



**Note of Meeting with the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council - Planning -
at the Town Hall on Wednesday 3 December 2008**

Present: Robert Cottrill (TWBC Director Development/Planning)
Jim Kehoe (TWBC Head of Planning)
Philip Whitbourn (RTW TF / Beulah Residents Association)
Daniel Bech (RTW TF / Telephone House Neighbours Association)
Alastair Tod (RTW TF / RTW Civic Society)
Michael Doyle (RTW TF / Hawkenbury Village Association)

Local Development Framework (LDF)

The Annual Monitoring Report on the LDF was expected in December 2008 and a Report to Cabinet on the Core Strategy in January 2009. An initial consultation on the Town Centre Action Plan (*Master Plan for RTW*) was expected in Spring 2009.

An event might be arranged in about April 2009 at which stakeholders, including John Laing (part of the TW Regeneration Company Ltd), Targetfollow (owner of Pantiles/Commons), Westfield (RVP) and possibly the Town Forum might make ten minute presentations indicating what they would like to see achieved.

Firm proposals from TWBC would not be envisaged at this stage, and more information was needed from KCC on transport, together possibly with a review of retail floorspace figures. TWBC has a direct interest in some 38 properties in the town centre, although there is no presumption to develop all or any of them at this stage.

The Land Availability Study is also expected in 2009 and a meeting is to be arranged in January to discuss the replacement Urban Capacity Study. Development Control Policies are expected to emerge early in 2010 and GOSE (Government Office for the South East) are being asked for Local Plan Policies to be saved meanwhile.

Dunorlan

The Town Forum and the Civic Society favoured an overall plan for the future of the properties on the site of Dunorlan Mansion and its front garden. This could include a suitably designed replacement mansion and appropriate ancillary development that would respect the setting of the park and its features. Affordable housing, if necessary, might be accommodated elsewhere in the town.

Cinema Site

The Section 106 Agreement needed to be resolved before 12 January 2009, otherwise the planning permission would be voided. TWBC was imposing a number of conditions on any approval, especially concerning materials, in case the site came to be sold on.

Satellite Dishes

There was discussion about the problem of satellite dishes installed on the fronts of buildings in Conservation Areas without the necessary Planning Permission. Enforcement Action was possible in suitable cases, although this was not always considered expedient under TWBC's priorities.

Tarmac Patching in Mount Pleasant

Concern was expressed to TWBC about the large patches of black tarmac that had appeared in August on the pavements of Mount Pleasant. KCC had said that these were temporary and associated with the problem of tree roots. KCC had asked TWBC Tree officer, Dan Docker, for his recommendations on a way forward and Jim Kehoe undertook to check that suitable action was being taken to remedy the situation.

Camden Road

Attention was drawn to the particular interest being focused on Camden Road at the present time, and upon its future role as part of the town's retail offer.

Conversion of Front Gardens into Parking Spaces

Jim Kehoe said that on 15 January 2009 the Local Economy and Housing Select Committee will discuss the issue: "Conversion of front gardens into parking spaces" in attendance of Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Thomas (Portfolio Holder Planning), Rob Cottrill (Director Development/Planning), Jim Kehoe (Head of Planning), Town Forum representatives, Parish representatives. Meetings are open to the Public.

RTW TF – 03.12.2008