



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

Meeting of the Community Plan Sub-Committee Wednesday 24th May 2006

The meeting was convened for the purpose of considering the Community Plan and in particular the Action Plan attached to the Community Plan.

The Sub-Committee felt that the Community Plan was for the most part acceptable in that it consisted of a wish list (sumarised in the Contents page) with which few could take exception.

The Action Plan is far too vague in many parts whilst elsewhere it concentrates on superficial detail and does not identify the fundamental requirements (e.g. Section 1, Priority 1, Action Point 1.1, surely the issues to be resolved are timing, location and facilities such as parking and toilets?)

The Sub-Committee have only commented on those sections which it felt it was sufficiently well informed.

COMMENTS.

1. Safeguarding our Environment

Priority 1 Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment and Landscape

- 1.1 Additional Action Points should be (a) Consider holding market more frequently
(b) Better location required.
(c) Better facilities required (Parking & Toilets)
Camden Square would be a more suitable venue for a permanent market .
- 1.6 Add new Action Point. - Promote the greater use of existing footpaths by repairing and improving both paths and signage.

Priority 2 Conserving and Improving the Built Environment

- 2.1 Conservation Area Appraisals/Enhancement Schemes:
Add to Partner Organisations, the RTW Civic Society and the Town Forum
- 2.2 There is more to “Clean neighbourhoods” than just Graffiti and Fly-tipping. Grot Spots are equally objectionable and the elimination of neglected and derelict properties should form part of the Community Action Plan.

Insert new action items:

Inspect all street furniture including lighting at least once a year.

Improve the standard of maintenance of street furniture, street lighting, pavements and repair pot holes regularly.

Clean all road signs at least twice a year.

Set up a one stop hot-line for the public to report defects in street furniture, lighting, road signs, pavements and pot holes.

- 2.4 Civic Society's Monographs/Newsletter/Website:
This has nothing to do with Improving the Built Environment and should be deleted.
- 2.6 Important unlisted Monuments, Cemeteries and Buildings should be included under this section.

Priority 3 Reducing Climate Change through Efficient Use of Resources.

- 3.2 There is a need to concentrate on businesses that produce substantial quantities of this type of waste. Also in the case of glass - licensed premises.
- 3.3 Special attention needs to be paid to construction sites where there is considerable waste of water. Metering these supplies would have a salutary effect.

2. Maintaining a Thriving Economy

Priority 2 Enhance Attractiveness of Borough to Visitors and Prospective Businesses

- 2.4 Add new Action Item. - Encourage the setting up of Language Schools in Tunbridge Wells

3. Enabling People to Take Part in and Enjoy Leisure Activities

Priority 2 Encourage Participation in Leisure Activities by All Age Groups

- 2.5 400th Anniversary Celebrations:
Delete this item. By the time this Plan is published the 400th Anniversary will be over.
- 2.7 Add new Action Item. - Promote the use of the two Commons, Happy Valley and High Rocks as recreational facilities for all age groups.

Priority 3 Providing Appropriate Places for People to Pursue their Leisure Interests

- 3.3 No mention of the two Commons, Happy Valley or High Rocks. All are excellent places for leisure activities.

5. Transport – Getting Round the Borough

Priority 1 Reduce Traffic Congestion Etc.

- 1.4 Add to Action Item. - and Residents only parking
Enforcement action to stamp out on pavement parking should be addressed.

Priority 2 Improvement to Key Transport Routes and Public Transport

Add new Action Items:

- (a) Take enforcement action against unauthorised vehicles using Buses only route through Five Ways
- (b) Promote the establishment of a Transport Hub in the Town Centre.
- (c) Bus Depot in St Johns Road to be closed and re-sited in out of Town location.

6. Meeting the Need for Housing

Priority 4 Improving the Quality of Existing Homes

4.4 Add new Action Item. Set up regular inspection of all multiple occupancy homes

Add New Aim: Co-ordinate Survey of Infrastructure of the Town Covering Drains, Water Supply, Electricity, Gas, etc., to establish whether we have sufficient facilities to meet the needs of future plans.