



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

Suggestions of Topics for the Corporate Services Select Committee

Deadline for suggestions - Monday 12 June

Meeting - Tuesday 24 June at 6:30pm in the Town Hall, Committee Room A

1.

Local Authority.

What is the authority of a Councillor? What is the Authority of a Council Officer?

Why do Councillors not communicate what they authorise on behalf of the community to the community?

What is the accountability of a Councillor as against the Local Authority?

2.

Protocols.

What protocols exist between TWBC and KCC?

What services are covered by such agreements?

Why did the Highways protocol get ignored and why has it only just been advised as being complied with from now?

3.

TWBC Staff Recruitment.

Recruitment should not only be based upon upon what qualifications one has, but also whether the person has an intense desire to see the town improve and what knowledge the person has of the area.

Is current employment practice fit for purpose?

4.

Audit.

How do you audit value for money?

Is the current process relevant, up to date and fit for purpose?

5.

RTW Information Drums.

Please review why these drums are not being maintained. We are we advised the drums would be too costly to maintain on a monthly basis and thereby gain revenue by advertising. As this is the case why can you not investigate the possibility to have JC Decaux run these Information Drums. As a result the town has well maintained street furniture while JC Decaux can have income through such advertising.

6.

Communications with Stakeholders.

Communications need to be improved. The TWBC must give feedback on what they do as a result of input of stakeholders. A full review of communication must be undertaken. Currently feedback is bland and inadequate and rarely on paper. Verbal comments are inadequate.

7.

TWBC Internal Communication.

Internal communication between departments must be reviewed.

What processes are there to ensure that all departments communicate at ALL levels?

How does Planning Department communicate?

The current information provided by Planning department is woefully inadequate unless you have time to trawl through papers.

Is the internet used to the maximum to provide information to the public?

8.

NetworkRail / Cinema site.

Why did Council Planning staff not consult Network Rail over the railway tunnel until after the design competition for the cinema?

What lessons can be learned from this and what is the Council doing to ensure this lack of communication does not ever happen again?

9.

Local Elections.

A full review should be undertaken to see what cost it is to the Council Tax payer to have yearly elections?
Why can we not have three or four yearly elections?

10.

Underground Parking.

How does the Council view underground parking? It could mean the TWBC could sell land off not only for development, but also for a car park underneath?

11.

Night Economy.

A review must be undertaken to see how the night trade can subsidise the daily clear up as a result of drunkenness from revelry in hostelryes, following which idiots either urinate in shop doorways, vomit on corners or simply litter.

12.

"Tunbridge Wells in Bloom"

A review needs to be undertaken to see what equivalent activities can be done following the demise of Tunbridge Wells in bloom. This previous activity brought a sense of togetherness and civic pride. It also brightened up the town centre.

13.

New TWBC Logo

Once again we see that members of the public disliked the new logo as they disliked the millenium clock. Each item having a major impact on life.

Why did the Council not think it sensible to consult on the logo?

It is clear to see that little thought was given as to size and proportion. Colour as against background and most importantly what Tunbridge Wells is all about.

How does the logo reflect the borough?

The Council may well have got a logo at a fraction of the cost of £18,500!

I trust the above proves to be of interest.

Christopher Thomas
Chairman
Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum

8 June 2008