



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

RTW Town Forum summary note of the Management Team meeting 140711

This was the first meeting of the officers of the Town Forum under the new constitution. David Wakefield (Chair) and Jane Fenwick (Deputy) were present as was Robert Hardy (TWBC and Town Forum Secretary).

The draft minutes of the June meeting were agreed for wider circulation as was the draft agenda.

Future Agenda

Three amendments are suggested to the 'standard items' on the agenda as follows – 'Reports from Councillors' are in set out in two parts.

Firstly, there should be those that take the form of reporting back on matters from previous meetings that a specific Councillor had agreed to take forward.

Secondly, that (starting from the September meeting) the councillors for a specific Ward jointly provide an update on local matters in their Ward. Is there a volunteer for the September meeting?

'Reports from Champions/Vision Committee' be dropped as a standing item and replaced as follows – a regular report from the Management Committee and regular reports from Town Forum Working Parties (more on this below).

Future items for discussion

The Management Committee looked at the items suggested in the 'Forward Plan' appended to the minutes of the May meeting and wanted to make the following suggestions.

That the Town Forum agrees to no more than 4 priority topics for it to consider over the next year. That some of the items on the 'Forward Plan' needed to be looked at in greater detail by the Management Committee to help it decide whether the topic should be considered a priority to be added to the Town Forum agenda. Finally that room need to be kept aside on each agenda for topics of a pressing nature – for example KCC consultations on the future of the youth service and (later this year) the future of the Library service.

The four items suggested are –

- Supporting short-term action on the Cinema Site
- Direct involvement with the Town Centre master-plan/TCAAP processes (which would include the Civic Complex)
- A focus on what more could be done to boost (overnight) tourism
- Improvements needed/opportunities to be taken in relation to parking, improving ‘the street-scene’ and further pedestrianisation

For each of these the Management Committee would like to hear the views of Town Forum members on the formation of a working party to undertake more detailed work and to bring suggestions and recommendations to the Town Forum. The excellent work done by the Planning/Housing Working Party was felt to be a model for how this could work.

In the meantime the Management Committee will undertake further work in relation to –

- Special Expenses – to understand what opportunity the Town Forum may have to influence this budget and
- the Localism Bill (especially the impact on Planning and the potential future role of the Town Forum)

The Management Committee also asked Robert Hardy to prepare a ‘briefing pack’ for all Town Forum representatives, which would include a map of the unparished area and key statistics relating to local residents and businesses. Further suggested additions to these packs are welcome.

Finally, the Management Committee agreed to contact all those member organisations who do not have a current named representative to ask if they wish to remain in membership and if so to appoint a representative (and deputy if they so choose). Robert Hardy also pointed out that the following Residents’ Associations in the unparished area are not currently members and he was asked to write to them inviting them to join.

The organisations are –

Lansdowne Square Residents’ Association
 Shrublands Court Residents’ Association
 The Avenues Residents’ Association
 The Beech Manor Residents’ Committee
 Manor Park Residents’ Association
 Cornford Lane & Halls Hole Road Residents’ Association