting that they did not know what safety measures SDC were putting in place for public and therefore remained nervous about visiting the town.

It was noted that SDC had installed signage, employed specialised cleaners for car parking machines etc and provided guidance to business for following public health guidelines to ensure public safety. Ambassadors had been appointed and would be in the town providing reassurances to public and businesses, they would be visible wearing clothing with 'Here to Help'.

It was also noted that local businesses had invested considerable resources into making their business safe for customers to visit.

AGREED: That within the Town Team a one-sided A4 information sheet would be produced to detail all the safety measures introduced in the town. The Information Sheet would be featured in the Town Team Newsletter and in a half page advert in the Chronicle in the New Year. It could also be used for organisations to forward to its members.

ii) Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association

The Association had helped to publicise to its members the recent meeting with the Minister to discuss the Maidstone East rail proposal. Further information was expected in the new year.

iii) Sevenoaks District Council

As previously mentioned, the Re-Opening High St Safety Scheme was now operational. Staff were in place to deliver the EU funding for new signage including

'wrapping' of empty shop windows which brightened them up and provided information, Ambassadors would be visible in the town centre, hand sanitisers provided.

Free car parking had been provided for one hour and on designated dates.

Work continued delivering Business Grants, noting that new schemes for Tier 3 would become available soon.

iv) Sevenoaks Society

A meeting had recently been held with the MP raising important concerns about the White Paper on Planning.

v) Sevenoaks & District Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber had recently completed a member's survey and was working on the findings.

The next networking meeting was scheduled for January 2021 at the new Bat & Ball Centre. It was unlikely that the meeting could take place in person but hoped that a virtual tour could be provided within the meeting.

vi) Francis Jones Jewellers

Roberta reported that she thought the 'wrapping' on the old Tesco store looked good. She had not received her business pack from SDC – Emily said she would address this.

General concern at lower footfall in the town, mainly due to the restaurants and other facilities including Stag being closed. Also, that some public still unaware that retail shops were open again.

Busier than expected but nowhere near a normal month business.

vii) Go Coach

Generally, the business was ok during these difficult times, staff sickness was low and 42 buses were operating per day. School travel was at 60% of normal, duplicate services had to operate to enable social distancing – this in turn helped coach businesses. Non school buses were operating at 30 – 40% of normal.

Go2 service was taking approximate 200 passengers per day. The service would continue in the future moving to an Uber style of operation.

Results of a recent survey indicated that 20% of current bus users had not previously used a bus and car travel was reducing.

A new shopper service in Edenbridge had started and was proving successful.

AGREED: a presentation on bus services would be provided to a future meeting.

viii) Stag

The Stag was currently closed due to being with Tier 3 restrictions. If Sevenoaks moved into Tier 2 the pantomime could go ahead with health guidelines in place, if not it could be postponed until February 2021. The cinema also currently remained closed.

It was noted that the pantomime provider would be streaming the pantomime virtually – details at end of minutes.

ix) Sencio

It was noted that Sencio like most hospitality businesses was having a difficult time. Some funding had been provided by SDC which would enable limited re-opening. An emergency funding grant was being applied for.

x) Sevenoaks Town Council

The Bat & Ball Centre was practically completed with bookings in place but currently could not open due to public health restrictions. Discussions were taking place with the Public Health Department about making it available as a vaccination centre.

The Business Hub construction was progressing. Working on the Love your Local Business campaign encouraging the public to use local businesses continued.

In addition, within covid restrictions, continued to maintain public facilities, e.g. burial grounds, public open spaces, public toilets, grants. In the new year progress would recommence on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th February 2021.

9. Press Release

As previously agreed, the Public Safety Information Sheet would be issued as a Press Release and used in other formats.



sevenoaks
town team

Contact Us:

Please feel free to contact us and let us know of any useful information which we can share with our community.

Contact: admin.tp@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

LIVE STREAMED PERFORMANCE!
DIRECT FROM THE STAG THEATRE SEVENOAKS

JAMIE ALEXANDER WILSON
as Dame Trott

MANDY MUDEN
as Fairy Fleshcreep

ANT PAYNE
as Silly Billy

ROSIE GLOSSOP
as Fairy Fabulous

JACOB MCINTOSH
as Jack Trott



JACK AND THE TWO METRE BEANSTALK

Live and laughing, from the stage of the Stag Sevenoaks, enjoy a night at the theatre without leaving your living room!

One of the only truly live broadcast panto streams anywhere in the UK, Silly Billy and the rest of the cast will be beamed directly into your home for two live performances on Saturday 19 December, mistakes and all! Anything could happen! It's a terrible idea, but we're doing it anyway...

Tickets for the live streamed performances, priced £15, are now on sale. Simply Visit sevenoakspanto.com

We are still hoping that the run will be able to go ahead, and we will be posting an update following the governments next announcement on Thursday 17 December. Please hang on and be patient with us whilst we wait for the details the next period of tier restrictions, before contacting the box office. Keep an eye on your email inbox and social media updates next Thursday, and keep your fingers crossed for a Christmas miracle!

