



# AGENDA AND JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Thursday 23 September 2021 at 6.00 pm  
Virtual Meeting - Online

## Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence**  
(Members will be checked-in as they enter the meeting – please ensure you use your real, full name. A draft attendance list will then be circulated after the meeting. Please advise the Secretary of any errors or omissions in the draft list.)
- 2 Declarations of Substitute Members**  
(Please confirm any corrections to the draft attendance list with the Secretary after the meeting.)
- 3 Membership Changes**
  - a) Changes of representatives
  - b) New membership applications
- 4 Updates from Members Organisations**  
(Please advise the Secretary before the meeting if you wish to raise a topic under this agenda item.)
- 5 Youth Town Forum**  
Update from Councillor Chris Woodward
- 6 Local Plan and Town Centre Area Plan**  
Update from Stephen Baughen – Head of Planning Services, TWBC
- 7 The Pantiles**  
Update from Carolyn Gray – Leader of Culture, Leisure and Tourism Working Group
- 8 Electoral Consultation**  
Update from Mark O’Callaghan – Scrutiny and Engagement Officer, TWBC
- 9 OuRToWn - Community Interest Company and its relationship with Town Forum**  
Update from Adrian Berendt – Chairman RTW Town Forum
- 10 Reports from the Town Forum Working Groups** (Pages 3 - 8)
  - a) Strategic Planning Working Group
  - b) Transport Strategy Working Group
  - c) Culture, Leisure and Tourism Working Group
  - d) Wellbeing Working Group
  - e) Finance Working Group
  - f) Water in the Wells Working Group
- 11 Any Other Urgent Business or Topics for Future Meetings**
- 12 Future Meetings**
  - 11 November 2021 (AGM)



## Joining Instructions – by computer

Click on the following link to join the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88131430593?pwd=akMwQjg1ZkxkUHFLWVE0SCtJRHUvdz09>

Meeting ID: **881 3143 0593** Passcode: **276424**

(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 **display name is your own full name** and not, for instance, a personal nickname or "My iPad" or other unidentifiable object. 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 open the Zoom client and 'message' on the system direct to "TWBC Democratic Services" 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. To ensure a speedy entry into the meeting please ensure your display name shows your actual name.

## 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 automated system:

0208 080 6591 United Kingdom

0208 080 6592 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: **881 3143 0593** Passcode: **276424**

## 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 **\* 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.

## Report to from the Transport Working Group to the RTW Town Forum

held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.

**Members:** Jane Fenwick (chair), Lorna Blackmore, Cllr David Scott, Cllr Peter Lidstone, Carol Wilson, Katharina Mahler Bech, Adrian Berendt, Tom van den Burgh, Ian Rennardson.  
The TWG met in July 2021.

1. **Alleyways project :** JF reported that the Alleyways report had been well received by TWBC officers, and the data collected is being added to the Council's GIS system. A small group comprising Adrian Berendt, Cllr Justine Rutland, Carolyn Grey, Chris Gow and Alastair Tod has been formed to take matters forward with TWBC and as appropriate. Concern has been raised that the Pantiles walks and alleyways are being overused which detracts from the historical location and restricts the legitimate passage of pedestrians.
2. **Buses on London Road:** JF raised the inappropriate school bus parking on London Road at the Public Transport Forum on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Scott has been in discussion with the Go MD, Austin Blackburn. TWBC officers had prepared a report into alternative parking locations for the buses recommended no change to the current situation. JF has developed some alternative suggestions and discussed with Cllr Rutland who also had an interest in mitigating the chaos created by school buses in the Culverden area.
3. **High Street parklets:** TWBC ordered softwood versions of the proposed 'parklets' which are now installed on the High Street. Town Forum members are helping TWBC officers to run a feedback survey of the public and retailers in preparation for a bid to make these changes more permanent.
4. **Joint Transportation Board meeting 5 July:** This meeting was cancelled.
5. **Town Centre Action Plan:** TWG needs to consider what the future transport environment should look like in RTW to meet climate change targets and then set objectives on how to achieve this. More of the same cannot meet climate change targets. Changes to retail and work environments, vehicle technology, emissions and more have to be taken into account in our vision.
6. **Vision Zero – KCC's road safety strategy.** TWG member Cllr Peter Lidstone attended the KCC launch of Vision Zero and will report back to the TWG.
7. **Next meeting:** To be arranged for late October.

## Working Group Culture Leisure and Tourism

We met on Zoom on 2nd August 2021, but have also had many discussions by email.

The meeting started with a Presentation on Town Hall by Katie Exon, Corporate Property Manager, Property & Estates TWBC. This project has progressed since our meeting, but we thank Katie Exon for giving us this initial update on the plan to lease part of the building to a co working company.

We also had updates on the Heritage work at Trinity Theatre, on local events, and software that will be used during the Town Centre Area Plan.

Since the meeting we have had an update on work at The Amelia Scott, sent through from The Friends of Tunbridge Wells Museum, Library and Art Gallery.

I have been in email correspondence with Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells Community First Responders about Defibrillators. I will be following this up, and hopefully this will be the presentation at our next working group meeting.

<https://www.ttwcfr.com/pad-locations>

The group continues to have concerns about The Town Hall, Assembly Hall, The Amelia Scott, and The Pantiles, including a lack of public, and accessible toilets in this location, and will be hoping to gain some answers at the next full Town Forum meeting.

Tunbridge Wells Town Events 2021

By Town Forum Working Group Culture, Leisure and Tourism

Author: Carolyn Gray 15/09/2021

The global pandemic saw a limited 'summer season' in 2020, and the cancellation of most of the Christmas events.

As Spring 2021 progressed, there was optimism for a return to summer events. However, the slow roadmap out of lockdown, and it's four week delay from 21st June to 19th July, impacted on the traditional Tunbridge Wells Summer.

Some events were held in May, June and early July, using social distanced measures, notably Jazz on The Pantiles, Pub in the Park and the first TW Fringe Festival. Some were postponed or cancelled, such as Unfest and Blackdeer Festival.

Among some of the first post July 19th events were Pantiles Market weekends, which seemed busy, and The Mela, whose attendance levels suffered due to bad weather. Late August weather was slightly better, for a string of events - a scaled down TW Pride, a full week of TW Poetry Festival, and Local and Live returning to Calverley Grounds.

Organisers at TW Poetry Festival said "Given the uncertainties of the 2021 Covid-19 pandemic, we made a brave move to run a full Festival using a mix of online and live events. The decision paid off and the Festival was a success in its own artistic, social and financial aims."

Paul Dunton, on behalf of the Local and Live Charity said "My thoughts for this year are all very positive given the situation we have all faced. Personally I missed Unfest very much but it was great to see the launch of The Fringe Festival, The Mela, The Jazz on the Pantiles return alongside the other events."

As we now enter September, we are midway through Heritage Open Days - there are some new events for this year, and so far everything has been well attended. I also attended a concert in Woodbury Park Cemetery, organised by the Friends, with Wadhurst Brass Band, and I'm sure many other groups and associations have held their own events during the summer. Within Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert park, our events have been small-scale - moth identification days, weeding, planting and litter picking.

On a larger scale, the three main town venues - The Assembly Hall Theatre, Trinity Theatre, and The Forum - have reopened. On behalf of The Forum, I would like to say things are going well, although there have been minor issues with illness/ isolating amongst staff and touring bands - this was worse at the start when the 'pingdemic' was active.

John-Jackson Almond for The Assembly Hall Theatre says: "Council Subsidy continues to be provided but audiences are slow to return and this makes the future uncertain as increased subsidy is not currently an option on the table. DCMS CRF funds are helping significantly to

plug the revenue gap. Commercial events such as Ricky Gervais are very successful but there is limited supply of these in the market and the larger commercial shows cannot be hosted at AHT so this limits the programme.”

The final word goes to Paul Dunton: “Funding for our town events still appears to be very much on the low side and I would love to see that improve for everyone. I would be in favour of a collective event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, a lot of brainstorming to ensue I am sure.”

It seems that generally there is an interest and enthusiasm for social events, and some sort of community based Jubilee celebration for 2022 would be most welcome.

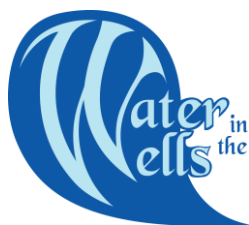
Still to come:

Royal Tunbridge Wells Food and Drink Festival, Calverley Grounds  
11 am - 6 pm Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th September

Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival, around town  
Saturday 9 - Sunday 17 October



## ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM



WATER IN THE WELLS WORKING GROUP

### REPORT TO THE TOWN FORUM 23 September 2021

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

Since my last report, several projects have come to fruition, others have moved forward, while others are needing new impetus to move them along.

1. **Pantiles: Union House.** The water feature and sculpture are due to be officially opened by the Mayor at a small ceremony from 16.00 on Thursday 23 September. The event will be combined with the unveiling of the Wiesbaden Plaque. The plaque was presented to the town by the Lord Mayor of Wiesbaden to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Agreement in 2014. Originally, we had hoped it might be sited on a fountain envisaged for Five Ways, but that project was never realized. It has now been installed in the centre of the fountain wall facing the entrance to Pantiles 1887.
2. **Pantiles: Chalybeate Spring planning application.** An application has been submitted by local businessman Samuel Danby for alterations to the building housing the Spring. The planning application can be inspected on the TWBC Planning Portal under '21/02673/ Dippers Hall, The Pantiles'. Responses are invited. Mr Danby hopes to be able to bottle the water for sale.
3. **Pantiles: Chalybeate Spring.** The sorry trickle has been certified non potable on account of high iron content, but Dippers have recently been out and about on the Pantiles for the first time this year. This indicates that the Council's yearly renewable lease on Dippers Hall and the Chalybeate Spring building is still in force. At the suggestion of Liz Scholey, the leading Dipper, we are currently putting together a small 'Pantiles Chalybeate Spring Action Group' to consider how the Spring might be more effectively managed. If you would like to be part of this group, please let me know.
4. **Belvedere:** As reported previously, continuing uncertainty over the future of the former cinema site means that any hopes for an eventual water feature on the corner of Church Road and Mount Pleasant have receded still further into the future.
5. **Arriva Bus Garage:** We understand that ownership has now passed from Pegasus Life (Life Story) to Elysian, the company formerly planning to develop the cinema site. We are unaware of any new planning submission from Elysian but will press for the retention of the water wall on either side of the planned entrance from St Johns Road.
6. **The Amelia Scott:** Tim Ward's 'A-Form' was selected for the drinking water fountain in the Courtyard of the Amelia. The two-level fountain will now be made not of granite, as originally proposed, but, more appropriately, of sandstone. You may find an illustration and description on page 11 of the autumn issue of 'Local'.

7. **Dunorlan:** In the late spring the bottle filling station was finally installed by the notice board at the path intersection just down from the public toilets. Funds had been raised by Friends of Dunorlan and the Parkrun. It will be maintained by the Parks Department. The doggie bowl, we understand, is kept topped up by staff at the Dunorlan café.
8. **Southborough Civic Centre:** This was officially opened on Saturday 18 September. Although we were unable to achieve a full water feature in the Town Square area, you will find a stainless-steel drinking water fountain just to the left of the main entrance.
9. **Drinking water fountains:** We are still hoping that bottle-filling stations similar to the one in Dunorlan will soon be installed in St John's Park and Meadows, Calverley Grounds and the Grove. Grosvenor and Hilbert is currently not planning to follow suit.
10. **St John's Park and Meadows:** Plans to apply for HLF support to restore the Royal Doulton Fountain were put on hold due to Covid. We also await a decision on the fate of the large diseased cypress. Both matters are in the hands of the Parks Department.
11. **Other water features:** Those in Grosvenor and Hilbert Park, at Knights Wood, Fountains Lodge (Southborough) and Royal Wells Park all appear to be working well.

**Finally, the Victorian Fountain in Dunorlan:** Although the basin was cleared of debris earlier in the year, the area round the fountain continues to be a health hazard, muddy and waterlogged. A plan for the long-term management of the fountain, rills and cascade urgently needs to be put in place. We must be ready when money does become available...

(21 September 2021)

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