

Town Forum response to Civic Complex Draft Planning Framework

The proposed planning framework is predicated on the decision to proceed with the development of a new Civic Complex. The final decision on this development has not yet been taken by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. While the Town Forum has expressed conditional support for the development, we await answers to a number of serious reservations before that support becomes unconditional. Because of the significant areas of uncertainty about the proposed development

The Town Forum recommends that the planning framework should not be approved until the whole development is agreed.

Within the proposed planning framework, the Town Forum has two particular concerns:

1. The Area of Change identified as Crescent Road / Church Road includes all of the land up to Monson Road and Calverley Road. The Town Forum agrees that this is the area identified as an Area of Change in the Site Allocations DPD, but the Framework document falls short of being a masterplan for its development. In the meantime, TWBC's proposal to extend the Crescent Road carpark will limit the options for the whole area.

The Town Forum recommends that approval of the Framework should be conditional upon a suitable masterplan for the WHOLE area.

2. The Framework Area encompassing the Mount Pleasant and Great Hall car parks extends into Calverley Grounds and embraces Hoopers and the Great Hall. This is misleading, as it implies that the whole of the area bounded by the line could be developed. We note that the Framework includes no proposals for developing Calverley Grounds as a public space for the benefit of all users.

The Town Forum recommends:

a. Adding proposals to the Framework to improve Calverley Grounds as a public park and:

b. Changing the boundary of the Framework to:

- i. the area specifically proposed for redevelopment by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council***

OR

- ii. include the whole of Calverley Grounds in the Framework but explicitly exclude the area outside the proposed Civic Complex from development.***

Adrian Berendt

Chair, Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum

Formed in 2005, the Town Forum is the voice of the 50,000 residents of Royal Tunbridge Wells on issues of common interest

Town Forum Management Group

Adrian Berendt (Chair); Alex Green (Deputy Chair); Alastair Tod (Deputy Chair); David Wakefield (Finance); Jane Fenwick (Transport); Linda Lewis (Culture, Leisure & Tourism); Mark Booker (Strategic Planning); Michael Holman (Water in the Wells)