

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

31 May 2006

TOWN FORUM WELCOMES ACTION ON LOCAL GROT SPOT

A 'Brighten up Tunbridge Wells' group set up by Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum welcomed the announcement by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) that action is in hand to clear the land behind Eridge Road filling station.

Owned by supermarket giant Aldi the site has ranked as one of the worst ten town 'grot spots' in a list identified by the Town Forum.

Kent Highways recently responded positively to the Town Forum's presentation 'Highways – High Standard?' seeking dialogue and action to improve the condition and appearance of the local street scene and environment. The land at Eridge Road was one of the sites highlighted.

David Beaver, Head of Operations for Mid-Kent Services said 'There has been much work undertaken already on behalf of Kent County Council, some is ongoing and some planned. Kent Highways Services have an agreement with TWBC until June 2006 to repair their street lights, subject to requests and work orders being placed.'

Borough and County officers have also clarified the ownership of the sites the Town Forum drew to their attention. Daniel Bech, Chairman of the 'Brighten up Tunbridge Wells' group said 'These are all steps forward. Knowing who owns the grot spots will help us to target the right people to take improvement action. We are relieved to see action on the filling station land is now taking place and will continue to work with the authorities and to campaign for an improvement in the town's general appearance'.

Details of the Town Forum and of the 'Brighten Up Tunbridge Wells' campaign can be found on www.townforum.org.uk and www.townforum.org.uk/subcommittees.html

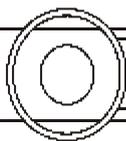
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TOWN FORUM SEEKS RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON WHETHER A NEW TOWN CINEMA IS NEEDED

At last week's meeting of Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum local ward Councillor Adrian Ekins-Daukes sought views as to whether residents still felt a cinema in the town centre was needed.

Cllr Ekins-Daukes said at the meeting 'I fought hard for a new cinema where the old one will be knocked down. Sadly that battle was lost but I am prepared to carry on fighting for a cinema elsewhere in the town centre if that is still what local people want. However I want to hear from local residents and the Town Forum before deciding whether the campaign is worth continuing.'

Local resident and Town Forum Chairman, Matt Goodwin, encouraged all resident representatives to canvas views so as to give Cllr Ekins-Daukes and others an informed opinion on which to base further action. But he encouraged residents to think not just about a cinema but what else they care about in the town. 'The draft Borough Community Plan, which sets out proposals for the long term future of the Borough, is currently out to consultation and we have a chance to influence it. It is important that we, as residents, take a keen interest in what facilities and services the town will offer in the future. Whatever it is that residents care about we have an opportunity to shape the future of the Town by submitting our comments on the Community Plan by the closing date of 26 June.'

Councillor Ekins-Daukes can be contacted on aekins@dsl.pipex.

Copies of the draft Community Plan are available from the Tunbridge Wells library and other public buildings or on-line at www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk.

Details of Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum are at www.townforum.org.uk.

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