



A G E N D A

Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Voting Entitlement for Member Organisations and Councillors** (Pages 3 - 4)
- 3 Minutes of the 2018 AGM** (Pages 5 - 16)
The minutes of the 2018 AGM were included in the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 22 November 2019 which were subsequently agreed as a correct record at the meeting on 24 January 2019. They are attached here for information.
- 4 Chairman's Annual Report**
- 5 Election of Officers** (Pages 17 - 20)

ORDINARY MEETING

- 6 Declarations of Substitute Members**
- 7 Membership Changes**
 - a) Changes to Membership
 - b) New Membership Applications
- 8 Minutes of the Meeting dated 12 September 2019** (Pages 21 - 30)
 - a) Approval of the Minutes as a correct record
 - b) Matters Arising
- 9 Update from the Leader of the Council**
- 10 Updates from Local Residents' Groups**
- 11 Civic Complex Cross-Party Working Group** (Pages 31 - 32)
A document presented as part of a report to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached for reference.
- 12 Public Realm works, Local Traders and Residents**

- 13 Tunbridge Wells in Bloom**
- 14 Hawkenbury Pump Track**
- 15 Reports from the Town Forum Working Groups** (Pages 33 - 42)
 - a) Water in the Wells 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) Strategic Planning Working Group
- 16 Any Other Business**
- 17 Future Meetings**
 - 23 January 2020
 - 29 March 2020

TOWN FORUM AGM 2019

VOTING ENTITLEMENT FOR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND COUNCILLORS

Member Organisations who have attended at least 50% of possible meetings:

Banner Farm Residents' Association
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
Civic Society of Royal Tunbridge Wells
Clarence Road Users' Association
Culverden Residents' Association*
Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park
Friends of the Commons
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
Molyneux Park Road Residents' Association
Nourish Community Foodbank
Poona Road Residents' Association

Residents First

Soroptimist International of Tunbridge Wells and District*

St John's Road Residents' Association

Telephone House Neighbours' Association

The Avenues Residents' Association

The Forum

Trinity Theatre

Tunbridge Wells Anti-Aircraft Noise Group

Tunbridge Wells Bicycle User Group*

Tunbridge Wells Friends of the Earth

Tunbridge Wells Over Fifties Forum

Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival

Tunbridge Wells Twinning & Friendship Association*

Warwick Park Residents' Association

(* = 100% of 6 meetings)

(38 out of 50)

Councillor Members who have attended at least 50% of possible meetings

Councillor Woodward

Councillor Scott

Councillor Pope

Councillor Pound

Councillor Ellis

Councillor Morton

(6 out of 18)

Member Organisations and Councillor Members not listed above have not met the attendance requirement set out in the Constitution and will not be unable to vote at the AGM.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

Thursday, 22 November 2018

Present: Caroline Auckland (Soroptomist International of Tunbridge Wells and District), Sally Balcon (Friends of the Commons), Tim Ball (Calverley Park Crescent Association), David Barnett (Friends of Grosvenor & Hilbert Parks), Adrian Berendt (Tunbridge Wells Bicycle User Group), Lorna Blackmore (Grantley Court Residents' Association), Mark Booker (Culverden Resident's Association), Stephen Bowser (Residents First), Diana Butler (Banner Farm Residents' Association), Councillor Ben Chapelard, Jocelyn Cheek (Trinity Theatre), Councillor Mrs Barbara Cobbold, John Cunningham (Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society), Sue Diales (Calverley Park Gardens Residents Association), Rebecca Dodsworth (Friends of Calverley Grounds), Irene Fairbairn (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative), Jane Fenwick (Calverley Park Residents' Association), Margeret Ginman (Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery), Carolyn Gray (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative), Alex Green (Trinity Theatre), Tim Harper (Camden Park Residents' Association), Councillor Lawrence Heasman, Dorothea Holman (Boyne Park Residents' Association), Michael Holman (Tunbridge Wells Twinning and Friendship Association), Veronika Segall Jones, Dean Kenward (Hawkenbury Village Association), Kyrios Kyriacou (Kingswood Residents' Association), Linda Lewis (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative), John de Lucy (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative), Marianne MacDonald (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative), Katharina Mahler-Bech (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative), Paul Mason (Tunbridge Wells Bicycle User Group), Helen Mitcham (Friends of Tunbridge Wells Museum, Library and Art Gallery), Samantha Morton (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative), Marguerita Morton, Altan Omer (Benhall Mill Land Association), Karen Pengelly (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative), Angust Stewart (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum substitute representative), Tim Tempest (Friends of the Grove), Alastair Tod (Poonah Road Resident's Association), Adrian Twinner (Tunbridge Wells U3A), Denise Watts (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative), Lucy Willis (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative) and Pat Wilson (Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum representative)

Officers in Attendance: David Candlin, Head of Economic Development and Property;

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1 Apologies were received from Brian Lippard (RTW Civic Society), David Bushell (Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery) and Borough Councillor David Scott.

VOTING ENTITLEMENT FOR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

- 2 The Scrutiny and Engagement Officer had circulated a list of organisations and borough council ward members which had achieved the required level of attendance at meetings to be able to vote at the AGM, as determined by the Town Forum's Constitution.

MINUTES OF THE 2017 AGM

- 3 The minutes of the 2017 AGM, held on 16 November 2017, were submitted. It was noted that these had been presented to the January 2017 meeting, where they had been noted.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the AGM, held on 16 November 2017, be approved.

TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON THE TOWN FORUM'S ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR

- 4 The Chairman of the Town Forum for 2017/18, Adrian Berendt, summarised his report on the work of the Forum over the past year, which was a requirement of its Constitution.

Mr Berendt highlighted the following points:

It was hoped that debates in Town Forum meetings, particularly around the Calverley Square Development, had been balanced and measured, and as a body, the Town Forum had tried to remain broadly neutral. The Town Forum had expressed support overall for the project and its ambitions and would continue to do so, although concerns had been voiced in some areas, for example the cost of a new car park.

The role of the Town Forum was to raise concerns, ask questions, make suggestions and to be a critical friend. The attendance by borough councillors to listen to the debate and respond to questions raised by the Town Forum members was appreciated. It was hoped that more Members from the unparished parts of the borough could attend more frequently – it was hoped that membership could be broadened to include county councillors

The Town Forum had 42 active organisations and 36 of those were eligible to vote at the meeting, demonstrating the level of commitment. One of the scheduled meetings had been held at the TN2 centre in Sherwood in an effort to engage with less well represented areas and a similar meeting would be held the following year, hopefully in Showfields.

A great deal of effort had been contributed by members of the working groups and it was within these groups that much of the Town Forum's work was done on a voluntary basis with many hours of work; participation in the groups was encouraged.

Outcomes from the previous year had been mixed:

Positive outcomes had been produced by Culture, Leisure and Tourism Working Group with work on the puppetry festival and the Calverley Square scheme, and with a large amount of work and expertise focused on the Amelia Scott.

The Finance Working Group had looked closely at the boroughs income an spending plans and looking at the critical expenditures decisions in the borough's budget.

The Strategic Planning Working Group's efforts had been recognised through the first confidential draft of the Local Plan. The Group's, and the Town Forum's response to the second phase of the public realm works was one of disappointment, as the latest design did not meet with the Town Forum's original expectation which was for a 'town square' space. Neither did the Group consider that the design justified the cost of the scheme and the disruption to the public realm. All Town forum

members were urged to look at the consultation.

Special thanks were made to Alistair Tod who had been a pivotal and inspirational member of the Town Forum, and although he would be was standing down as vice-chair, would continue working as a member of the Town Forum.

The Water in Wells Group had continued its excellent work and the theme of water was now widely accepted as a key theme in any development in the town. The Group also continued its work in looking at the promotion of public art.

The Transport Working Group had a number of areas that it had looked at including transport elements of the Local Plan, responses to the Council's Joint Transport Board, changes to Zone A parking restrictions, Linden Park coach parking proposals, the Council's air quality strategy, and the DfT strategy for major roads and networks/cycling and walking investment (members were encouraged to read the report on the positive impact of active travel on the economy in London). The Group had looked at KCC's proposals for moving St Peter's school to Hawkenbury and promoting 20mph zones.

A new Wellbeing group would be set up in 2019 to look at community focused issues in the town; members and a chair were being sought.

Work ahead for the Town Forum included the Local Plan, the borough council's Transport Strategy and a continued focus on the public realm works. More members were needed on the Town Forum and on the working groups, and more member involvement in the Management Group was needed.

Thanks were given to Katharina Mahler-Bech for maintaining the Town Forum website and other social media (including the Twitter account which had approximately 600 followers on @townforum). David Jukes, Leader of the Council and William Benson, Chief Executive, were thanked for their continuing support. Thanks were also given to Mat Jefferys, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager; Jane Clarke, Head of Performance and Governance, and Nick Peeters (Scrutiny and Engagement Officer). Thanks, in particular, were given to Mr Berendt's wife and Family for their long-term support.

A new Chairman was needed for 2019-2020 and volunteers would be sought

The Government's report into cycling and walking safety included a number of positive messages:

- Towns and cities designed for people of all ages and abilities ensuring they were active as part of every day life.
- Communities with access to green spaces connected by traffic free or traffic calmed networks for all.
- Rail and bus facilities suitable for people travelling on foot or by bike and children being able to walk or cycle safely to school.

TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN 2018/19 - TO FOLLOW

- 5 Nick Peeters, Scrutiny and Engagement Officer, summarised a report, which set out the election process for the appointment of a Chairman and up to two Deputy Chairmen of the Town Forum. Mr Peeters explained the following:

There had been one nomination for the position of Chairman one for the Deputy Chairmen positions, as follows: Chairman – Adrian Berendt; Deputy Chairmen – Alex Green

Mr Berendt had already served two terms as Chairman and Mr Green had served three terms of office as Deputy; while the Forum's Constitution specified two terms as the maximum for holding office, provision was also included for further terms of office, subject to the agreement of members at the AGM.

Mark Booker proposed the election of Adrian Berendt as Chairman for 2018/19; seconded by Jane Fenwick. proposed the re-election of Alex Green as Deputy Chairman for 2018/19; this was seconded by Alistair Tod. election of Alastair Tod as the second Deputy Chairman; this was seconded by Michael Holman. These nominations were endorsed unanimously.

Alistair Tod had stepped down and no nominations had been received for a second deputy chairman. The normal procedure would be followed in the lead up to the 28 January meeting with nominations requested three weeks prior to the meeting. Alex Green confirmed that, whilst he was happy to serve as a deputy chairman, a second position would need to be filled as he was unable to take the lead.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Adrian Berendt be formally declared elected to serve as Chairman for 2018/19, until the date of the 2019 AGM;
- (2) That Alex Green be formally declared re-elected to serve as the Deputy Chairmen for 2018/19, until the date of the 2019 AGM.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS (FOR NOTING)

- 6A There were no membership applications to note.

CHANGES OF REPRESENTATIVES (FOR INFORMATION)

- 6B Mr Peeters confirmed the following changes to the Town Forum Membership:

Rebecca Dodsworth and Lisa Grant had been appointed as the new representatives for the Friends of Calverley Grounds.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

- 7 The minutes of the meeting dated 6 September 2018 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2018 be

approved.

Matters arising – Michael Holman expressed concern that the summary of the previous minutes indicated that the proposals for improvements to phase two of the public realm works produced more of a traffic management plan than the pedestrianised, public space originally indicated.

Councillor Heasman advised that:

A large part of the funding for the works had been provided through the sustainable public transport fund and the bus companies had objected to the original scheme as there was not a viable alternative for rerouting the buses and the bus companies would not be able to operate.

Although a fully pedestrianised space would not be included, the road itself would be considerably narrowed.

The following views were expressed by Town Forum members:

It was felt the Forum should be consulted on the materials to be used in the public realm works

Concern was expressed that the Town Forum had been presented with the public realm options too late in the day and was not being listened to; there appeared to be three sets of steps that were going to one point and there was no reference to water in the design and Tunbridge Wells's history as a spa town. It was felt that this was a broader issue in respect of other consultations and the Town Forum had a role as a critical friend to the Council.

There was also concern that a hypothetical approach had been taken by the bus companies towards the impact of the scheme on the bus routes rather than something more evidence based.

The Town Forum had been consulted during the early stages of the scheme and the design at that point had been much better than that what was now being presented.

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS, HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER

8

Members discussed the following issues:

Phase two of the public realm works item was included in the agenda and members were encouraged to respond to the consultation. The most recent damage to the pedestrianised area in front of the clock was a result of heavy duty lorries backing on to the paved areas for shop deliveries. Planters had been placed in the area to prevent this.

Kent County Council (KCC) had a consultation on proposed traffic regulation orders which were for changes to use of the roads and were highways matters. There was a parking consultation, also managed by KCC, which would include a 'virtual parking' system allowing the vehicle owner's permit details to be identified directly through scanning the number plate. The scheme was due to be revisited to ensure that the needs of residents and businesses were met in terms of parking space provision. It was confirmed that residents who already held a permit were able to park in the town's car parks overnight.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS (10 MINS IN TOTAL)

- 9 The reports of the Town Forum working groups were presented.

REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

- 9A Jane Fenwick, Chair of the Transport Working Group, advised that there were no additional comments regarding the report.

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKING GROUP

- 9B Mark Booker, Chair of the Strategic Planning Working Group, updated members on the Groups work. During discussion the following points were highlighted:

Homelessness in the town - the opening of Dowding House as an initiative to reduce homelessness in the borough was welcome. The borough council was encouraged to engage with the Government's moves towards providing new social rented housing developments.

Local Plan - members of the Group had been invited to attend a half-day workshop supported by five planning officers. Confidential information had been shared which demonstrated that the views of the Town Forum were being considered. Work into the local plan was ongoing with continued evidence gathering and research into the development of a garden village in the second half of the 20 year period to alleviate some of the pressure on housing provision. The Council had been commended by other authorities for the broadness of its consultation process on the Local Plan.

Affordable housing provision – this had been difficult for the Council to maintain (normally 35 percent of a development over 10 units) and particularly on brownfield sites, as applicants often claimed through viability assessments that they were unable to afford the provision. This criteria was due to change and new regulations would focus on land costs/value and the affordability allocation. There was also a need for social housing that allowed key workers such as nurses and emergency services workers to be retained locally (£2 billion was being made available in the Government's budget for this sector).

Royal Victoria Place – British Land had made a significant investment in the RVP and there would be a period while the plans for the shopping centre were reviewed. British Land had already decided not to continue with the previous owner's proposals, however, as the owner of the five most successful shopping centres in the country, there would be a further, major investment. British Land specialised in managing this type of facility and were taking a long-term view of the market and how it had changed over the last five years. RVP had provided a unit to Nourish for free and had indicated that other units in Ely Court would be occupied.

REPORT OF THE CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM WORKING GROUP

- 9C Alex Green, a member of the Culture, Leisure and Tourism Working Group updated members on the Group's work. During discussion, the following points were highlighted:

Terms of reference - the Group's terms of reference had been reviewed and the issues it should look at were discussed; Town Forum members were encouraged to approach the Group with any issues they thought needed looking at. The Group was keen to get a younger and more diverse representation. A request was made for volunteers to promote the activities of the Town Forum to schools in the town. It was also proposed that a sub-group of the Town Forum could be initiated that exclusively included younger people and reflected their views.

Trinity Theatre – the heritage activities provided had been expanded on and this would continue with a change to the theatre's articles of association to include heritage as a key element and a specific objective. Part of the change would include the opening up of the clock tower (to include a viewing platform) as a visitor destination – this would be done in association with the Amelia centre operations; a short consultation had already been undertaken and the information was available in a temporary pop-up in RVP.

Library consultation – KCC was undertaking a consultation on the libraries 'Registration and Archives Draft Strategy' which would close on 29 January. Proposals included a county-wide, overall reduction in library opening hours and staff reductions (Royal Tunbridge Wells and Southborough were not included), saving KCC up to £1 million. The Group felt that libraries contributed to the mental health and wellbeing of communities. There was concern that the importance of the facilities to residents was not being considered. It was important that Town Forum members commented on the consultation. With the roll-out of universal credit, use of the internet for those without access at home was critical and libraries currently supported this facility. The proposed reduction in the opening hours was disappointing as it would impact on this group. An early response to the consultation was important and any social media outlets to express the Town Forum's views and contacting the local MP should be explored.

REPORT OF THE WATER IN THE WELLS WORKING GROUP

9D The Chair of the Water in the Wells Working Group, Michael Holman, updated members on the Group's work. During discussion the following points were highlighted:

Chalybeate spring - there was concern over the future management of the chalybeate spring in the Pantiles as there appeared to be confusion over who, between the borough council and Target Follow, was responsible as both organisations felt the other had the lead responsibility; Target Follow own the premises where the spring is located and the borough council (under an agreement with Target Follow) had a responsibility to maintain the fabric of the spring and to employ the dippers. As a result of this situation, little progress had been made. The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism and the Economic development Manager had both been written to regarding the issue. Discussions had also been held with the ward councillors who had agreed to look into the relevant policies. The spring was essential to Tunbridge Wells and featured in much of the tourism literature, but was now closed until further notice.

St John's Recreation Ground – Under a Section 106 agreement McCarthy and Stone allocated £10,000 for the refurbishment of the vandalised water

feature. It transpired that his sum was only sufficient to restore the fabric, not to provide the fountain with running water. Additionally, there were parts of the fountain still missing. A response from the Council as to how much additionally would be needed to fully restore the fountain with flowing water had not yet been received. The Head of Housing, Health and Environment would be approached for further information.

Wiesbaden Twinning Association – Town Forum members were invited by Adrian Berendt and the Twinning Association to an event on 16 December at the ice rink in Calverley Square.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND OTHER ISSUES WORKING GROUP

9E David Wakefield, Chair of the Finance and Other Issues working Group, updated members on the Group's work. During discussion the following points were highlighted:

Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2019/20 - The Council's 'draft budget and MTFS 2019/20' had been published and included predicted income and expenditure over the following five years. The Council had succeeded in balancing the budget over the previous ten years despite a long period of austerity. However, as the years had passed, a number of risks had become more prevalent and the although the revenue deficit was small in 2019/20 it was predicted to increase to approximately £500,000 by 2020/2023 if left unchecked. The capital account would break even in 2019/20 but thereafter the reserves would not meet the estimated capital spend. Although explanations as to how the deficit would be met had been provided by the Director of Finance, there were further questions that could be asked by the Group and Town Forum members, and a more diverse representation of members and residents was needed to respond to the draft budget.

TWAANG - UPDATE ON GATWICK EXPANSION AND RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

10 Irene Fairbairn and Angus Stewart, representatives of Tunbridge Wells Anti-Aircraft Noise Group (TWAANG), presented a report on Gatwick Airport noise issues including developments with the Noise Management Board, Gatwick's draft master plan, changes to the reduced night noise trial (including proposed preferred trial routes).

During discussion the following views were expressed:

GATWICK NOISE MANAGEMENT BOARD:

The eight community groups (including TWAANG) participating in the noise management board issued a letter of "no confidence" and the board is consequently under review and restructuring.

GATWICK EXPANSION:

The number of flights will be increased by 30% by 2028 and 40% by 2033. This increase will be achieved by increased use of current runway and by use of current standby runway for regular use.

They also want to safeguard land required for a third operational runway.

REASONS TO OBJECT TO EXPANSION:

Noise: 80,000 extra flights annually within 10 yrs. The noise problem is already severe over western Tunbridge Wells and the planes will fly further eastwards over the town as frequency increases, particularly in the evenings and early part of night. There are likely to be adverse effects on health and well being and adverse economic effects via reduced tourism , visitors, retail and property values.

TWAANG recommend strongly that Gatwick expansion is opposed by the Town Forum.

Comment was made that planes could fly higher over the town at 6000 ft rather than 3500ft .

It is often possible to fly higher than 3500ft but there are serious constraints on height created by planes flying above and the need to joins the ILS at 3000 feet. Some work is being done to minimise particularly low fliers (outliers) at night .

Unfortunately Gatwick are suggesting a concentrated track over Tunbridge Wells during the Reduced Night Noise Trial and TWAANG is resisting that strongly.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - UPDATE FROM TOWN CENTRE MANAGER, KAREN PENGELLY

- 11 Karen Pengelly, representing Royal Tunbridge Wells Together (RTWT), updated members on the work towards establishing a Business Improvement District (BID). The following points were highlighted:

The four week ballot period concluded on the 8th November and the result was a positive outcome; there was a 38% turnout and a 74% vote of businesses in favour of establishing a BID. There were three BIDs in Kent – Canterbury, Maidstone and now Tunbridge Wells.

The BID would commence operations on 1April 2019 and exist for five years with a a rebalot held at the end of the five year period, and businesses asked to vote again. RTWT, as the Bid delivery company, was prepared and ready to commence operations on day one. Each year, we should be able to point to real cost savings that businesses have made through the BID. Real cost savings made by each year by businesses, through the BID, should be identified.

RTWT will maintain the BID structure as a Community Interest Company and will be accountable to all the BID members, ensuring that the BID delivers the services, projects and plans set out in the Business Plan.

The business plan for the BID was created following two lengthy consultations with local businesses, who were to outline their priorities for the town centre area. The four priorities that identified and that form the core areas are:

- Events
- Promotion
- Better town for Business
- Accessibility

It would be some months before definitive pledges and finer detail was available. However, the following day-to-day work was being undertaken:

Events - A £635,000 investment over 5 year into town centre area events. An increased grants fund would be created to support existing events such as The Puppetry Festival, Local & Live and the Lantern Parade. RTWT made £3,000 per year available for the previous three years and this would rise automatically to £20,000 in year one and £25,000 per annum by year five. The events attracted visitors and footfall into the town centre area and benefited the businesses there. In addition to grant funds, an increase in the number and variety of events would be looked at. An Events Group would be created to work on a possible arts festival for the town as well as additional seasonal after-work events for staff from local businesses and residents. The events would be spread across the town centre to ensure that all areas received equal focus. In the shorter term, meetings would be held with organisers and curators at other arts festivals in the South East to discuss further opportunities.

Promotion - the tourism and leisure industry was a competitive sector and the local restaurants, theatres, accommodation providers, attractions and businesses needed support to thrive. A sum of £495K will be invested over the 5 year BID term. This sum will be used to: fund press visits, place branding (so that we have a cohesive and promotable brand) out door advertising on trains and at railways stations, attendance at travel trade exhibitions and trade fairs and literature production and distribution

A Better Town for Business – approximately £300,000 would be invested in a range of services and initiatives such as training, waste and recycling collections for business, seminars, B2B events and recruitment initiatives intended to make the town centre a better place to work. The BID delivery would work with partner organisations or others to leverage greater levels of investment into some of these schemes and would work with Chambers of Commerce on events and training, helping to deliver the best value we to the local business community.

Accessibility - £200,000 would be invested by businesses into accessibility schemes over the next 5 years covering parking, public transport, cycling and work with Shopmobility to promote its services.

RTWT, through the BID was focused on achieving an increased footfall and vibrancy to the town centre. Many local businesses were thriving but needed support to maintain a competitive edge and the ability to access technology and incorporate it into businesses.

RTWT had funds to appoint industry experts where necessary in areas such as training, promotion or curating art events and other creative strategies.

Transport for London had recently published a report on cycling and parking provision that looked at making town centres and high streets more

accessible to active travel. It had been demonstrated that road widening and more parking provision did not benefit business and the retail sector in town centres, and that, where the ability to access high streets by car was taken away, people found other ways to travel such as walking and cycling. Fifty percent of the traffic in Tunbridge Wells travelled less than two miles. RTWT was happy to engage with members of Tunbridge Wells Bicycle User's Group in support of this area. The organisation was also happy to engage with Tunbridge Wells Heritage, particularly in respect of heritage open days.

There was encouragement that only 50 percent of the spend of RTWT focused solely on businesses and that a retention on making Tunbridge Wells a better place to live and enriching the lives of residents and visitors was equally as important.

RTWT provided assurance and was confident that that it would be able to cope with the huge amount of additional work involved with putting the BID programme into place and would be calling on assistance from organisations with which they would be cooperating.

UPDATES FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUPS

- 12 Representatives from the Over Fifties Forum reported that twiddle boards had been created for bed-bound dementia patients in Pembury Hospital to aid mobility. Members were asked to provide donations of ironmongery so that more boards could be produced.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 13 There was no other business.

NOTE: The meeting concluded at 21:00

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TOWN FORUM AGM 2019 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Introduction

1. The Town Forum is administered by a Management Committee of officers elected at the AGM and the leaders of the working groups.
2. The officers are:
 - 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

3. At the specified deadline for the submission of nominations, the following nominations had been submitted:

Chair

Adrian Berendt (fourth term)

Deputy Chair

Alistair Tod (third term)

Don Sloan (first term)

4. Statements from each of the candidates are set out at the end of this report.
5. The Town Forum's Constitution states: "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, further terms of office is permissible, subject to the agreement of the majority of persons voting at the AGM.

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.
7. 38 out of 50 member organisations of the Town Forum have met the necessary attendance requirements (i.e. have attended at least 50% of possible Town Forum meetings across the year) and their representatives will be entitled to vote.
8. 6 out of 18 Councillor members have also achieved the minimum meeting attendance requirement.

Statement from Adrian Berendt

While I am willing to serve as Chair of the Town Forum for one more year, I would really appreciate someone taking over from 2020/21.

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 chair I have tried to represent the interests of Town Forum members and to increase develop its influence. I look forward to the opportunity to continuing that work.

Following the withdrawal of the Calverley Square project, a major challenge for the town and its residents is to decide what to do instead. I believe that the Town Forum's approach to this project, as critical friend to the Borough Council, has improved its reputation and standing and we are now engaged in discussing alternatives.

Equally important is to follow up the Town Forum's input to the new Local Plan and, in particular, the proposed Transport Strategy. Members of the Town Forum will be aware of my interests in giving residents a choice about how they travel. This means a greater ability to use public transport and to walk or cycle for their daily journeys. I am a fervent believer in road safety and the needs of vulnerable road users.

During my (?)final year in office, I want the Town Forum:

- To finalise its input to the Local Plan, to ensure a clear and coherent vision for the future of the whole town, particularly a comprehensive transport strategy to prevent the increase in housing leading to a corresponding increase in traffic congestion.
- To further widen its membership and to encourage community participation from those areas of the town and sections of the community – particularly younger residents – that are currently under-represented.
- To deepen engagement with borough and county councillors representing town wards. This has been successful on an individual basis, but I am disappointed by councillor attendance at Town Forum meetings.
- To build on the 20mph zones in St. John's, Banner Farm and elsewhere by establishing Tunbridge Wells as a "20's Plenty" town – with 20mph in all residential streets.

I continue to represent the Tunbridge Wells Bicycle Users Group, formed to make Tunbridge Wells a cycling friendly town and I coordinate 20's Plenty for Tunbridge Wells and Kent

Statement from Alastair Tod

I am offering myself for election as Deputy Chairman of the Town Forum.

I have lived in Tunbridge Wells since 1998 and attended the Forum since 2006, for the last ten years as representative of the Poona Road residents. I was Chairman of the Forum from 2014 to 2016, Deputy Chairman 2016-2018, and am currently a member of the Management Group.

I have served as Chairman of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society twice and remain on the Executive with responsibility for Planning. I am on the Committee of the Friends of Calverley Grounds and the Friends of the Grove and a member of other town organisations. In my working career I spent twenty years on the policy side of local government, followed by roles in the voluntary sector and ten years in the renewable energy industry.

The Forum is an essential platform for communication between residents and the Council; a 'talking shop' between residents on issues that concern us all; and a public voice for working groups on current issues. New groups have recently been formed to expand the Forum's scope. This is more important than ever in present circumstances and we are fortunate in those contributing to our work, and in the support of the Council.

Recent events have shown the importance of grassroots democracy and I look forward to the Forum doing more to represent public opinion by expanding its membership and its activities. With changes in local and national politics a vigorous and informed Forum is needed to represent Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Statement from Don Sloan

I have been a member of the Town Forum for several years now, first as a Borough Councillor (2014 -2018), and now representing residents of Molyneux Park Gardens as well as being on the Forum planning committee. Tunbridge Wells has been my base since 1975 though I was abroad with the British Council much of the time until 2001. Since then Helen and I have lived in Tunbridge Wells continuously. Besides the Forum my interests include membership of the Rotary Club of Tunbridge Wells and trying to keep fit.

I see the Town Forum as the channel for residents of unparished areas, through their representatives, to communicate effectively with the Borough Council and to respond to Council consultations. The work of the Forum and its committees is invaluable. Above all I want the Forum to continue to be highly trusted to give fair, balanced and considered views on the development of our town, and in a non-partisan way. A case in point is our Chairman currently guiding cross-party talks between councillors.

If elected as Deputy Chair I would promote and uphold the reputation and values of the Town Forum.

Appendix A: Civic Complex Cross-Party Working Group Update (C-P Working Group)

Objective

To examine the business case and other aspects for options for the 4 key sites owned by the Council (the Town Hall, Assembly Hall Theatre, Mount Pleasant Car Park and the Great Hall Car Park) together with other sites which might become available.

The Working Group's role is solely to facilitate and inform the decision-making process within the Council.

The Working Group is not a decision-making body.

Background

The C-P Working Group report (23rd September 2019) to Members identified 12 areas of agreement, 4 assumptions consider unproven by some members and 3 areas of disagreement. This report and that of the Non-Political Panel headed by Adrian Berendt provided an initial basis to proceed on the evaluation as set out in the Objective above. These reports are attached.

Members of the Working Group agreed to act on a non-political basis and to consider the alternatives objectively. It is recognised that various issues may be passed to other Working Parties that may be formed to consider specific aspects of the functions envisaged within the Civic Complex, such as culture, transport and others.

To ensure dialogue can be open between members it was agreed that members would avoid open discussion of the workings of the Working Group and specific comments made by members.

The Working Group is supported by relevant officers as required. Adrian Berendt has attended each of the meetings to help facilitate discussion. Councillor Andrew Hickey has also been recently co-opted.

Initial Review

An initial draft report in respect of the first stage of C-P Working Party is attached. The C-P Working Group identified four aspects for consideration:

- Initial pressing issues which the Calverley Square project was designed to solve;
- Economic, social and environmental objectives of the Borough that any proposed short-term solution should take into account;
- Key areas of concern raised by residents about (1) the Calverley Square project and (2) previous proposals for the Civic Complex in 2010/12; and
- Financial aspects.

The C-P Working Group has commenced reviewing the above relative to

- Functions needed or desired; and
- Sites identified as within the scope.

It is recognised that the success of initiatives in the centre of the Borough will help the whole of the Borough through growth of the Borough as a cultural and commercial hub. This is also aimed to increase income and prosperity, while also increasing TWBC business tax base and reduce operational costs.

Three time horizons are identified:

Short-term: What can be done now both financially and physically. This should be a step towards our medium-term goals. Maintenance is an important factor within the scope of the short-term goals and medium-term uses.

Medium-term: Which goals can be achieved within 5 to 10 years using available buildings encompassing existing activities/function but also including new functions. This potentially requires radical re-thing of the area. It also needs to be 'complete' as a vision that may be extended rather than purely a stage in the achievement of the end game.

Long-term: It will be determined by events and needs at the time, not predetermined irrespective of whatever else is occurring across the Borough and hopefully based on the achievements of the goals identified by the Working Party.

Initial repair and maintenance costs likely to be incurred by TWBC in 2020/21 were identified and are being presented to the Finance CAB.

Most significantly, the Working party has found much common ground which it hopes the Council can embrace unanimously.

Next Stages:

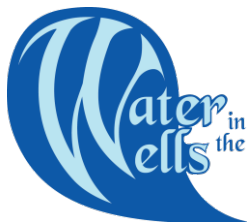
The Working Party aims to provide a report to the Full Council on 18th December 2019. A briefing paper will be provided prior to that meeting for discussion at a Full Member Briefing on Monday 9th December. The Working Party will meet following this to consider points arising and any verbal or other updates to be given to the Full Council meeting the following week.

TOWN FORUM – 27 NOVEMBER 2019

REPORTS FROM THE TOWN FORUM WORKING GROUPS

a)	Water in the Wells Working Group	Attached
b)	Transport Strategy Working Group	Attached
c)	Culture, Leisure and Tourism Working Group	Attached
d)	Wellbeing Working Group	Verbal
e)	Finance and Other Issues Working Group	Verbal
f)	Strategic Planning Working Group	Verbal

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WATER IN THE WELLS WORKING GROUP

REPORT TO THE TOWN FORUM 27 November 2019

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

We met on 19 November 2019 and will meet again on 14 January 2020.

1. Planning

Two major strategic planning documents have been progressed since my last report.

Thanks to last-minute intervention by Water in the Wells, *The Draft Local Plan*, although primarily concerned with land and housebuilding, now includes a key phrase that should make it easier for Section 106 monies to be channelled into public art and water features. The all-important underlined phrase is contained in the following passage:

"In order to mitigate the impact on infrastructure, the development of sites allocated under Policies AL/RTW 1 to AL/RTW 32, and all other development within Royal Tunbridge Wells that creates a requirement for new or improved infrastructure beyond existing provision, contributions must be provided to mitigate that impact... including 1) the provision of buildings and spaces to provide cultural opportunities and 2) through public art, which may include water features to reflect the connections with water, health and the spa heritage of the town, in accordance with the Tunbridge Wells Borough Public Art guidance 2019."

The long-awaited *Public Art Guidance Document* was finally adopted at the Cabinet Meeting on 24 October. This document has Borough-wide implications, and although it offers guidance rather than defining policy, its adoption should eventually make it easier for TWBC to obtain funding for public art programming from future major developments. This has to be a step in the right direction.

A copy of the 16-page document can be found in the Cabinet Minutes for 24 October, Agenda item 13, Public Art Guidance, Appendix A. We trust it will eventually be available in a more easily accessible location.

2. Drinking water fountains

Dunorlan: We continue to work closely with the Friends of Dunorlan and the Parks Department. The plan is to install a combined drinking water fountain and bottle-filling station near the notice board at the confluence of paths from the café and the top car park. Pipework is of the appropriate blue plastic, and a route for the pipe has been agreed.

Royal Victoria Place: As part of the current refurbishment, a bottle-filling station will be installed on the upper level on the wall between Burrells and Pandora. The main artwork, inspired by water, has been signed off and will form a major feature of roof areas throughout the centre.

St. John's Rec. and the Grove: It is proposed to install in each park a drinking water fountain /bottle-filling station identical to the model planned for Dunorlan.

The Amelia Scott Centre: We are informed that, in line with the Council's agenda to reduce single use plastics, drinking water fountains will be installed. Positioning and number will depend on final floorplans and layouts.

3. Other water features

Calverley Grounds: The Ice Rink – the town's major frozen water feature - is now again installed, operating and pulling in the punters. This year it boasts an additional small side rink for junior skaters.

Arriva Bus Station (Pegasus): Demolition apparently halted. We await a response from Pegasus to our inquiry concerning the planned water wall on either side of the entrance on St John's Road.

Owlsnest Wood, Tonbridge Road, Pembury (Affordable Housing and Healthcare): A decision on the re-submitted planning application is expected before Christmas. The application includes renovation of the lake and provision of public access but no reference to restoration of the original fountain.

St John's Rec.: We continue to gather information about Joseph Horatio Love, donor of the original Doulton fountain. We hope that the Royal Doulton Archive, held by Wedgwood, might provide valuable leads. Reports in the local press in the 1920s mentioning the fountain are sadly few and far between, but on 23 May 1923 'The Courier' carried the following short piece:

***"STJOHN'S FOUNTAIN.** For the first time since the war the fountain at St John's Recreation Ground was played on Saturday on the occasion of the visit of the Corporation to the Culverden Bowling Club. The fountain will need cleaning if it is to be used frequently."*

Fonthill Cold Baths (Eridge Road): In cooperation with a local landscape architect, we are considering a maximum and minimum plan for renovation and restoration.

Knights Wood: Currently drained of water to permit replacement of vandalised lighting. Restoration of lettering: **SOMETHING IN THE WATER** still awaited

Finally, some welcome publicity: 'The Courier' of 22 November carried an upbeat and informative report by Mary Harris headed:

'Water features springing up everywhere in town'.

(Michael Holman, 22 November 2019)

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

News



Michael Holman

The feature at The Dairy in St John's Road by McCarthy and Stone



Left, the feature at Berkeley Homes development on Mount Ephraim



The water feature at Skinner's Kent Primary School at Knights Wood, the development by Dandara, lit up at night

Water features springing up everywhere in town

A STUNNING and transformative £100,000 water feature, which would incorporate the town's towering clock at Fiveways in Tunbridge Wells, is the 'magic wand' project.

That might be the ultimate goal of Water in the Wells but since the group was created in 2012 it has already chalked up some achievements celebrating the historic spa waters of Tunbridge

Wells. Working hand in hand with developers and the council, Water in the Wells has encouraged the building of high-quality water features at developments of new schools, offices and homes in Tunbridge Wells.

The group is so effective that not only has it seen the addition of beautiful fountains by working with companies such as Berkeley Homes, Dandara and McCarthy & Stone, but

it has also influenced the Local Plan so developers can be guided towards creating water features when they build in Tunbridge Wells.

Professor Michael Holman, of Water in the Wells, a community interest company, said: "The task was to convince developers who are not based in Tunbridge Wells that Tunbridge Wells has a brand and a patent and this is based on water and having health and having a few

pennies in your pocket: health, water and wealth and to give people a good time. Developers need to be aware of this because they can come from outside of Tunbridge Wells."

He added: "The town has a brand that says 'disgusted' but that is not enough. It has a brand that people coming here have a healthy and full, rewarding life. That's the reason young families move out of London

to Tunbridge Wells, so kids can live in an environment of trees, green spaces and so on."

Projects in the pipeline include hopes for water features at new developments at Union House, Hawkenbury and Hendy on Mount Ephraim.

Anyone interested in joining Water in the Wells can email michael@waterinthewells.co.uk or waterinthewells@gmail.com

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Report from the Transport Working Group to the Town Forum on 27th November 2019

Present: Jane Fenwick (chair), Cllr David Scott, Pat Wilson, Adrian Berendt, Katharina Mahler Bech and Lorna Blackmore. Apologies: Ian Rennardson, Cllr Peter Lidstone,

1. **Draft local plan – town forum response.** The TF management group has prepared a response to the Draft Local Plan including the transport and parking sections. There are some policies for mitigating the impact of these developments and related traffic on RTW, but it is thought unlikely that this can be relied on. Throughout the plan there is an emphasis on ‘active travel’. Concern was expressed that priority should be given to developing bus services as alternatives to car travel locally. Cllr Scott commented how other communities had found that Uber-style taxi services had made a major impact on traffic levels and car ownership.
2. **Draft local plan – parking.** The Residential Parking Standards Topic Paper, August 2019 underpins the parking elements of the Draft Local Plan, and contains within it some significant changes to the previous approach. Parking department will be asked to present its findings to the Town Forum on 27th November.
3. **20mph extension to the historic centre of RTW**
JF explained that an accident in October caused by a speeding car had caused structural damage to the rear of a grade 2* building on Calverley park Crescent and demolished the railings of 3 other neighbouring properties. She proposed that this incident should be a trigger to request a 20mph zone covering the historic centre of RTW to protect its buildings as well as improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. This area already contains two 20mph school zones, York, Dudley and Newton Roads which are also 20mph, and the extended shared space/public realm area in the town centre. This new zone will enable the existing St Johns zone and proposed zones in Banner Farm and Culverden to connect across the town centre. JF agreed to work up the proposal and create a map to present to ward councillors, and JTB members at the JTB in January.
4. **Calverley Crescent and Carrs corner.** Following the accident at Calverley Park Crescent, TvdB and JF had met with Park ward councillor Nick Pope to view the damage and consider options. It was decided to revive the safety issues at Carrs Corner roundabout again and JF undertook to log the history of debate in previous JTB meetings.
5. **Public Realm works and traffic management.** JF and TvdB had unsuccessfully sought a meeting with Hilary Smith and KCC in October to consider traffic light phasing at Mount Pleasant and traffic signage at the new junction. The road has now opened but inadequate signage has resulted in traffic using the new space during the day when they should not be.
6. **Climate change..** The TWG decided to set some priorities and actions for the Town Forum starting with traffic pollution. AB is to see how the Town Forum can support the existing ‘anti-idling’ campaign.
7. **Public Transport Forum 28th November.** LB agreed to attend this meeting for the TWG.
8. **Roundabouts:** LB had met with Cllr Barrington King and reported that the roundabout planting will be completed by 10th April, Good Friday.

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RTW Town Forum

Report from the Culture Leisure and Tourism Group

The Group noted progress with the Amelia Scott Centre and regretted the fact that the vault was now to be almost entirely zinc covered, not glazed.

We were disappointed that the Public Art Strategy had not emerged, and neither the Public Art Strategy nor the Cultural Strategy is part of the evidence base for the draft Local Plan. The Council had commissioned a report from the cultural consultant Tom Fleming on the creative industries sector, but this had not been published. Michael Holman had sought to have included in the Local Plan strategy a reference to improvement of the cultural offer, including 'the provision of buildings and spaces to provide cultural opportunities, and through public art, which may include water features to reflect the connections with water, health and the spa heritage of the town.'

We discussed what had been learned from the Calverley Square project, now abandoned. The public relations for Calverley Square had been mishandled and the lack of real consultation had led to it being slaughtered on social media. We were now back to where we were five years ago, and there was a risk a future scheme might meet the same fate. It was felt some of the factors which had shaped the Calverley Square proposal, such as the wish to maintain continuous availability of a theatre, and the need for a minimum 1200 seats for financial viability, requiring a larger catchment, had prevented real consideration of alternatives.

The Group felt any future investment should be based on the work available on cultural strategy, the creative industries, and public art, as well as the studies done for Calverley Square. The Group endorsed the principle of meeting the cultural need in the town and maintaining Tunbridge Wells' position as the cultural capital of the High Weald. The town was flourishing in arts activity but it was uncoordinated. Independent arts organisations were producing their own plans, and a future strategy should seek to discover what restricts their activity. A single large institution might not provide what was required. A strategy should take into account identified cultural needs and maximise what we've already got in terms of structures and organisations, with a range of options offered for public consultation.

We questioned whether the proposed format of Calverley Square would have achieved this. We regretted the intention to use the Great Hall site for a theatre since this diverted from the cultural complex around the Amelia Scott Centre. The CLT group believed any future proposal should be multi-use and offer synergy with the Amelia Scott and community use of the Town Hall. The present facilities attracted large audiences for the right events. Large audiences were to be welcomed, but proposals should not be based on competing with other towns. Once the idea of an instantaneous transfer from the Assembly Hall to a new theatre was abandoned there were various possibilities, with temporary accommodation provided if required by those local groups most likely to be affected.

The Group thought the Assembly Hall could be adapted by sideways expansion to provide a flexible space which would give Tunbridge Wells facilities on an appropriate scale for the town. The vote in the Council had not been against a theatre, but against the particular theatre proposed. A problem emphasised to the Independent Panel had been the poor provision at Calverley Square for Food and Beverage sales and merchandising, thus underestimating the contribution of these to viability.

It was recognised that, if the Council's projections of attendances were fulfilled, the CS theatre would have broken even in Year 7, but the capital debt would remain. The 'subsidy' needed to service this would apply to any similar proposal. Planning should recognise the need for a robust business plan but not be dominated by seeking to avoid an operating deficit, which could be traded against capital cost. A physical structure should provide a performance space which could be interactive and flexible, located in a cultural quarter based on the Amelia Scott but serving the whole borough. Any brief to consultants should be published and proposals fully consulted on, by traditional means and including social media.

The Group agreed to submit a recommendation on these lines to the Cross Party Group appointed by the Council to investigate options for the Town Hall and Assembly Hall.

ART/Town Forum/Groups/LCT Group Report 061119