



AGENDA AND JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Thursday 18 March 2021 at 6.00 pm
Virtual Meeting - Online via Zoom

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
(A draft attendance list will be circulated after the meeting, please advise the Secretary of any errors or omissions.)
- 2 Declarations of Substitute Members**
(A draft attendance list will be circulated after the meeting, please advise the Secretary of any errors or omissions.)
- 3 Membership Changes**
 - a) Changes of representatives
 - b) New membership applications
- 4 Minutes of the meeting dated 19 November 2020 (To Follow)**
 - a) Approval as a correct record
 - b) Matters arising
- 5 Minutes of the meeting dated 28 January 2021 (To Follow)**
 - a) Approval as a correct record
 - b) Matters arising
- 6 Updates from Member Organisations**
Members are encouraged to share news and items of interest. Please advise the Secretary if you wish to raise a topic under this agenda item.
- 7 Reports from the Town Forum Working Groups (Pages 5 - 8)**
 - a) Strategic Planning Working Group
 - b) Transport Strategy Working Group
 - c) Culture, Leisure and Tourism Working Group
 - d) Wellbeing Working Group
 - e) Finance and Other Issues Working Group
 - f) Water in the Wells Working Group
- 8 Benches**
Presentation from Caroline Auckland, Soroptimist International of Tunbridge Wells and District
- 9 Update from the Borough Council**
Presentation from William Benson, Chief Executive TWBC
- 10 Reopening the Town Centre**
Presentation of plans and discussion on the vision for the future.

- 11 Car Club**
Presentation from Karin Grey, Sustainability Manager TWBC
- 12 Homelessness and Crescent Road Properties**
Presentation from Jane Lang, Housing Services Manager TWBC
- 13 Recording Meetings**
Meetings are currently recorded for note taking purposes. Members' views are sought on making the recordings available a) publicly or b) to members.
- 14 Any Other Urgent Business or Topics for Future Meetings**
- 15 Future Meetings**
- 17 June 2021
 - 16 September 2021
 - 11 November 2021 (AGM)



Joining Instructions – by computer

Click on the following link to join the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/98133981762?pwd=clpJek9kUGZMdk1zSVFab1pJVmY3UT09>

Meeting ID: **981 3398 1762** Passcode: **038782**

(The meeting ID and passcode are embedded in the above web address so if using the link you will not need to enter them separately.)

During the 'join in' process please note:

1. Agree to use your computer video
2. Agree to use your computer audio
3. Please ensure your 'registered name' is your own full name and not, for instance, "My iPad" or other unidentifiable object or email address. The name can be altered either before or immediately on entry to the Zoom meeting. People who cannot be identified will be asked to confirm their name.
4. If you have a problem, please enter the system and 'message' on the system direct to Mark O'Callaghan who will be running the system on behalf of the Town Forum.
5. On entry you will automatically be put into a 'waiting room'. If its busy there may be a delay in admitting you but be assured the meeting will not start until everybody waiting has been admitted.

Joining Instructions – by telephone

Should you wish to join the meeting by telephone only, please dial one of the following numbers and add the meeting ID and passcode when requested by the system:

0208 080 6591 United Kingdom

0208 080 6592 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: **981 3398 1762** Passcode: **038782**

Important information on joining

1. The meeting will be recorded and may be made available online.
2. Please mute your microphone when not speaking to reduce background noise. Attendees via telephone can mute themselves by typing 'x 6' on their keypad.
3. The organisers may mute or unmute all or individual microphones if necessary, but we will try to avoid this.
4. If you wish to speak during the meeting please either type 's' in the chat window or raise your hand using the 'reactions' button. The Chairman will invite you to speak to avoid multiple people trying to speak at once. Please unmute your own microphone when invited to speak by the Chairman and mute again afterwards.
5. The meeting will be open early, from 5.30pm, for those who are not used to Zoom so that you can become familiar with the platform.

This page is intentionally left blank

Report from Transport Working Group to the Town Forum 18th March 2021

held on Zoom on 1st February 2021

The TWG met on Zoom on 1st February 2021. Present: Jane Fenwick (chair), Lorna Blackmore, Adrian Berendt, Carol Wilson, Tom van den Bergh, Katharina Mahler Bech, Cllr David Scott, Cllr Peter Lidstone, Cllr Catherine Rankin. Apologies: Ian Rennardson

1. **Safeguarding alleyways, paths and twittens project:** Following the threat in 2019 to the path from Forest Road to Elphicks Place, the Town Forum will ensure other similar unregistered paths that link communities across RTW are mapped, logged and secured for future use. Volunteers will undertake research and walk around one of 8 local areas in RTW. This is an important step towards achieving a better Active Travel infrastructure in the town.
2. **JTB Update** (Monday 25th January)
 - a. **Halls Hole Road/Cornford Lane.** JTB has agreed to set up a working group of residents and other interested parties to find a solution to the excessive traffic using these lanes between Pembury and Tunbridge Wells.
 - b. **Near Miss Register:** A 'Near Miss Register' is to be trialled for one year by TWBC to record accidents and events that do not cause injury or death or involvement of the police or ambulance services. This will provide evidence of unsafe hotspots.
3. **20mph in TW:** Town Forum will write to Michael Payne, KCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to welcome this the whole town approach to 20mph being tested in Faversham and Tonbridge and to request the same for RTW.
4. **Local Plan:** The TWG will examine the Local Plan when consultation opens.
5. **Vision Zero:** TWG welcomes the Vision Zero's new strategy that raises safety issues in transport decision making. A consultation response is to be submitted.
6. **Crescent Road narrow pavements.** The narrow pavement beside Calverley Park Crescent on Crescent Road and the lack of safe crossings at Carrs Corner continues to put pedestrians at risk. Further discussions with KCC are to be sought.
7. **Speeding:** High traffic speeds in Calverley Park Gardens are also a concern. Recently a speeding taxi crashed into and demolished a lamppost, causing injury to the driver but fortunately not to members of the public.
8. **Repainting yellow lines:** When the road surface on the narrow part of Bayhall Road near Kingsland Road was renewed, the double yellow lines were not replaced for some weeks. Opportunist parking made this section hazardous. Good to report that lines were repainted immediately following the resurfacing of Crescent Road.
9. **AOB:**
 - a) Amey has been contracted to upgrade the High Street one-way scheme with planters and parklets.
 - b) An annual review of the 'public realm' scheme is imminent.
 - c) The consultant's report on LCWIPs is due to be published with the Local Plan
 - d) S106 money arising from a development of 100 houses near Majestic Wine/Speldhurst Road has been allocated to safety improvements on the A26 cycle route.
 - e) It was noted that the Tudeley development includes a transport masterplan providing a range of travel infrastructure.

WORKING GROUP CULTURE LEISURE AND TOURISM

MARCH 2021

The group hasn't met (ie via Zoom) since the January 2021 meeting, but we have kept in touch via email.

Members were able to join a couple of Zoom meetings organised by Royal Tunbridge Wells Together BID, and put forward ideas for bins, benches, RTW in Bloom, and contributed to ideas on marketing and promoting the reopening town centre post lockdown. Thanks to Ross Feeney for including us.

We remain concerned about the future of 9-10 Crescent Road, The Town Hall and The Assembly Hall Theatre (Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Asset Management Plan 2020/21) We remain hopeful of being involved in the Town Centre Action Plan (see January update), and that the TCAP will take forward the proposals of the former Cross Party Group for a multi-purpose administrative-cultural-commercial hub based on the refurbished civic buildings. We have also been interested in the plans put forward for the Decimus Burton Museum at 9-10 Crescent Road (formerly 7 and 8 Calverley Terrace) by The Decimus Burton Society. We have also discussed the impact of budget hotel chains on the traditional hotel sector, the current petition to convert BHS to an indoor market, and we are awaiting news on The Amelia Scott Art Commissions (at time of writing 11/03/2021).

Concerns have also been raised about construction methods at The Amelia Scott, which we have already passed on to Paul Taylor, Director of Change and Communities:

The Atrium is unprotected.

The Atrium has been unprotected throughout the winter and remains so.

Access was needed to erect the timber arches for the Atrium frame and this occurred during wet weather: since then the structure could have been under a temporary roof. Not allowing for a temporary roof may prove to be a false saving, resulting in problems with drying out, water stains and humidity in the building when it is enclosed.

These are issues for the programme and the completed building.



WATER IN THE WELLS WORKING GROUP

REPORT TO THE TOWN FORUM 18 March 2021

Current membership: Bob Atwood, John Cunningham, Jane Fenwick, Michael Holman (Chair), Mike McGeary, Altan Omer, David Scott, Alastair Tod, Pat Wilson.

We still have not met since lockdown in March, but have been checking up on developments remotely and, when permitted, by surreptitious site visits.

1. **Pantiles:** Union House. The water feature and sculpture at last appear to be complete. Water is flowing, lights are working, and the truncated Francis Bacon inscription is now correct. We are awaiting notice of an 'unveiling' ceremony. Also, the installation of the Wiesbaden plaque adjacent to the side entrance facing Eridge Road.
2. **Pantiles:** Chalybeate Spring. The sorry trickle is sadly no match for the robust, controlled flow at the other end of the Walks.
3. **Hawkenbury:** (Berkeley Homes). An inspection of the attenuation ponds will have to wait until Covid restrictions are further relaxed.
4. **Belvedere:** (Elysian). Continuing uncertainty over the future of the site means that any hopes for an eventual water wall have receded still further into the future.
5. **The Amelia Scott:** I was invited to take part in a review commission to consider applications from four artists for the drinking water fountain planned for the inner courtyard. The identity of the successful applicant and details of the planned design have yet to be announced.
6. **Grosvenor and Hilbert Park:** Marnock Lake and the wetlands are now attracting a variety of birdlife. The pumps in the Dripping Wells have been repaired, and water is dripping in a regular and controlled fashion. Water from a spring adjacent to the Dripping Wells continues to flow in a less controlled fashion across the path and into the lake.
7. **Dunorlan:** The Friends of Dunorlan have now raised sufficient funds to purchase and install a simple bottle-filling station. The equipment has been purchased and installation by the Parks Department could be imminent.
8. **Knights Wood, Royal Wells Park, Fountains Court (Southborough):** All installations functioning well.
9. **Southborough Civic Centre:** We continue to press for the installation of a bottle filling station in the Town Square area.

(10 March 2021)

(Michael Holman, Chairman, 'Water in the Wells'.
E-mail: michaeldekholman@gmail.com.)

This page is intentionally left blank