



Your Conservative Borough Councillors, Tracy Moore and Chris Woodward, hope that this bulletin for St John's residents will be informative and reflect relevant recent developments. Tracy Moore, a full-time mother elected by you in 2008, and Chris Woodward, an IT management consultant elected by you in 2006, enjoy serving the Ward, and intend to ensure that your needs continue to be addressed.

You Can Meet Chris & Tracy, from 5–6pm at ...

St John's: Feb 25th, Apr 29th,
Jun 24th, Sep 30th,
Nov 25th

St Luke's: Jan 28th, Mar 25th,
May 27th, Jul 29th,
Oct 28th

Highlights

Locally

- Youth needs get attention
- Residents Associations being formed
- Safe cycle-lane proposal gets our support
- Hadley Court will get a bus stop
- New bins at Bennett School & Hurst Wood
- St John's Quarter is recognised
- Short term parking helps St John's traders
- Silverdale Road traders needs to be assessed

More widely

- Development partner to regenerate our towns
- More kerbside collection of recyclables
- Ritz to be blitzed
- Gateway improves customer service
- Love Where We Live initiative launched

Residents Associations Participate in the Town Forum



We continue to explore the degree of interest of residents in forming local Residents Associations. All Borough Councillors assisted in the recent formation of the Four Roads RA (for residents of Cunningham Road, Cunningham Close, Montgomery Road and Tedder Road), formed specifically to address needs for community-building and youth activities. We all joined residents in their clear up of the "playground" in preparation for its use in 2009 for a community social event.

Residents are entitled to send representatives to the Town Forum. We are currently working in Silverdale Road to assess local interests in forming an association, and will continue to pursue these enquiries in other areas of the Ward in 2009.

Youth Needs

We continue to raise awareness of the needs of youth in the Council. While local government responsibility for youth matters is largely County based, in 2009 TWBC will establish a local youth board to ensure this important area of local public concern is given a greater voice.

- From Thursday January 29th, and thereafter weekly, the Street Cruiser Bus, will be visiting the Ward for young people to chat, and meet youth workers.
- From the third week of February, with the assistance of Charlton Athletic Football Club, 12–5 year olds will be able to receive coaching and practice over 12 weeks.
- TWBC intends to host a SNAP Disco (Say No And Phone) in the first half of 2009. We have investigated sites and are in constant contact with relevant officers to ensure that this typically well-attended event is again held for our young people.



Cycling Proposal

We have been promoting a resident-led innovative cycling solution for St. John's. This effort aligns with election pledges to try to reduce emissions and improve air quality in the area. The idea centres on the issue of safety, and trying to separate cyclists and motorists whenever possible. Phase 1 of the scheme is an 'off-road' cycle path, connecting St. Gregory's and TW Grammar School for Boys with the St. John's Recreation Ground, and TW Girls Grammar and Skinners School. KCC is currently working on a proposal to pitch for funding from Sustrans (the charity promoting bicycling) in their £17m Safe Routes to Schools scheme. We have been working closely with KCC Councillor Roy Bullock and MP Greg Clark on ensuring the implementation of Phase 1. If successful in getting more children to cycle to school (so reducing school-run traffic congestion), it is hoped more phases of 'off-road' cycle paths will be established.

Culverden Down Litter Review

In November 2008 your Borough Councillors presented to the Environment & Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee, a review of litter and dog fouling in an area of the ward. As a result, new litterbins have been placed outside Bennett Memorial School along Culverden Down, and at the entrance to Hurst Wood at Coniston Avenue. The aim is to reduce litter on the pavement along Culverden Down. New dog-fouling signs are in place along the notorious 'dog poo alley' on the footpath leading from Culverden Down to the St. John's Recreation Ground.

St. John's Trading Association

In late autumn 2008 the St. John's Trading Association was formed with Stampede owner, Andrea Afrifa elected as Chair. We have been in regular contact with the Association to assist with business development in the area. We are exploring various ways of increasing publicity for this retail area; the "St. John's Quarter" featured in the November issue of 'SO Tunbridge Wells' magazine. Signs identifying the area as the St. John's Quarter are a future possibility.

Silverdale Road Retailers

Early this year we begin to take a direct interest in another local retail economy, the one along Silverdale Road. By the time this bulletin is issued all Borough Councillors and relevant Officers will have met with representatives of the retailers in this part of the Ward to discuss and address issues that may help them to maintain viable businesses, particularly important in the current economic downturn.

Hadley Court Bus Stop

In Autumn 2008 a resident requested a bus stop near Hadley Court on Culverden Down, to serve the many older citizens and pensioners of the area. We are pleased to report that a new stop on Route 280 should be established in early February.

Binmen will take cans and plastic

New Waste Collection Service for 2009

In 2008 the Council invited bids for the provision of new waste-collection services for 2009 and the next ten years. We were active in seeking improved services for our residents and at the end of 2008 the Council signed the contract with the selected supplier. Under the new arrangements the additional elements of plastic bottles and tin cans are added to current kerbside waste collection.

John Street Car Park

In October 2008, an area of the John Street car park was designated for short term (one hour) parking. This was a successful conclusion to two years of campaigning by the independent businesses of St. John's Rd. We were instrumental in bringing this issue to the attention of the relevant Cabinet member, and key officers at TWBC, and getting this interim measure approved.





Gateway Successfully Swings into Action

In November 2008, TWBC opened its Gateway in the centre of Tunbridge Wells so as to better serve the needs of residents. Early monitoring of residents' use of the Gateway indicates their needs are being more efficiently addressed. Queue times are especially monitored to ensure appropriate levels of service. Gateway staff continue to be trained to handle an increasingly wider range of service requests.

The Gateway, operated in partnership with the KCC, is intended to make it easier for residents to access local government and other community services, such as those provided by voluntary agencies.

Some recent comments from members of the public who visited the Gateway include:

- **The graffiti reported on our side fence was very speedily removed – and very professionally. Many thanks!**
- **The service is fantastic and the idea is simple and easy to use. A good use of money!**
- **Perfect location, innovative, with excellent staff. Haven't ever been so impressed with TWBC!**

Attention now shifts to overseeing opportunities for making Council services more cost effective, particularly those that can be accessed through the Gateway.

Ward Walk

In June this year your Borough Councillors and Council staff will be visiting streets in the Ward to meet residents, and discuss Council services. This process continues the practice, initiated in 2007, that allows representatives of the Council to get direct feedback from the community it serves.

“Love Where We Live” launched

Inspired TWBC staff were behind the launch of the Borough's Love Where We Live campaign, which we hope reflects the feelings of all residents. We encourage all our residents to engage in those community actions that will maintain and improve community life.

(Visit www.lovewherewelive.com for more news).

Love 
Where
We Live

Ritz to be Blitzed



In 2009 we are looking forward to seeing the demolition of the old cinema site in the town centre and a new development begin to rise in its place, one which will reinvigorate our local economy and bring a much improved appearance to the centre of our town. With the agreement of the site owner, in early 2008 the Council initiated a competition for a new design for the site, which then led to a planning application being approved in November, and a legal agreement being signed in January 2009. Work is expected to commence in April.

Development Partner Deal Signed – St John's Car Park is a target

In 2008 the Council entered into a partnership with John Laing plc for the regeneration of our town centres. This 10-year agreement involves the development of key Council-owned sites, and the possible acquisition of others, aimed at improving our local economy and the general condition of our towns. One of the sites that will be redeveloped is St John's car park site, but car parking will continue to be provided. As your Councillors we will take an active part in ensuring the interests of the ward are not compromised.

Post Offices, Hospitals and A21 – The Fight Goes On – Greg Clark MP

The last few months have been crucial for two of the biggest issues affecting Tunbridge Wells – the new Pembury Hospital and the dualling of the A21. Thank goodness, after years of campaigning, we finally secured approval for the new hospital which is already rising from the ground.

Ministers also agreed, under pressure, to bring forward the proposed date for dualling the A21 at Castle Hill – but only to 2011. So the fight doesn't stop there – I will continue to press for the work on the A21 to be brought forward and will not rest until, like the hospital, I see the work actually begin.

While we have had progress on the hospital and the A21, everyone will share my frustration that the sub-Post Office in St John's Road was lost despite overwhelming evidence that it played such a vital role in the community. St John's Church was packed for the public meeting I held with Post Office managers, and the fact that they did not listen to the unanswerable case made was a disgrace. We must do all that we can to support this local business and I am continuing to press the Post Office nationally on how we can re-introduce Post Office services back into areas like St John's.

Message from Roy Bullock MBE

My role as your County Councillor is to represent your concerns, comments and service difficulties to the County Council Cabinet and Senior Officers. These cover the full range of Council activities from complaints about the provision of school meals, walking buses, transport appeals, to individual complaints about the manner in which you, as a resident, might have been dealt with by the Council.

Another important element of my work is to continually harass officers in all departments to ensure that my electoral division receives a fair share of the monies that are spent by the County across Kent. This is particularly true for resource allocation on road, footpath and lighting maintenance. But the most pleasurable part of the job is working with our MP and your two excellent Borough Councillors Tracy and Chris to deliver significant improvements for the residents of St John's.

Thank you for all your support over the years and please do remember – I am only a phone call away if you need help.

Our TWBC roles and contact details

- **Tracy Moore: Mobile – 07980 894624**
Email: tracy.moore@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
Tracy currently serves on the Borough's Local Development Framework Members' Working Party, and the Environment & Safer & Stronger Communities Select Committee, and is a Governor at St Barnabas Primary School.
- **Chris Woodward: Mobile – 07788 598472**
Email: chris.woodward@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
Chris currently serves on the Western Planning Committee (as Vice Chairman), Licensing Committee, General Purposes Committee, and Local Economy & Housing Select Committee; is the Lead Member with oversight for the Gateway and business process improvement; and is a Trustee of Molyneux Alms Houses
- **Roy Bullock: Mobile – 07711 839079**
Email: roy.bullock@kent.gov.uk
Roy, as well as being a KCC Councillor, is the TWBC Council Leader



Roy Bullock (KCC & TWBC Leader), Tracy Moore and Chris Woodward (TWBC Councillors), Greg Clark MP