

TOWN FORUM AGM 2019

VOTING ENTITLEMENT FOR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND COUNCILLORS

Member Organisations who have attended at least 50% of possible meetings:

Banner Farm Residents' Association
Benhall Mill Road Land Association
Beulah Road Residents' Association
Boyne Park Residents' Association*
Calverley Park Residents' Association
Calverley Park Crescent Association
Camden Park Residents' Association
Civic Society of Royal Tunbridge Wells
Clarence Road Users' Association
Culverden Residents' Association*
Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park
Friends of the Commons
Friends of the Grove
Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery
Friends of Tunbridge Wells Museum, Library and Art Gallery
Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery
Grantley Court Residents' Association
Grove Hill House Residents' Association
Hawkenbury Village Association
Inner London Road Residents' Association
Kingswood Residents' Association
Molyneux Park Road Residents' Association
Nourish Community Foodbank
Poona Road Residents' Association

Residents First

Soroptimist International of Tunbridge Wells and District*

St John's Road Residents' Association

Telephone House Neighbours' Association

The Avenues Residents' Association

The Forum

Trinity Theatre

Tunbridge Wells Anti-Aircraft Noise Group

Tunbridge Wells Bicycle User Group*

Tunbridge Wells Friends of the Earth

Tunbridge Wells Over Fifties Forum

Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival

Tunbridge Wells Twinning & Friendship Association*

Warwick Park Residents' Association

(* = 100% of 6 meetings)

(38 out of 50)

Councillor Members who have attended at least 50% of possible meetings

Councillor Woodward

Councillor Scott

Councillor Pope

Councillor Pound

Councillor Ellis

Councillor Morton

(6 out of 18)

Member Organisations and Councillor Members not listed above have not met the attendance requirement set out in the Constitution and will not be unable to vote at the AGM.

TOWN FORUM AGM 2019 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Introduction

1. The Town Forum is administered by a Management Committee of officers elected at the AGM and the leaders of the working groups.
2. The officers are:
 - the Chair, who must be a named representative of a member organisation; and
 - two Deputy Chairs, at least one of whom must be a named representative from a member organisation.

Nominations submitted

3. At the specified deadline for the submission of nominations, the following nominations had been submitted:

Chair

Adrian Berendt (fourth term)

Deputy Chair

Alistair Tod (third term)

Don Sloan (first term)

4. Statements from each of the candidates are set out at the end of this report.
5. The Town Forum's Constitution states: "The Chair and both Deputy Chairs 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." Thus, further terms of office is permissible, subject to the agreement of the majority of persons voting at the AGM.

Voting eligibility

6. The Constitution states that at least one third of nominated representatives who satisfy the voting entitlement requirements must be present for the AGM to take place and for the officers therefore to be elected.
7. 38 out of 50 member organisations of the Town Forum have met the necessary attendance requirements (i.e. have attended at least 50% of possible Town Forum meetings across the year) and their representatives will be entitled to vote.
8. 6 out of 18 Councillor members have also achieved the minimum meeting attendance requirement.

Statement from Adrian Berendt

While I am willing to serve as Chair of the Town Forum for one more year, I would really appreciate someone taking over from 2020/21.

Louise and I have lived in Queen's Road since 1993, our children have all grown up in Tunbridge Wells and went (or still go) to St. Gregory's School. As chair I have tried to represent the interests of Town Forum members and to increase develop its influence. I look forward to the opportunity to continuing that work.

Following the withdrawal of the Calverley Square project, a major challenge for the town and its residents is to decide what to do instead. I believe that the Town Forum's approach to this project, as critical friend to the Borough Council, has improved its reputation and standing and we are now engaged in discussing alternatives.

Equally important is to follow up the Town Forum's input to the new Local Plan and, in particular, the proposed Transport Strategy. Members of the Town Forum will be aware of my interests in giving residents a choice about how they travel. This means a greater ability to use public transport and to walk or cycle for their daily journeys. I am a fervent believer in road safety and the needs of vulnerable road users.

During my (?)final year in office, I want the Town Forum:

- To finalise its input to the Local Plan, to ensure a clear and coherent vision for the future of the whole town, particularly a comprehensive transport strategy to prevent the increase in housing leading to a corresponding increase in traffic congestion.
- To further widen its membership and to encourage community participation from those areas of the town and sections of the community – particularly younger residents – that are currently under-represented.
- To deepen engagement with borough and county councillors representing town wards. This has been successful on an individual basis, but I am disappointed by councillor attendance at Town Forum meetings.
- To build on the 20mph zones in St. John's, Banner Farm and elsewhere by establishing Tunbridge Wells as a "20's Plenty" town – with 20mph in all residential streets.

I continue to represent the Tunbridge Wells Bicycle Users Group, formed to make Tunbridge Wells a cycling friendly town and I coordinate 20's Plenty for Tunbridge Wells and Kent

Statement from Alastair Tod

I am offering myself for election as Deputy Chairman of the Town Forum.

I have lived in Tunbridge Wells since 1998 and attended the Forum since 2006, for the last ten years as representative of the Poona Road residents. I was Chairman of the Forum from 2014 to 2016, Deputy Chairman 2016-2018, and am currently a member of the Management Group.

I have served as Chairman of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society twice and remain on the Executive with responsibility for Planning. I am on the Committee of the Friends of Calverley Grounds and the Friends of the Grove and a member of other town organisations. In my working career I spent twenty years on the policy side of local government, followed by roles in the voluntary sector and ten years in the renewable energy industry.

The Forum is an essential platform for communication between residents and the Council; a 'talking shop' between residents on issues that concern us all; and a public voice for working groups on current issues. New groups have recently been formed to expand the Forum's scope. This is more important than ever in present circumstances and we are fortunate in those contributing to our work, and in the support of the Council.

Recent events have shown the importance of grassroots democracy and I look forward to the Forum doing more to represent public opinion by expanding its membership and its activities. With changes in local and national politics a vigorous and informed Forum is needed to represent Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Statement from Don Sloan

I have been a member of the Town Forum for several years now, first as a Borough Councillor (2014 -2018), and now representing residents of Molyneux Park Gardens as well as being on the Forum planning committee. Tunbridge Wells has been my base since 1975 though I was abroad with the British Council much of the time until 2001. Since then Helen and I have lived in Tunbridge Wells continuously. Besides the Forum my interests include membership of the Rotary Club of Tunbridge Wells and trying to keep fit.

I see the Town Forum as the channel for residents of unparished areas, through their representatives, to communicate effectively with the Borough Council and to respond to Council consultations. The work of the Forum and its committees is invaluable. Above all I want the Forum to continue to be highly trusted to give fair, balanced and considered views on the development of our town, and in a non-partisan way. A case in point is our Chairman currently guiding cross-party talks between councillors.

If elected as Deputy Chair I would promote and uphold the reputation and values of the Town Forum.