



attn: **Scrutiny Team at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council**

In answer to your request for **suggestions for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees** to look at we detail as follows:

### **Local Economy and Housing**

Deadline for suggestions - Monday 26 May 2008

Meeting - Thursday 5 June at 6:00pm in the Town Hall, Committee Room A

- 1.) We would want to know once and for all - **Are empty businesses charged rates?**  
full details on: at what stage? how much? etc.
  
- 2.) **'Front gardens turned into car parking spaces'**  
**- exactly when will the Council adopt the use of Article 4 Directions?**

RTW Town Forum Meeting with TWBC Director for Planning and Development ( Robert Cottrill) and Head of Planning Services (Jim Kehoe) and Cllr. Roy Bullock *4 April 2008*

<http://www.townforum.org.uk/planning/meetingcottrillkehoes040408-note.pdf>

#### **Forecourt Parking - Conversion of Front Gardens/Patios into Car-parking Areas**

With regard to the increasing problem of car parking in front gardens, JK said that the Council did not rule out the possibility of making Article 4 Directions if suitable cases came forward.

*"The amount of hard standing in urban areas is increasing. In London alone around two-thirds of front gardens – equivalent to an area 22 times the size of Hyde Park – are at least partially paved over, primarily to provide parking bays" (31.10.2007)*

### **Environment and Safer & Stronger Communities**

Deadline for suggestions - Thursday 29 May 2008

Meeting - Tuesday 10 June at 6:30pm in the Town Hall, Committee Room A

- 1.) **York Road has now a defacto Taxi rank for Private Hire cars, but some official Taxis use it too:**

On the pavement to the side of former Habitat (double yellow lines) and in front of the Natwest ATM (double yellow lines changing to single yellow lines). This is of great concern to local residents as during the night it is pretty disturbing! - The traffic goes through the whole road (one way from London Road leading to Mt Pleasant). Sometimes up to 8 taxis park there to be called off.

- 2.) **Dog Fouling DOG MESS EVERYWHERE!**  
**- legislation in place, but is it visible enough? - is it enforced?**

Trinity Gardens, St John's Rec, pavements,

pages 49 – 51 examples of dog fouling - [http://www.townforum.org.uk/focusgroup/grotspots\\_handout\\_s100408.pdf](http://www.townforum.org.uk/focusgroup/grotspots_handout_s100408.pdf)

- 3.) **unsightly Commercial Bins BINS EVERYWHERE!**

in front of shops, at Five ways, hindering on pavement, next to footpath ( York Road – Trinity – Church Road )  
pages 53 – 56 examples of bins - [http://www.townforum.org.uk/focusgroup/grotspots\\_handout\\_s100408.pdf](http://www.townforum.org.uk/focusgroup/grotspots_handout_s100408.pdf)

4.) Street scene - clutter with Real Estate Signs **TOO MANY EVERYWHERE!**

5.) **Noise and unwanted disturbances from houses in multiple occupation/flats.**

**How does the interaction work between Local Authority/Police/Housing Association?  
Is there a clear process that all parties have to adhere to and if not why not?  
Why does it take so long for the affected to be listened to/be relieved?**

6.) **Anti social behaviour**

**Why does the aggressor have the law to protect them?**

**Why does the sufferer have to suffer without any support from the Local Authority, especially if you are a freeholder?**

It seems that if you are being harassed by a neighbour you have to resort to the Courts, rather than having the full support of a Local Authority to ensure a person is given an ASBO?

As you can see the requests are borne out of what is happening today. If we are to have clean, safer and stronger communities then the above must be addressed.

If we are to believe what we hear then answers under the Local Economy and Housing aspect must be provided.

Thank you for putting these items forward.

Regards

Christopher Thomas  
Chairman  
Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum

25 May 2008