

**Notes regarding meeting held on the 7th August 2008 between
Robert Cottrill, Director of Planning and Development TWBC
and Cllr Roy Bullock, Leader, TWBC**

The meeting held was, in effect, an update on matters arising at the meeting held with Sheila Wheeler, Chief Executive Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

www.townforum.org.uk/administration/summary-meeting-sw-ct-160608.pdf

www.townforum.org.uk/administration/followcomments-meeting-sw-ct-160608.pdf

1.

Tunbridge Wells in Bloom was discussed. Cllr Bullock indicated that the cost of Tunbridge Wells in Bloom was something the Council could not meet at present. This reflected comments made by Sheila Wheeler.

Cllr Bullock went onto say that if the Town Forum could come up with suggestions then the Council would listen to them. Christopher Thomas said that the Town Forum were looking at bringing the concept under the Love where we Live campaign.

2.

The matter regarding the **Tourist Information Office** was still under review and no decisions had been made.

3.

Christopher Thomas referred to the current **station refurbishments** that were ongoing at the Tunbridge Wells railway station. He went onto say that neither Mike Gibson or Nina Peak of Southeastern had been in contact with the Town Forum following last communications indicating a meeting would be held once scoping had been completed. Robert Cottrill said that he had heard nothing himself and would make sure that if he did he would advise accordingly.

4.

Robert Cottrill reported that unfortunately JC Decaux was not prepared to take on the maintaining of the **Tourist Drums** around the town. A review of the best way forward regarding these drums will be held in due course.

5.

At the time of the meeting Robert Cottrill reported that a **heritage audit** was being progressed regarding the Pantiles. A review of the interior of certain leases (residential) was also being undertaken with a view to improve. The small cinema, which is to be based at what was known as a 'Day at the Wells' on the Pantiles, was being progressed. A review of crossing onto the Pantiles was also being undertaken.

6.

Christopher Thomas raised the fact that **Targetfollow** (Jeremy Aldous) had yet to make contact with the Town Forum. Robert Cottrill said that Jeremy Aldous was apologetic when he last spoke to him and said he would follow this up.

7.

The **Ritz Cinema site** was discussed. It was confirmed by Cllr Bullock that all matters were running to timetable and that September would see major steps forward.

8.

The **'Master Plan'** was discussed, however, as advised by Robert Cottrill, the hands of TWBC are currently tied, as they would be obliged to comply with yet further rules coming from central government prior to any activity. This was understood. The Town Forum can only wait to see what turns out to be the result of yet more centrally controlled briefs and requirements. It was expected that we would expect to see movement in October or November.

9.

Robert Cottrill confirmed that the **protocols held between TWBC and KCC** concerning street furniture and highways works were still being explored.

10.

'Grot Spots' was ongoing as a concern.

11.

Cllr Bullock asked Christopher Thomas that he speak with the Civic Society to ensure there be no duplication of requests. Cllr Bullock did say that he turned down an informal meeting to discuss the 'Master Plan' with the Civic Society and advised them that this matter should be consulted through the Town Forum.

Cllr Bullock also asked that Town Forum members be aware that informal meetings of an ad-hoc basis should be steered away from as a matter of course.

Christopher Thomas
Chairman
Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum