



Notes of the CHAMPIONS Meeting held on 22 January 2009

Present: Daniel Bech, Jennifer Blackburn, Cllr. Peter Crawford, John Goodfellow, Michael Larsen, Christopher Thomas, Alastair Tod, Philip Whitbourn

1. After discussion, the meeting agreed the terms of reference for Town Forum Champions
2. Agreed to hold no meetings in August, December and May (May elections transferred to 4 June) in 2009
3. Agreed to hold an Open House Meeting to attract non-attenders/interested people possibly with a theme. Location to be researched.
4. Recommended champions to use RTW TF stationary rather than personal addresses as the Town Forum's office is the Town Hall (RTW TF ToR - <http://www.townforum.org.uk/terms.html>) (Sam Timms to be asked to email letterhead to champions)
5. Recommended champions to use the Council's Forward Plan to see when items were due to be discussed. (<http://www.twbc-apps.co.uk/committee/forwardplan/index.htm>) (Printed copies can be requested from Mike McGeary's office to be sent to associations)
6. Publicise champions role in the press.
7. Accepted Robin Hillier's resignation as a champion and assigned cycleways to Transport (JG) and Leisure & Parks to Community (DB).
8. Agreed that the Vision Sub-Committee would continue as originally set up (ML)

General discussion then took place on a number of topics –
Potential sale of Town Hall,
Future of the Tourist Information Centre,
Are we West Kent or Mid Kent?,

DB stated that since the Audit Commission report in 2004 and the setting up of the Town Forum, the situation had changed and things had improved. We had demonstrated the value of the RTW TF and achieved better relationships with both councillors and officers of the Borough Council.

We agreed that it was regrettable that more councillors did not attend.

The question of how much the council was spending on the RTW Town Forum would be researched.

RTW Town Forum Champions - Terms of Reference

The role of a champion is to:

1. Act as a focus and as a conduit for raising and responding to questions and concerns related to the champion's subject area within the town Royal Tunbridge Wells, the unparished area of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells, including working with councillors and officers to promote residents' best interests.
2. Provide accountability and avoid potential conflicts of interest.
3. Join a Champions sub-committee which will meet at 6:00pm before Town Forum meetings and to provide short reports when necessary to TF meetings.
4. To contribute to a separate page for each Champion on the Town Forum website www.townforum.org.uk
5. Convene working groups where relevant/necessary and co-opt fellow RTW Town Forum members onto such groups.
6. The Town Forum Chairman may nominate and propose the removal of any champion.

Guidance for champions -

It is understood that where a champion is involved in another organisation, then the activities of that organisation will remain the champion's main concern. However, if the champion knows that identical activities are being done by both organisations then he/she may report to both organisations so as to avoid duplication.

Where a champion's sphere of activity overlaps with that of another champion, then dialogue and co-operation take place between the two champions.

29 January 2009

List of current champions:

Arts / Culture	Michael Larsen
Community / Parks & Leisure	Daniel Bech
Environmental issues	Kate Sergeant
Faith / Social issues	Father Ed Tomlinson (?)
Health / Transport	John Goodfellow
Heritage	Alastair Tod
Planning	Philip Whitbourn
Urban Parishing	Jennifer Blackburn