



AGENDA

**Thursday 26 September 2013 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS**

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Membership changes**
 - a Membership applications (for decision)
 - b Changes of representatives (for information)
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 July 2013 (Pages 1 - 8)**
- 4 Actions from previous meeting (5 mins)**

Minute 4 – Evidence of formal appointments – all representatives
NB – to date, 15 out of the 35 active organisations have submitted evidence
- 5 Update from Leader of the Council (10 mins)**
- 6 Localism Act - assets of community value (10 mins)**

TWBC's Head of Economic Development, David Candlin, will talk about how the Localism Act enables community groups to nominate privately- or publicly-owned buildings or land, as 'assets of community value'.
- 7 Fiveways/Millennium Clock area - public realm improvements (10 mins)**

TWBC's Portfolio-holder for Sustainability, Cllr Paul Barrington-King, and the Head of Environment and Street Scene, Gary Stevenson, will lead a discussion on de-cluttering proposals for this area, as part of a 'shared space' approach.
- 8 Annual General Meeting - Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairmen (5 mins) (Pages 9 - 10)**

A report, setting out the procedural issues of the Annual General Meeting in November, is attached.
- 9 Update reports from the working groups (Pages 11 - 14)**
 - (a) **Water in the Wells** – Michael Holman, chairman of the working group, has prepared the attached update report (page 11).
 - (b) **Leisure, Culture and Tourism** – June Bridgeman, chairman of this working group, will report verbally on progress.
 - (c) **Traffic Strategy** – Jane Fenwick, acting chairman of the working group, has prepared the attached update report (page 13)

(d) **Planning and Development Strategy** – Michael Doyle, chairman of the working group, will report verbally on progress.

(e) **Finance and Other Issues** – David Wakefield, chairman of the working group, will report verbally on progress.

10 Future consultation issues (5 mins)

Mike McGeary will summarise the attached paper, which sets out which issues of general interest to the Town Forum will be the subject of formal public consultation over the coming months.

11 Any other business (5 mins)

12 Final 2013 meeting and proposed dates for 2014

Thursday 28 November 2013: Annual General Meeting, followed by ordinary meeting

2014:

Thursday 16 January

Thursday 20 March

Thursday 8 May

Thursday 10 July

Thursday 25 September

Thursday 27 November (including AGM)

All starting at 6.30pm

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ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

Thursday 25 July 2013

Attended: Cllr Bob Backhouse, Sally Balcon, Lorna Blackmore, Stephen Bowser, David Bushell (sub), Cllr Ben Chapelard, Michael Doyle, Jane Fenwick, Alex Green, Michaela van Halewyn, Tim Harper, Jim Kedge, Kyrios Kyriacou, George Lawson (sub), Katharina Mahler-Bech, John Mattei, Marguerita Morton, Cllr David Neve, Altan Omer, Peter Perry, Christine Phillip (sub), Anne Stobo, Alastair Tod, David Wakefield (Chairman), Mary Wardrop, Victor Webb and Philip Whitbourn (sub)

TWBC officers present: William Benson (Chief Executive), Mike McGeary (Democratic Services Officer) and Catriona Franck (work experience student)

Also present: Léonie Harrington, Cllr Paul Barrington-King (TWBC Cabinet Portfolio-holder for Sustainability), Cllr Jane March (TWBC Cabinet Portfolio-holder for Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development), Cllr Alan McDermott (TWBC Cabinet Portfolio-holder for Planning and Transportation), County Cllr Matthew Balfour, Chad Nwanosike (Senior Transport Planner, KCC) and Hilary Smith (Economic Development Manager, TWBC)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were reported from: June Bridgeman, John Cunningham, Maggie Fraser, Dorothea Holman, Michael Holman, Sue Kaner, Bill Kern, Angela Phillips, Margaret Watts, Chris Wigley and Cllrs Peter Bulman, David Jukes, Mrs Catherine Mayhew, Trevor Poile, Len Price, David Scott, Mrs Lynne Weatherly and Frank Williams.

2. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

There were no changes to report.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2013 be agreed.

4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

23 May 2013

4 Evidence of formal appointment to the Town Forum

MMcG Representatives to submit evidence of their formal appointment to the Town Forum.

The Democratic Services Officer advised that 14 out of the 47 representative organisations had now submitted evidence of their formal appointment to the Town Forum. He also set out the relevant section of the Town Forum's Constitution, where reference was made to the need to submit evidence in the format of "...a copy of the AGM minutes, or similar...". The Chairman reiterated once more the importance of submitting this information, in the interests of good governance.

5. UPDATE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman advised that Cllr David Jukes had been unable to attend the meeting because his wife was unwell and he had sent his apologies for absence. The Chief Executive added that the Leader of the Council had said that he was happy to attend the next meeting, in order to provide a verbal update on key issues affecting the town.

On behalf of the Town Forum, the Chairman sent his best wishes to the Leader's wife for a speedy recovery.

6. UPDATE REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

William Benson was welcomed to the meeting and provided a corporate and financial overview of the Borough Council, ahead of the 2013/14 priority-formulating and budget-setting processes, which would begin in the Autumn.

Mr Benson first provided a national context, where he stressed how local government was being asked to make the biggest cuts to public expenditure, compared with central government departments. He also demonstrated how social care costs were increasingly squeezing out discretionary areas of spend.

Against that backdrop, Mr Benson explained what action had already been taken by TWBC to address the huge cut in government support, through a mix of: staff reductions; discretionary services being reduced or stopped; some fees/charges being increased; the Mid-Kent Improvement Partnership initiative, (where district councils were pooling their resources in order to provide a more resilient service); and the outsourcing of some services.

As for the future, Mr Benson drew attention to the Borough Council's vision for the town, details of which had already been shared with the Town Forum by the Leader of the Council. Mr Benson warned that, while there was some evidence of economic growth in the Borough and some cause for optimism, it was difficult to rely on future government support for district councils, as shown by the loss of the 'new homes bonus', the distribution rules for which were changing.

The Chairman next opened up the subject for questions, as follows:

- (a) Jane Fenwick asked the Chief Executive how important he felt it was for there to be less traffic congestion, in order to deliver economic growth. Mr Benson, acknowledged that it was vital, and reminded Forum members how TWBC and KCC had jointly secured funding commitments to both the A21 dualling scheme and to improving the North Farm business park traffic problems but he cautioned that there were insufficient funds available to tackle all of the congestion issues in the town.
- (b) Victor Webb focused on the fact that over 50 members of staff had been made redundant in recent years. He asked what the cost of this action had been to the authority and how much had been paid to contract some of these services externally. Mr Benson replied that details of staffing numbers and costs (including redundancy costs) were included in budget reports and quarterly budget updates; he added that the Council tried to take advantage of opportunities presented by staff leaving and that the outsourcing of services always went through an open and transparent process. On this point, Cllr Backhouse welcomed the savings that had been achieved through the partnership working initiative with other authorities, which had also brought about greater resilience to services.

- (c) The Chairman, who also acted as Chairman of the Finance and Other Issues Working Group, reminded members that the Forum had been able to respond to TWBC's budget-setting process last year and intended to do so again this year. He asked the Chief Executive to view the Forum as a group of interested local people who were willing to assist the Borough Council in its formulating of priorities and budget-setting functions.

RESOLVED – That the Chief Executive be thanked for his presentation.

7. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Jane Fenwick, who was the acting chairman of the Traffic Strategy Working Group, led this discussion and presented the following guests, who had agreed to take part in the discussion: County Cllr Matthew Balfour (Deputy to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment), Borough Cllr Alan McDermott (Cabinet Portfolio-holder for Planning and Transportation), Chad Nwanosike (Senior Transport Planner, KCC) and Hilary Smith (Economic Development Manager, TWBC).

Mrs Fenwick summarised the issue to date. She reminded the Forum that her working group had prepared a response to the Borough Council's draft Transport Strategy which had been circulated to all Forum members for comment and approval, before submission to TWBC in March. She added that a meeting had been held with senior KCC and TWBC elected members and officers on 1 July, when the Forum's key concerns had been discussed. Mrs Fenwick advised that a member of her working group, Peter Perry, had also attended the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) meeting on 15 July, when an interim report had been considered, summarising the key issues raised through the public consultation stage of the draft Transport Strategy.

The principal issue of concern amongst the Traffic Strategy Working Group members had been congestion in the town. Mrs Fenwick strongly believed that, with the greater number of homes planned for the town in the coming few years, the congestion issue would only become worse, unless there was a commitment – in the Traffic Strategy and in actual action – to address this fundamental element.

To provide some focus for the discussion, Mrs Fenwick invited the special guests to answer the following matters, starting with how decisions are made about traffic, with the following issues in mind:

- (a) Decision-making – how to make it work better for Tunbridge Wells;
- (b) Congestion – its impact and solutions, including relief roads;
- (c) Visitors, pedestrians and the cycling experience; and
- (d) Parking and public transport.

- Mr Nwanosike explained that the basis of partnership working between TWBC and KCC was set out in the 'Service protocol for development planning'. He added that the congestion relief scheme for the North Farm business park and the draft Transport Strategy were two key areas being worked on by the two authorities.
- Mrs Smith, who was TWBC's main contact on transport issues, advised that, following on from the JTB meeting held on 15 July, she would be undertaking some re-drafting work on the draft Strategy, in which she was willing to work with the Forum's Traffic Strategy Working Group. Mrs Smith added that, as and when traffic issues were raised with the Borough Council, these were discussed with KCC as the highways authority in the first instance. She advised that there were other, specific, aspects on which partnership working took

place between the two authorities; one of these was the Quality Bus Partnership and work was currently underway in the preparation of a Borough bus map, including visitor information (funded by S106 developer contributions). The Forum was advised that KCC and TWBC were also working together to prepare a cycling strategy for the Borough.

Finally, Mrs Smith advised that regular cross-boundary discussion on transport issues took place amongst the West Kent partnership authorities (i.e. TWBC, Tonbridge & Malling BC and Sevenoaks DC) and, when it was necessary, with East Sussex.

General discussion then took place as follows:

- Mrs Fenwick sought clarification on **how traffic/highway projects were initiated** and worked up. Mr Nwanosike explained that some schemes might develop in order to mitigate the effects of development which had obtained planning consent, thus 'section 106' (S106) developer contributions might fund such work. Other schemes might be safety-critical, an aspect which might trigger the need for a relevant scheme. The Chief Executive added that, from a TWBC perspective, other schemes might be initiated locally, such as the proposals for Fiveways, which was a 'public realm' initiative by the Borough Council. County Cllr Balfour provided further explanation on how schemes came into being, including proposals which might start with individuals making contact with their local councillor.
- Tim Harper asked who took the lead responsibility for resolving a traffic issue, such as the Pembury Road/Blackhurst Lane/Halls Hole Road scheme. Mr Nwanosike advised that KCC would be the lead authority, adding that, in this case, a number of improvement measures had been implemented, following endorsement from the Tunbridge Wells JTB.
- Kyrios Kyriacou asked if there should be some form of feedback process for schemes in the future. Cllr McDermott advised that this was through the existing JTB meeting structure.
- Mrs Fenwick still felt that the opportunity should exist for the public to set out what they wished to see for the town, in terms of traffic and highway improvements.
- Victor Webb picked up on the comment that some schemes had been initiated in order to 'mitigate the effects of development'. He felt that there had been some poor decisions made about S106 developer contributions in the recent past, to which County Cllr Balfour responded by saying that it was for TWBC to negotiate relevant amounts.
- Borough Cllr David Neve believed that the effectiveness of the JTB had been adversely affected by the lack of continuity in KCC officers attending, an aspect which County Cllr Balfour acknowledged.
- Borough Cllr Barrington-King voiced his optimism over the partnership working between TWBC and KCC on highways issues. He also praised the Town Forum for the positive work they were pursuing in their wish to see water features provided, where early engagement was, he believed, the key to success.

- Michael Doyle made reference to the North Farm scheme to address congestion issues. He enquired how negotiations were continuing with those land owners who were reluctant to help with the site assembly. County Cllr Balfour advised that he was confident that those outstanding discussions with land owners would be concluded shortly. He added that this was an important aspect, as KCC's commitment to the scheme was dependent upon full site assembly; he also advised that a significant part of the funding for the scheme was coming from central government 'pinch-point' money.
- Both Mrs Fenwick and Philip Whitbourn felt it important to emphasise Tunbridge Wells' **border position** in the context of the Traffic Strategy, adding that it might be helpful to have an East Sussex County Council representative taking part in this discussion. Mr Nwanosike advised that discussions with East Sussex did indeed already take place for schemes that impacted on both counties. Mrs Smith reiterated TWBC's willingness to liaise and discuss with all neighbouring authorities.
- Sally Balcon raised the important issue of **air quality**, which was acknowledged as being another undesirable consequence of congestion. Mrs Smith advised that the Borough Council already had an 'air quality management area' along the A26, where air quality was closely monitored and that air quality was an issue acknowledged in the draft Transport Strategy. Cllr McDermott added that he was also aware that Arriva were planning to implement improved exhaust emission controls on their latest vehicles. On this element, Cllr Jane March advised that Greg Clark MP had stressed the importance of addressing air quality concerns when he was pressing the Department of Transport for approval to the A21 dualling scheme. In addressing the issue of air quality, County Cllr Balfour said that, while district councils were responsible for its measuring and monitoring, they were not responsible for implementing schemes to rectify, thereby exposing a weakness in tackling the issue.
- Lorna Blackmore referred to the recent A26 congestion, where an HGV had broken down, creating many hours of queuing and disruption in the town. She felt that the poor road layout had been partly to blame. Mrs Fenwick used that example as an argument for the long term planning of **relief roads**. Both Peter Perry and Mrs Fenwick believed TWBC and KCC should be more aspirational when it came to relief road provision, so that plans could be agreed now, ready for implementation should funds ever become available.
- Stephen Bowser referred to the publication 'Growth without Gridlock', adding that he would like to see much-improved **public transport** as a central platform in addressing congestion. He enquired why we did not make more use of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, provided by central government. Mrs Smith advised that the Local Sustainable Transport Fund had been a Department for Transport initiative which had now ended. Tunbridge Wells had put forward some suggested projects to the County Council for a bid under this scheme but, against competing demands across Kent, the Tunbridge Wells projects had not been selected for inclusion on this occasion. County Cllr Balfour confirmed that East Kent had, in the past, tended to do well under such a bidding process, explaining that it was largely based on deprivation statistics. Mr Bowser felt, therefore, that TWBC should be emphasising the importance of its public transport need through the Transport Strategy process.

- Mr Kyriacos enquired who was responsible for **strategic forecasting** across the Borough. Mr Nwanosike advised that this was a joint partnership approach via the Local Plan process, including the Site Allocations Development Plan Document route (which had recently been undertaken and on which the Forum had received a briefing in March). He added that forecasting was supported by the VISUM modelling work that would provide evidence on the soundness of the Transport Strategy and Local Plan.

Mrs Fenwick asked Forum members to finish off by focusing on issues at a local street level and on parking:

- Cllr Ben Chapelard enquired what the outcome had been from a review of the success of **20mph zones**. County Cllr Balfour advised that, although the results of the review were not yet known, generally 20mph zones were felt not to be effective, adding that the police would not approve a scheme unless they felt it was appropriate. Cllr Balfour advised that there would be full consultation on the outcome of the review in October. Cllr Backhouse believed that 20mph zones were still in demand, enforceable by the police or not; he felt that they could be implemented as a direct result of the Localism Act.
- Mrs Fenwick enquired if there were an adverse impact on Tunbridge Wells as a **visitor destination** because of the congestion problem. Cllr March felt this strengthened the case for the town centre pedestrianisation proposal and, if it attracted visitors, for extending the scheme.
- Marguerita Morton said that, within the Leisure, Culture and Tourism Working Group, there had been the feeling that some hotel chains did not view the town as viable for their trade, due to the congestion issues. Cllr Balfour believed that was not a valid reason; good access (to motorways or railway stations) was far more important, he felt.
- Mr Webb felt there was a conflict in demanding the provision of relief roads at the same time as closing other roads to make way for a pedestrianised town centre.
- Cllr Neve referred to page 27 of the draft Transport Strategy, specifically: "There are a number of interventions that have been considered, which are not included in the Strategy, for example bus rapid transit, congestion charging and additional relief roads. It is considered that these cannot be delivered within the timescale of the Strategy." He felt that this showed a lack of vision, adding that he felt there was a lack of commitment towards park and ride because of it would reduce the authority's keenness on car park revenue generation.

In summarising the debate, Mrs Fenwick thanked all the contributors to the debate. She urged KCC to listen to the issues which had been raised and TWBC to help realise the ambitions of the members of the Town Forum.

Cllr McDermott committed TWBC to continue to work with Town Forum members on highways and transportation issues, as this debate developed.

There were no specific action points arising from this item.

8. WORKING GROUPS

Update reports were made from the working groups as follows:

Water in the Wells Working Group – The Chairman, Michael Holman, had provided a written update report, which had been circulated with the agenda. He advised that a community interest company (Water in the Wells CIC) had been incorporated. Their

stated activities included contributing to the design, construction, installation, maintenance and operation of water features in and around Royal Tunbridge Wells, in order to promote the regeneration of its spa-town heritage. The CIC was currently seeking assistance with publicity and fund-raising activities.

Amongst other issues to note, the Town Forum learnt that the Water in the Wells Working Group continued to engage with influential individuals and local firms that have development plans. The Working Group also welcomed the planned de-cluttering of Fiveways and was very keen to see this scheme incorporate a water feature, as announced by the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED – That the progress report be accepted.

Leisure, Culture and Tourism Working Group – In the absence of the Chairman of this working group, Mary Wardrop provided a short summary of its most recent meeting. Cllr Woodward, recently appointed by TWBC as its ‘Youth Champion’, had attended the working group meeting where he had spelt out more details about plans for a permanent youth hub and a re-invigorated youth forum.

The working group had also discussed the outcome from the recent survey among young people of what their favourite activities were and what they would like to see in the town.

Mrs Wardrop added that the next meeting would be taking place on 5 September when the focus would be on: (a) the needs, preferences and priorities for supporting the actions of youngsters, open space provision and older people’s access to facilities; and (b) the results of a survey on souvenirs for tourists in the town.

RESOLVED – That the progress report be accepted.

Traffic Strategy Working Group – The acting Chairman, Jane Fenwick, advised that there were no further issues to report, adding that the working group’s focus had been on the matters already covered in minute 7 above.

Planning and Development Strategy – Michael Doyle, Chairman of this working group, reported on TWBC’s timetable for dealing with responses submitted on the Site Allocations Development Plan document. He advised that nothing was likely to come back to his working group or the Town Forum until early in 2014.

Finance and Other Issues – David Wakefield, Chairman of this working group, advised that he had no issues to report to the wider membership, although there would be much work to consider once TWBC’s budget-setting and priority-formulating processes began.

There were no specific action points arising from the above reports.

9. FUTURE CONSULTATION ISSUES

Mike McGeary had circulated a list of future consultation issues which the Borough Council would be leading on, drawn from TWBC’s ‘Notice of Intent to Make Key Decisions’.

There were no action points arising from this report.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Town Forum administrator advised that meetings for the remainder of the year had been arranged as follows:

Thursdays 26 September and 28 November (to include the AGM), all starting at 6.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

26 September 2013

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN

Introduction

- (1) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Town Forum takes place on Thursday 28 November 2013 at 6.30pm, ahead of an ordinary/general meeting that same evening.
- (2) Under the terms of the Town Forum's Constitution, the business of the AGM is as follows:
 - Receive a report from the Chairman on the Town Forum's activities over the year;
 - Elect a Management Committee; and
 - Consider any other matters including normal agenda items as may be required.
- (3) As a reminder, the Management Committee consists of a Chairman and two Deputy Chairmen.
- (4) This report sets out the procedural requirements for the election of the Management Committee.

Management Committee

- (5) The Town Forum's Constitution specifies the following regarding the annual election of its Management Committee (section 5):
 - The Chairman must be a named representative of a member residents' association;
 - Of the two Deputy-Chairmen, at least one must be a named representative from a member residents' association;
 - The Chairman and both Deputy Chairmen shall be elected annually and will only be eligible to serve a maximum of two terms in any one office, unless a majority of eligible voting Forum members agree to allow a further term of office. It is not intended that a Deputy Chairman will automatically become Chairman.
 - The Management Committee may co-opt onto the Committee (for up to one year in an advisory and non-voting capacity) up to three members of the Town Forum, whom it considers will help to fulfil the aims of, or have some valuable expertise to contribute to, the Town Forum.

Voting at the AGM

- (6) The Constitution states the following (section 7) on the voting requirements for the Management Committee:
 - At least one third of nominated representatives who satisfy the voting entitlement requirements must be present for the AGM to take place.

Agenda Item 8

- (7) 27 out of the 35 active organisations within the Town Forum have met the necessary attendance requirements (i.e. have attended at least 50% of Town Forum meetings across the year) and their representatives will be entitled to vote; a further seven organisations have been contacted, advising them that if they attend the 26 September meeting, they too will meet the attendance requirement figure.
- (8) Four TWBC ward members have also achieved the minimum meeting attendance requirement, with a further seven able to do so, if they attend the September meeting.

Nomination process

- (9) The Constitution specifies the following in respect of nominations for the positions of Chairman and Deputy Chairmen (section 7):
 - Nominations for the Chairman and the Deputy Chairmen positions must be submitted to the Secretary at least two weeks before the AGM and must be accompanied by a short statement setting out what they want to achieve during their period of office.
 - Candidates for the posts of Chairman and Deputy Chairman will be announced at the AGM and shall be formally proposed and seconded.
- (10) In accordance with the above requirement, nominations should be sent to Mike McGeary at the Town Hall by Thursday 14 November.

Summary

- (11) The Annual General Meeting of the Town Forum takes place on Thursday 28 November at 6.30pm.
- (12) At that meeting, it will be necessary to elect a Chairman and up to two Deputy Chairmen for 2013/14. The Chairman and at least one of the Deputy Chairmen must be named representatives of member resident associations.
- (13) If you wish to make a nomination for either Chairman or one of the Deputy Chairmen positions, please advise Mike McGeary by 5pm on Thursday 14 November.

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ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

WATER IN THE WELLS WORKING GROUP

Progress report for Town Forum Meeting 26 September 2013

Since my last report to the Town Forum (25 July, item 8) the Working Group has held two meetings (31 July and 10 September).

I am pleased to seek the Forum's support for and endorsement of our activities, which include the following:

1. Consolidating the Water in the Wells Community Interest Company (CIC), by establishing a bank account, examining funding and publicity opportunities and seeking to attract townspeople with knowledge and influence to join the Board as members or directors. In lieu of a logo the CIC has adopted the strap line '*refreshing health and wealth in Tunbridge wells – a spa town*': The CIC's full stated objectives, which overlap with and considerably extend those of the Water in the Wells Working Group, are to:

'...carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) to:

- (a) work for the regeneration of the spa-town heritage of Royal Tunbridge Wells by promoting the installation of Water Features;*
- (b) design, construct, install, maintain and otherwise operate Water Features; and*
- (c) contribute to the design, construction, installation, maintenance or operation of Water Features by others,*

for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents of Royal Tunbridge Wells and visitors to it alike.'

2. Continuing to seek support, information and advice from key organisations and influential individuals with the appropriate expertise.
3. Building up a web-based collection of photographs of key sites (access via <http://adoberevel.com/shares/650f0c7afc634e749506fab6a6b107b3>)
4. Monitoring developments at key sites including the Five Ways, Berkeley Homes Royal Wells Park (on the site of the former Kent and Sussex Hospital), Knights Park and Spa Meadows (Ramslye).
5. Investigating the fund raising potential offered by crowd funding.
6. Co-operating with the Working Group on Leisure, Culture and Tourism in an attempt to establish the bottling possibilities for and the riparian rights on the Pantiles Chalybeate water.

Agenda Item 9

7. Concentrating our attention on the potential of Brighton Lake for the first water feature. We have yet to determine the best source of a power supply, which has to come either from lines to the south of Eridge Road or from the Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre. Outline costings for power provision, fountain installation and maintenance are nearing completion, and a presentation of the Group's findings and recommendations is to be made to the Commons Conservators at their next quarterly meeting.

Three final points:

- The Working Group still awaits responses from TWBC to submissions made on a series of sites included in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (SADP) and having potential for the incorporation of water features.
- We eagerly await the outcome of the Grosvenor and Hilbert Park application for a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant.
- We continue to be exercised by the lack of a clearly formulated vision for the development of Tunbridge Wells that would raise awareness of the importance of water, health, wealth and leisure for the town's past and its potential for development in the future.

Michael Holman (Chairman, 10 September 2013)

Agenda Item 9(c)

Report from the Transport Working Group for the Town Forum meeting 26th September 2013

Since the last Town Forum meeting:

1. We have learnt that the final version of the Transportation Strategy will not be coming forward for further public consultation and Cabinet approval until April 2014. This is a delay of several months from its original Autumn 2013 schedule. The draft Parking Strategy which was also expected to be published by the end of this year will also be delayed to align with the Transportation Strategy.
2. On 30th July, three members of the Working Group had a useful meeting with Rosemarie Bennett, TWBC Parking Manager. She joined TWBC earlier this year and comes with considerable experience in parking management mostly in London. We had a wide ranging discussion on parking issues including congestion caused by on-street parking and car park pricing strategy. We have requested and received useful statistics on parking in the town centre car park. We have asked Rosemarie to come to the Town Forum which we hope will now be in November. This will enable members to raise parking issues that could be a valuable input into preparation of the strategy.
3. The Public Transport Forum's meeting on 4th September was cancelled at short notice due partly to there being no progress on the Transportation Strategy and partly as the transport operators had nothing to discuss. We objected to the cancellation of this meeting as it is a useful forum and have asked that all members of the PTF be consulted before a meeting is cancelled in future. We intend to put forward matters of interest for discussion in future meetings.
4. At our Working Group meeting in July, Norman Kemp of bus operator Nu-Venture attended and briefed us about the TW bus network, routes and pricing, pupil contracts etc. He also explained that the Public Transport Forum is the only opportunity for bus operators to meet and liaise on common issues.
5. Peter Perry has raised our concerns about the 'improvement' to Carrs Corner roundabout and we have supported KCC Cllr John Davies' view that the improvement will not assist the flow of pedestrians across the four roads. This safety of pedestrians at Carrs Corner is now on the Joint Transportation Board agenda for its meeting on 21 October which we will attend.
6. TWBC is one of 11 local authorities that has won a share of a £5 million fund to reduce the emissions of the country's buses. The fund is for the introduction of pollutant-reducing technologies such as lower emission engines or exhaust after-treatment equipment and to reduce the NOx emissions of buses currently in service. We will be enquiring how much money is available and how it will be spent.

Jane Fenwick,
Acting Chair Transport Working Group

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