

**Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Forum Meeting
held on 14th January 2020 at 6.30pm, at
Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks**

Present (details from signed attendance sheet)

Cllr Peter Fleming OBE, Chairman	Sevenoaks District Council
Byron Brown	Bradbourne Residents Association
Cllr Dr Meryl Canet	Sevenoaks District/Town Council/Hollybush Residents Association
Cllr Sue Camp	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Tony Clayton	Sevenoaks District Council/Town Council
Colin Drage	White Hart Estates RA
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks District/Town Council/Stag Theatre
Linda Larter MBE	Chief Executive, Sevenoaks Town Council
Alison Futtit	Senior Committee Clerk, Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Council
Henry Pound	Knole Paddock RA
John Moulton	Knole Paddock RA
Edward Oakley MBE	St Johns' Primary School
Fiona Pragnell	National Council of Women

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Geoff Brown, Cllr. Matthew Dickins, Jonathan Drury, Cllr. Victoria Granville-Baxter, Helen O'Sullivan, Jana Petkova, Cllr. Elizabeth Purves, Cllr. Richard Parry and Cllr. Simon Raikes.

Town Forum members sent their best wishes to Jonathan Drury for a speedy recovery.

2. Minutes of meetings held on 3rd September and 26th November 2019

The minutes of the meetings held on 3rd September and 26th November 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

20's Plenty Scheme

The Chairman reported comments received from Jonathan Drury, who was unable to attend the meeting: he felt there was an implication that matters of KCC's chosen processes were prescribed in Regulations and recommended that the actual legislation and guidance be consulted.

Cllr Clayton challenged the comment by KCC at the 20s Plenty meeting that planters would need to be attached to kerbs.

The Chairman referred to the useful links circulated within minutes and recommended that members read both the guidance and KCC policy documents to see where they agreed or were in conflict.

Retail Vacancy Sevenoaks

The Chairman advised of email correspondence with Helen O’Sullivan regarding vacancy rates in the town centre. He noted that a number of active properties, such as the Stag, the Post Office and banks, which contributed to the success of the town had been excluded from the data. It was noted that five new businesses had opened since November but that the Chinaman had announced its closure. Kazoku, the new restaurant in Bligh’s Meadow was doing very well.

Parking Review

Jonathan Drury had queried whether the parking review could be more widely advertised, and consultation extended to ensure wider inclusion. It was noted that the focus had been on those residents most affected. It was suggested that the review could have been included in the “In Shape” magazine: the Chairman noted this point.

Byron Brown reported that Bradbourne Residents Association had queried whether paying on exit could be introduced. The Chairman confirmed that SDC was also keen on this, but that legislation required local authority car parks to have a barrier at the exit: SDC was pushing for legislative change to allow a barrier free pay on exit system (which private car parks were permitted to have).

4. Updates since the last Meeting

Electric Car Charging Points

The Chairman advised that the roll out of electric charging points was challenging due to the need for UK Power Network to prepare the sites. Consideration needed to be given to how to provide charging points for residents who do not have off street parking and to the provision of community charging points. The District Council would be working with KCC on this.

SDC Local Plan

The Chairman reminded members of the Local Plan submission process. SDC had submitted its Plan 6 months ago following which over 500 questions raised by the Inspector had been addressed, including six on the Duty to Co-operate. The Duty to Co-operate is a key requirement addressed at the very beginning of the Examination in Public. Subsequent to a two-week sitting a letter was unexpectedly received from the Inspector recommending that SDC withdraw the plan as it had failed to meet the Duty to Co-operate requirement. SDC had undertaken significant work and testing of this aspect of the Plan prior to submission, was challenging her decision and would not be withdrawing the Plan. The publication of the Inspectors report was awaited.

Former Tesco Site

The Chairman was aware that discussions continued and hoped for a positive outcome.

SDC - Net Zero 2030

On the 19th November 2019 Sevenoaks District Council had endorsed the aspiration to reach Net Zero by 2030 and to develop an action plan to support the delivery of the proposed staged actions. The Chairman confirmed that it was an ambition of the Council to both achieve Net Zero itself and to support others (residents, businesses etc.) to do so. He hoped to be working together with the Town Council, Parishes and KCC. He would also be working with a group of District Councils across the country.

Link to SDC Report: [Net Zero 2030](#) and the [Appendix](#) -

STC Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Linda Larter reported that the 6-week consultation period on the Town Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan was taking place from 31st January to 13th March 2020. (Details attached) The NDP would feed into/sit alongside the SDC Local Plan. It was hoped that the position with SDC's Local Plan would be clarified by the time the NDP was ready to proceed.

Tarmac Presentation

Linda Larter advised that there had been a presentation to the Town Council's Planning Committee on 13th January regarding Tarmac's proposals for the Development of Sevenoak's Quarry. The presentation was available to view on the NDP website.

Link: [Tarmac Presentation](#)

Bat and Ball Station and Centre

Linda Larter advised that there was just some snagging to complete at Bat and Ball Station. The ramp was open and being well used. The Chairman offered congratulations on the awards received for the project.

Construction work was on target and due to be completed in May 2020, following which external works to landscaping, car park etc. would take place.

5. Open Forum

Speed Watch

Byron Brown commented that Speed Watch was a good scheme but that it was difficult to get volunteers to do it. The Chairman commented that at a recent SDC review of the Community Safety Plan it was noted that volunteers had to complete online training and this could be putting people off. The possibility of SDC hosting a training session would be discussed with the police.

The other issue was that volunteers became less active as a result of not receiving any feedback following the collection of data. The Chairman advised that the police would be asked to look at how they engage with people. Byron Brown advised that the PCSO had expressed a willingness to speak to Speed Watch groups.

Market Rights

It was noted that SDC would be meeting with the operator on Monday 17 February 2020 at SDC.

Bradbourne Lakes

Byron Brown asked that thanks be passed to SDC on behalf of Bradbourne Residents Association for the CIL award for Bradbourne Lakes. He added that the Residents Association would like to be involved with the implementation plan.

6. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm