

TOWN FORUM – VOTING ENTITLEMENT OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

AT THE AGM, 2017

Organisations/ward members who have achieved at least 3 attendances during 2016/17 (= 50% of meetings) including Sept 2017: (36 out of 42 active groups)

Benhall Mill Road Land Association

Beulah Road Residents' Association

Boyne Park Residents' Association*

Calverley Park Residents' Association

Calverley Park Crescent Association*

Camden Park Residents' Association

Clarence Road Users' Association

Culverden Residents' Association*

Friends of Calverley Grounds

Friends of the Commons

Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park

Friends of the Grove*

Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery*

Friends of Tunbridge Wells Museum, Library and Art Gallery

Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery

Grantley Court Residents' Association*

Grove Hill House Residents' Association

Hawkenbury Village Association

Inner London Road Residents' Association*

Kingswood Residents' Association

Poona Road Residents' Association

Residents First*

Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society*

Sherborne Close Management Committee

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St John's Road Residents' Association

Telephone House Neighbours' Association*

The Avenues Residents' Association*

Trinity Theatre

Tunbridge Wells Bicycle User Group*

Tunbridge Wells Over Fifties Forum*

Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival*

Tunbridge Wells Twinning & Friendship Association

Tunbridge Wells U3A

TWAANG

The Forum

Warwick Park Residents' Association*

(* = 100% attendance)

Ward councillors (11 out of 19):

Mrs Barbara Cobbold

Peter Bulman

Ben Chapelard

Lawrence Heasman

Peter Lidstone

Tracy Moore

Catherine Rankin

James Scholes

Don Sloan

Lynne Weatherly

Chris Woodward

Organisations and ward members not listed will be unable to vote at the AGM, as they have not been able to meet the attendance requirement set out in the Constitution.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

16 November 2017

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN

Introduction

- (1) The Town Forum is administered by a Management Committee of ‘three officers’ elected at the AGM, together with the chairs of the working groups. The ‘three officers’ are the Chairman and two Deputy Chairmen.
- (2) This report sets out the current situation regarding nominations for the election of the Chairman and the two Deputy Chairmen at the Annual General Meeting.

Management Committee

- (3) The Town Forum’s Constitution specifies the following regarding the annual election of its Management Committee (section 5):

Three officers elected at the AGM:

- the Chair, who must be a named representative of a member organisation; and
- two Deputy Chairs, at least one of whom must be a named representative from a member organisation.

Nominations submitted

- (4) At the specified deadline for the submission of nominations (i.e. 1 November), the following nominations had been submitted:

Chairman – Adrian Berendt (Tunbridge Wells Bicycle User Group) – if successful, this election as Chairman would be for a second term of office.

Deputy Chairmen – (a) Alex Green (Trinity Theatre) – this re-election, if successful, would be for a fourth term of office. The Town Forum’s Constitution says that: “The Chair and both Deputy Chairs shall be elected annually and will only be eligible to serve a maximum of two terms in any one office unless a majority of eligible voting Forum members agree to allow a further term of office.” Thus a fourth term of office is permissible, subject to the agreement of the majority of persons voting at the AGM.

(b) Alastair Tod (Poona Road Residents’ Association) – this election, if successful, would be for a first term of office, although Dr Tod was appointed to one of the Deputy Chairmen positions part-way through this past year, by the Management Group.

- (5) As required by the Constitution, each nominee has provided a supporting statement, setting out what they hope to achieve during their period of office. These are attached.

Voting eligibility

- (6) The Constitution states that at least one third of nominated representatives who satisfy the voting entitlement requirements must be present for the AGM to take place and for the officers therefore to be elected.

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- (7) 36 out of the 42 active organisations within the Town Forum have met the necessary attendance requirements (i.e. have attended at least 50% of Town Forum meetings across the year) and their representatives will be entitled to vote.
- (8) 11 TWBC ward members have also achieved the minimum meeting attendance requirement.

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) That Adrian Berendt be elected to serve as Chairman of the Town Forum for 2017/18, until the date of the AGM in November 2018;
- (2) That Alex Green and Alastair Tod be elected to serve as the two Deputy Chairmen for 2017/18, until the date of the AGM in November 2018.

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Appended: each candidate's supporting statement

Nomination for Chairman:

Adrian Berendt

I am willing to serve as Chair of the Town Forum for a further year for 2017/18.

Louise and I have lived in Queen's Road since 1993, our children have all grown up in Tunbridge Wells and went (or still go) to St. Gregory's School. As part-time Finance Director of a training and learning provider in South East London, I have devoted considerable time and energy over the past year to developing the work and role of the Town Forum. I look forward to the opportunity to continuing that work.

The coming year will be particularly challenging for the town and its residents. Major developments are planned in the town centre at the same time as the Borough draws up its new Local Plan, including a new Transport Strategy. Members of the Town Forum will be aware of my interests in transport – in particular how we can ensure that more people walk and cycle for their daily journeys – and in road safety – I am the campaign coordinator for 20's Plenty for Tunbridge Wells and Kent.

During my second year in office, I would like the Town Forum:

- To continue to work closely with the Borough as it finalises its Local Plan with a clear and coherent vision for the future of the whole town. In particular, I am keen to ensure the inclusion of a comprehensive transport strategy that will allow the inevitable increase in housing without a corresponding increase in congestion.
- To continue the work of widening its membership to obtain representation from those areas of the town and sections of the community that are currently under-represented and to engage in community matters in a great way. We have made progress here, but more is needed.
- To continue to deepen engagement with the borough and county councillors representing town wards. While I am pleased that we have seen greater dialogue with councillors in 2016/17, next year is going to be critical as plans for the new Civic Complex seem likely to come to fruition. Ensuring that the proposals really do bring the intended benefits to the town will be a key concern of the Town Forum.
- To use the success of a 20 mph zone in St. John's by pressing for a roll-out of "20's Plenty" across all residential streets in the town. Progress here has been slow and the embryonic plans need further development.

I continue to represent the Tunbridge Wells Bicycle Users Group, formed to make Tunbridge Wells a bicycle friendly town.

Nomination for the two Deputy Chairmen posts:

Alex Green

Having now been a Deputy Chair for almost 36 months I would like to put myself forward to be re-nominated as a candidate for Deputy Chairman of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum.

Having grown up and lived as a resident of Tunbridge Wells for the majority of my life I am keen for the town to prosper as a successful town and believe that from my role as a senior

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manager of a local community venue in the centre of the town, I can work with the Forum to help contribute to the vitality of the town. I am excited at the prospect of continuing to provide my time, knowledge and experience to work with the management group of the Town Forum to assist it in whatever way possible as it continues to link together resident and other local groups in their mission to represent the views of local people.

In addition to my work with the management group I have been a committed member of three of the RTWTF working groups and hope to continue offering valuable input and support. Externally, I believe my position at Trinity has allowed me to build links and networks across the town with a variety of bodies including becoming a director of the new Town Centre Business Partnership (Tunbridge Wells Together), a group which I believe would be useful for the Town Forum to be closely linked into.

If I am re-elected as Deputy Chair I would find it a pleasure to continue to help support its efforts to help make Tunbridge Wells prosper and become the best town it can be.

Alastair Tod

I was co-opted as a deputy chairman after the 2016 AGM, and I am happy to put myself forward to be re-elected to this position.

I have lived in Tunbridge Wells since 1998 and have been chairman of the Town Forum and of the Civic Society; I am now Planning Secretary of the Society.

My particular interests are in conservation, community development and local democracy. At a time of possibly unprecedented change in the town I hope to be able to contribute to the Management Group in these areas, as well as in any other issues that arise in connection with planning for the development of Royal Tunbridge Wells.