

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the Overview & Scrutiny e-bulletin for 2008-2009, updating you on the key issues and activities of the Select Committees.

Scrutiny Events

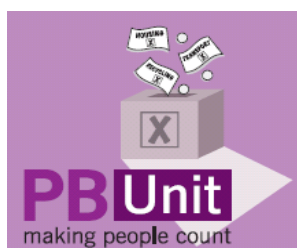
Tourist Information Centre Debate



The Local Economy and Housing Select Committee met at the Royal Wells Hotel on Thursday 18 September to discuss a report on the future of the Tunbridge Wells Tourist Information Centre. The options identified in the report included relocating from the Pantiles to the Gateway or Library, replacing the Centre with one or more electronic kiosks, or seeking other sources of funding to maintain the Centre in the Pantiles. Members heard evidence from nine interested parties including representatives from Targetfollow, who own the Pantiles, Tourism South East, and several tourism businesses in the borough. The Committee decided that further investigation of several options was needed and this will be presented at the 25 November meeting. Members agreed that the final recommendation to Cabinet should support the Centre remaining in the Pantiles and ensure that the tourism service was not reduced.

Kent Overview and Scrutiny Network Meeting

The Scrutiny team visited Shepway District Council and saw a presentation by Phil Teece from the Participatory Budgeting Unit. Participatory budgeting directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget. There are currently 13 pilots in England and Wales, some of which have allocated funds to community projects for children, or funded 'cleaner and greener' initiatives. For more details see <http://www.participatorybudgeting.org.uk/>.



October Meetings

Corporate Services (CS)

Tuesday 7 October, 6.30pm

At the October meeting the Select Committee will receive a verbal report on the action taken on underperforming areas within the Housing and Community Access Portfolio. Members will also receive a briefing on progress of the Gateway and interview the Head of Financial and Property Services on financial monitoring performance.

Environment, Safer & Stronger Communities (ESSC)

Tuesday 14 October, 6.15pm

Members will be interviewing witnesses for the licensing review at their October meeting and will receive a Health and Well-being update. They will also discuss a report detailing the options for the disused triangle of land at Woodbury Park Cemetery.

Local Economy & Housing (LEH)

The October meeting has been postponed to *Tuesday 25 November*. Details of this Committee meeting will appear in the next e-bulletin.

Your views welcomed

We would like to encourage people to be active in Scrutiny and welcome Officers, Members, and the public to give us your views on topics to be discussed in October, the major reviews, or any other issues that people would like raised.

Major Reviews for 2008/09

CS – Medway Depot, Partnerships

ESSC – Licensing, Mental Health, Nuisance Neighbours

LEH – Road Safety and Transportation

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