

# AGENDA

Thursday 28 November 2013 at 6.30 pm  
Council Chamber, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS

## Annual General Meeting

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Declarations of members entitled to vote** (Pages 1 - 4)  
The voting entitlement of member organisations at the Annual General Meeting is set out in section 3 of the Town Forum's Constitution. A list of organisations who have met that requirement is attached. Please note that if you are eligible to vote in the election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen positions, but you are unable to attend the AGM, you are invited to e-mail the Administrator (Mike McGeary) either approving the recommended course of action, or disapproving and suggesting a viable alternative.
- 3 **To receive a report from the Chairman on the Town Forum's activities over the past year** (Pages 5 - 8)
- 4 **To elect a Chairman and Deputy Chairmen 2013/14** (Pages 9 - 12)  
A report explaining the requirements of the Constitution regarding electing a Chairman and up to two Deputy Chairmen is attached, along with the nomination received for one of the Deputy Chairmen positions.

## General Meeting

- 5 **Membership changes**
  - a Membership applications (for noting)
  - b Changes of representatives (for information)
- 6 **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 2013** (Pages 13 - 22)
- 7 **Actions from previous meetings**  
26 September 2013
  - 4 Evidence of formal appointment to the Town Forum  
*Representatives to submit evidence of their formal appointment to the Town Forum*  
  
(The current total is 17 out of 35 active representative organisations.)
- 8 **Update report from the Leader of the Council (10 mins)**

**9 TWBC draft budget for 2014/15 (10 mins)**

Lee Colyer, TWBC's Head of Finance and Governance, will provide a summary of the Borough Council's draft budget for 2014/15, formal public consultation on which will start in December. A copy of his report to TWBC's recent Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board meeting can be viewed from the following link:

<http://democracy.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/documents/g2817/Public%20reports%20pack%2013th-Nov-2013%2017.30%20Finance%20Governance%20Cabinet%20Advisory%20Board.pdf?T=10>

**10 Parking in the town centre (30 mins)**

Councillor Alan McDermott, TWBC's Portfolio-holder for Planning and Transportation, and Rosemarie Bennett, TWBC's Parking Manager, will lead a discussion on the forthcoming Parking Strategy.

**11 Update reports from the Town Forum Working Groups (5-10 mins each) (Pages 23 - 26)**

- (a) **Water in the Wells** – Michael Holman, chairman of the working group, has prepared the attached update report.
- (b) **Leisure, Culture and Tourism** – An update report on the work of this group will be made verbally.
- (c) **Traffic Strategy** – Jane Fenwick, acting chairman of this working group, has prepared the attached update report.
- (d) **Planning and Development Strategy** – Michael Doyle, chairman of this working group, will report verbally on progress.
- (e) **Finance and Other Issues** – David Wakefield, chairman of this working group, will report verbally on progress.

**12 2014 - year of anniversaries (5 mins) (Pages 27 - 28)**

**13 Future events (5 mins)**

The Chairman will report on the following issues: (a) the Calverley Gardens ice rink; and (b) Tunbridge Wells Library and Museum.

**14 Future consultation issues (5 mins) (Pages 29 - 30)**

Mike McGeary will summarise the attached paper, which sets out Borough Council issues of general interest to the Town Forum over the next few months. Some of these will be the subject of a formal public consultation process, where the relevant working group is requested to meet and agree an appropriate response.

**15 Any other business (5 mins)**

**Dates of 2014 meetings**

Thursday 16 January

Thursday 20 March

Thursday 8 May

Thursday 10 July

Thursday 25 September

Thursday 27 November (including the AGM)

(All starting at 6.30pm)

# Agenda Item 2

## TOWN FORUM – VOTING ENTITLEMENT OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

### AT THE AGM, 2013

**Organisations/ward members who have achieved at least 3 attendances during 2012/13 (= 50% of meetings) including Sept 2103: (30 out of 48) (or 30 out of 35 active groups)**

Benhall Mill Road Land Association

Beulah Road Residents' Association

Boyne Park Residents' Association

Calverley Park Residents' Association

Calverley Park Crescent Freeholders' Association

Camden Road Guild

Camden Park Residents' Association

Citizen's Advice Bureau

Civic Society

Clarence Road Users' Association

Friends of the Common

Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Parks

Friends of TW Museum, Library and Art Gallery

Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery

Grantley Court Residents' Association

Hawkenbury Village Association

Inner London Road Residents' Association

Kingswood Residents' Association

Molyneux Park Road Residents' Association

Poona Road Residents' Association

Residents First

Royal British Legion

Sherborne Close Management Committee

# Agenda Item 2

Soroptimists

St John's Road Residents' Association

Telephone House Neighbours' Association

Trinity Theatre

Tunbridge Wells Over 50s Forum

Tunbridge Wells Twinning and Friendship Association

Warwick Park Residents' Association

Ward members (8):

Councillor Basu

Ben Chapelard

Catherine Mayhew

David Neve

Bob Backhouse

James Scholes

David Scott

Chris Woodward

**Organisations who will not be able to vote at the AGM, as they have not been able to meet the attendance requirement set out in the Constitution: (18)**

NB – Those with brackets have not attended any meetings in 2012/13

(Access Group)

(Albion Road Residents' Association)

(Banner Farm Residents' Association)

(Broadwater Rise Residents' Association)

(Clarendon Area Residents' Association)

(Crossways Community)

Friends of Calverley Grounds

(Grove Hill Residents' Association)

(Oak Road Community Association)

(Pantiles Traders' Association)

# Agenda Item 2

(Regina Court Residents' Association)

(Rock Villa & Hanover Road Residents' Association)

(St John's Retailers' Association)

(TN2 Community Trust)

(Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School)

(Tunbridge Wells Village Residents' Association)

Upper Stone Street Residents' Association

Voluntary Action for West Kent

Ward members: (11)

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## Tunbridge Wells Town Forum

### Chairman's Report to the 2013 AGM

#### Background

This time last year we had developed our thinking about the new way in which we wanted the Forum to work. We moved from a cycle of monthly meetings, to bi-monthly meetings, and we changed the emphasis from the multitude of problems raised by individuals, to five specific problem areas. For each of these problem areas we set up a working group.

It is now time to see how we have got on.

#### The Changed Method of Working

I believe that the changes are working well. Certainly the working groups have produced excellent reports, and have tried to get implementation of their recommendations. Not always successfully I hasten to add, but we never expected that change was an easy thing to bring about. I have always said that the hard work starts when the Town Forum tries to make changes to the way things have been run in this town for many years, and we should not expect immediate success, nor should we give up at the first difficulty. Whilst it is the work of the working groups to produce the data on which they make recommendations, it is up to the Forum generally to back them up, to encourage them in the hard slog which follows and to congratulate them on the success they achieve.

I think that we all agree that the reduction in meetings has been a success. There simply was not enough time between meetings for the working groups to get through the implementation process, find out the opposition to their proposals and to put up counter proposals, before the next meeting was upon them. I am sure that it is better the new way.

The three major working groups are Traffic Strategy, Leisure Culture and Tourism and Water in the Wells.

The Traffic Strategy group produced its report highlighting shared space, the traffic problem out on the industrial estate and the need for a new A21 relief road. This they have taken to the TWBC/KCC Joint Transportation Board, where they are arguing their case for the recommended changes. They have done the spade work. It is much too soon to expect concrete results from their work, but if they concentrate on the areas where TWBC has a say, that is shared space and parking, I am confident that in time we will begin to see results.

The Leisure, Culture and Tourism group have produced two reports on their area of activity, one dealing with tourism the other with the sort of souvenirs which visitors to our town might like to buy, and which incidentally, might also employ our people. Both touch on a subject which I know to be very close to the heart of the Borough Council, and both have been received with acclaim. We have just heard of the plans which have been placed before the Council by consultants on the physical nature of the new cultural hub, turning what up to now has been merely a concept, into bricks and mortar, and we are all very excited. The Working Group's proposals will fit nicely into those plans, when we

get past the building stage and have to actually operate the facilities.

Water in the Wells has been canvassed around the Borough by its Group to every interested party, and I believe has been well received. We will not see the water flowing in the next few weeks, nor indeed in the next few months, but the first evidence of the success of the group's work will be the water feature at the old Kent and Sussex Hospital site up on Mount Ephraim, which should start to flow sometime in 2014.

The Planning and Development Strategy Working Group has kept its eye on major developments proposed to the planning committee, but even more important has been the scrutiny they – and the ad hoc working group on the TWBC Site Allocations process – have given to the overall scheme developed by the Council, of all available sites for housing development in the town. They have done a great deal of work in a very short space of time. Any new development is going to be resisted, but it gives us all encouragement that at least our voice has been heard, even though we might not like the outcome.

Lastly, I turn to my own group, Finance and Other Issues. This allows me to say something about how the Town Forum is perceived by the Borough Council. We were criticised as a body a year ago for being solely concerned with our own problems, leaving no thought for those which directly and immediately bore down upon the Council. The fact that we are now asked for our opinions on matters such as the level of council tax discount, empty homes policy and most important of all, the annual budget, shows that we are responding well to the new tasks given to us. It has not been easy making those responses. None of the above has a simple solution, and there is no silver bullet available to us which we can produce in a 'eureka' moment, to general astonishment.

But we have done our best, looking at each of these problem areas from the standpoint of the man in the street, our fellow citizens, hard pressed by the financial crisis, the reduction in welfare payments and no growth in wages. We also have borne in mind the problem faced by TWBC, with a reduction in central government funding but no reduction in the tasks they are asked to perform. We hope that we have struck a fine balance and given good advice.

I think that you will agree that the spirit in which we work is better now. The presence amongst us at our meetings of so many councillors is proof that this place is no longer to be avoided, and we especially welcome here our Leader, since his frequent presence confirms what I have said about better relations between us and the Borough Council.

## **The Work Now Ahead of us**

The task is to go on as before, to put our shoulder to the wheel, see where the opposition to our agreed policies lies, make changes, change tack where necessary, but keep fighting for what we know the public wants for our town. Traffic changes are never going to be easy, and we may have to have a showdown with KCC at some time in the near future, but if we stick to our recommendations on shared space and on parking, then we will achieve success.

Leisure and Tourism should be easier, since we are all agreed that the cultural hub is the way forward. Indeed, probably the only way forward. There is universal support for it from the Council, from the general public and from ourselves.



Water in the Wells will need some further work identifying possible sites as they arise, but the success achieved with Berkley Homes gives reason to be confident that other developers will follow the route they have laid down, and we should be seeing and hearing water in our spa town again.

The work of scrutinising planning proposals goes on forever, as does the financial problems facing our country. We will have to live with that, and accept it as part of the democratic process, which as our greatest leader said "we have tried all the alternatives, and though this is not ideal, it is the best we have".

## **Having Fun**

I mentioned last time that we need not think that all our work has to be serious. As representatives of our townsfolk, we must join with them in the lighter side of the town's life. I therefore invite you to the ice skating rink in December and January, to ride with me on the new bus system in March (I do so wish that it could be a steam train) and to take part in the events which virtually all the societies gathered round the tables here tonight put on. The quiz nights, the 'bring and buy' sales, the concerts in the Assembly Hall and Trinity, the outdoor concert in Woodbury Park Cemetery. Not only will your presence boost the takings for the society, but will show to the public that we also are living and breathing specimens of the human race.

Finally, I must pay tribute to two groups of people. First, the leaders of the working groups. I am struck every time I speak to them, of how lucky we are as a town to have people of this calibre living here. I wonder if we are unique in this? Certainly, they have made my life much easier. Given the ball, they have run with it. And no hospital passes back to me either! Secondly, I have to thank most sincerely the officers from the committee section, who keep the minutes, organise our steering group sessions, send out the agenda, count up the number of meetings you have attended, and send out the resultant admonitions! They have taken a load off my shoulders. Not only this, they record not only our deliberations but also see that action follows. It has made being chairman of this Forum not only easy, but a pleasure.

David Wakefield

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## ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

28 November 2013

### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN

#### Introduction

- (1) The Town Forum is “administered by a Management Committee of three officers elected at the AGM”. This consists of a Chairman and two Deputy Chairmen.
- (2) This report sets out the current situation regarding nominations for the election of the above appointments at the Annual General Meeting, and what options the Town Forum has in order to meet the requirements of its Constitution.

#### Management Committee

- (3) The Town Forum’s Constitution specifies the following regarding the annual election of its Management Committee (section 5):
  - The Chairman must be a named representative of a member residents’ association;
  - Of the two Deputy-Chairmen, at least one must be a named representative from a member residents’ association;
  - The Chairman and both Deputy Chairmen 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. It is not intended that a Deputy Chairman will automatically become Chairman.
  - The Management Committee may co-opt onto the Committee (for up to one year in an advisory and non-voting capacity) up to three members of the Town Forum, whom it considers will help to fulfil the aims of, or have some valuable expertise to contribute to, the Town Forum.

#### Nomination submitted

- (4) At the specified deadline for the submission of nominations (i.e. 14 November), there was just one sent to the Town Forum administrator, namely for one of the Deputy Chairmen positions, for which Councillor Bob Backhouse was proposed by Michael Holman and seconded by Jane Fenwick. Councillor Backhouse’s supporting statement is attached.
- (5) In the light of the lack of nominations, over the coming months the Town Forum might wish to review the Constitution and appointment process.
- (6) The present Chairman, David Wakefield, has served for two consecutive years as Chairman of the Town Forum. The Deputy Chairman, Michael Doyle, has also served for two consecutive years as one of the Deputies and has indicated that he does not wish to serve in the capacity of Chairman of the Town Forum.
- (7) Also currently, three of the chairmen of the working groups, i.e. Jane Fenwick, June Bridgeman and Michael Holman, have been co-opted on to the Management Committee.

## Voting eligibility

- (8) The Constitution states the following (section 7) on the voting requirements for the Management Committee:
- At least one third of nominated representatives who satisfy the voting entitlement requirements must be present for the AGM to take place.
- (9) 30 out of the 35 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.
- (10) Eight TWBC ward members have also achieved the minimum meeting attendance requirement.

## Alternative action where insufficient nominations have been made

- (11) As stated above in paragraph (3), the Constitution makes provision for extending the office of the Chairman or of the Deputy Chairmen, where no nominations have been made:
- The Chairman and both Deputy Chairmen 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.
- (12) If the Town Forum wishes to appoint a second Deputy Chairman outside the formal nomination timetable, it would be necessary to waive the Constitution, to enable that appointment to take place.

## Recommendations

- (1) That, in the absence of any nominations for the position of Chairman for 2013/14, the Town Forum formally approve that David Wakefield be appointed to continue to serve as Chairman, for a suggested period of six months;
- (2) That Councillor Bob Backhouse be elected to serve as one of the Deputy Chairmen for 2013/14;
- (3) That nominations be sought for the second Deputy Chairman position, should the Town Forum so choose; and
- (4) That, in the absence of sufficient nominations this year, the Town Forum agrees to review its Constitution and nomination process.

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**Statement of nomination from Councillor Bob Backhouse for the position of one of the Deputy Chairmen:**

I should like to deputise for the Chairman during his absence at any formal Town Forum meetings.

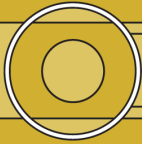
I can bring my 3 + years' experience from TWBC's Planning Committee to ensure planning matters that affect Royal Tunbridge Wells (i.e. the non-parished parts of TWBC) are duly considered.

Moreover, I am aware of the proposals for the Cultural Hub around the civic buildings and the need to make changes concerning the buildings within our Town Hall. I am committed to proper consultation and the necessary changes required to bring us in to the twenty-first century.

I will always consult the Forum and move forward on consensus.

**Cllr. BOB BACKHOUSE (Sherwood Ward, TWBC)**

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## ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

### ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

Thursday 26 September 2013

**Attended:** Cllr Bob Backhouse, Sally Balcon, David Barnett, Stephen Bowser, June Bridgeman, John Cunningham, Michael Doyle, Jane Fenwick, John Forster, Maggie Fraser, Michaela van Halewyn, Tim Harper, Dorothea Holman, Michael Holman, Glen Horn, Sue Kaner, Bill Kern, George Lawson (sub), Katharina Mahler-Bech, Cllr Mrs Catherine Mayhew, Chris Morris, Marguerita Morton, Altan Omer, Angela Phillips, Cllr Nicholas Rogers, Cllr James Scholes, Cllr David Scott, David Wakefield (Chairman), Mary Wardrop, Margaret Watts, Cllr Lynne Weatherly, Cllr Chris Woodward, Victor Webb and Philip Whitbourn (sub)

**TWBC officers present:** David Candlin (Head of Economic Development), Adam Chalmers (Democratic and Community Engagement Manager), Gary Stevenson (Head of Environment and Street Scene) and Mike McGeary (Democratic Services Officer)

**Also present:** Léonie Harrington, Cllr Paul Barrington-King (TWBC Cabinet Portfolio-holder for Sustainability), Cllr David Jukes (Leader of the Council) and Cllr Jane March (TWBC Cabinet Portfolio-holder for Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development)

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were reported from: Lorna Blackmore, Helen Featherstone, Alex Green, Jim Kedge, Kyrios Kyriacou, John Mattei, Anne Stobo, Alastair Tod, Jon Weller and Cllrs Peter Bulman, Ben Chapelard, David Neve, Trevor Poile, Len Price, and Frank Williams.

#### 2. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

There were no changes to report.

#### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2013 be agreed.

#### 4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

25 July 2013

4 Evidence of formal appointment to the Town Forum

*MMcG Representatives to submit evidence of their formal appointment to the Town Forum.*

The Democratic Services Officer advised that 15 out of the 35 active representative organisations had now submitted evidence of their formal appointment to the Town Forum. The Chairman reiterated once more the importance of submitting this information, in the interests of good governance.

**5. UPDATE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr David Jukes provided an update on a number of key issues which were of general interest to the Town Forum, as follows:

- (a) Traffic re-alignment on North Farm** – Cllr Jukes advised that there had been a great deal of co-operation from the businesses on North Farm for the traffic realignment scheme to help relieve congestion – apart from Asda, who had submitted their own, alternative scheme. He added that the Borough Council and KCC were now aiming to proceed with a new scheme without Asda's participation, although that would affect the planned cycleway.

Cllr Jukes advised that it was hoped this scheme would go out to tender at the end of October, with a February 2014 start on site and a construction period of 15 months. He added that the work should therefore be completed before the A21 dualling scheme began. Cllr Jukes paid tribute to the support and the work provided by KCC in progressing this scheme, which was being part-funded by central government.

- (b) Cultural hub** – Cllr Jukes reported on progress with this proposal, which was based on the Library and Adult Education Centre buildings. He added that he was hopeful the scheme could incorporate a three-storey art gallery in the space at the rear of the site. Cllr Jukes reported that KCC were being very supportive of the initiative and had agreed to pay half the cost of the feasibility study, the results of which had just been received.

Cllr Jukes advised that, once the proposal had been considered by KCC's Cabinet, it was intended to publish the feasibility study report. A public launch would take place, most likely in November, he added.

- (c) John Street car park** – Cllr Jukes advised that the public exhibition event for the Borough Council's proposals for this site had been successful in terms of the amount of feedback. The main issue arising from the public event had been the provision of three town houses in John Street. As a result, Cllr Jukes advised, it was intended that an amended scheme would be submitted to Cabinet, seeking approval to the supporting financial case, before planning consent was sought.

- (d) Energy study of the Town Hall** – Cllr Jukes advised that a recently-commissioned energy survey of the Town Hall had concluded that the building would need to undergo some critical energy efficiency improvements to reduce its level of energy consumption. He added that the survey had indicated that investment of up to £5m would be necessary in order to bring the building's operational rating up to the required level. The carbon footprint of the current occupation and use was in need of a 50% cut, Cllr Jukes advised.

The Leader added that the survey results would be discussed internally over the next few weeks, after which they would be published on the Council's website.

- (e) Vision 2020** – The final issue on which the Leader reported was on an updated 'vision' document for the Borough Council. Vision 2020 was in draft form; it set out a 5-year plan for the Borough, listing what was achievable and what was not in that timescale. Cllr Jukes added that Tunbridge Wells was viewed by a number of businesses and developers as the right place for growth; he confidently expected the Borough to achieve its growth potential. Cllr Jukes added that the document would be available for public consultation shortly.



The Chairman invited questions and comments from the Forum members.

Jane Fenwick asked whether the Vision 2020 draft document took account of the issues raised by the Forum in their response to the draft Transport Strategy earlier in the year. Cllr Jukes responded by saying that the Borough Council, sadly, did not have primary responsibility for the transport portfolio within the Borough. He added that there was constant discussion with KCC over transport and highways matters, but the obstacle was frequently lack of available funding. However, Cllr Jukes acknowledged that the key to addressing issues such as congestion was in maintaining a constant dialogue with KCC and working co-operatively with them.

Michael Doyle asked the Leader of the Council what the current position was with the cinema site in the town centre. Cllr Jukes stated that the Council continued to hold regular meetings with the developer and was applying as much pressure as it could, but that no firm plans were yet in place. However, Cllr Jukes was able to say that the asbestos removal programme was due for completion shortly.

The Chairman thanked the Leader of the Council for his attendance and helpful update on a wide range of issues of interest to Forum members.

There were no specific action points arising from the report.

## 6. LOCALISM ACT – ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

David Candlin, TWBC's Head of Economic Development, provided Forum members with a presentation on how the Localism Act enabled community groups to nominate privately- or publicly-owned buildings or land as 'assets of community value'.

Mr Candlin explained how this 'right to bid' process had been introduced in order to provide the opportunity to pause the sale of an asset that was of value to the local community. He advised on the type of asset that might be relevant and on the range of formal groups that would, typically, wish to use this power, as well as on the process which the Borough Council was required to follow. Mr Candlin also explained what the effect of a successful bid meant to the owner of the asset, who was required to inform the Council if he/she wished to sell the building or land; the group who first enabled the asset to be listed would have an opportunity to prepare and submit a 'bid to buy', which the owner was required to consider alongside any other purchase offer.

It was noted that, for an asset to be considered under this scheme, its use must be, or in its recent past must have been, 'furthering the social well-being or cultural, recreational or sporting interests' of the community.

Mr Candlin advised that the Government had provided a sum of £16m to enable community groups to be established and to prepare 'right to bid' submissions.

The Chairman opened up the subject for discussion and the following points were made:

- Cllr David Scott advised that a new community group had successfully submitted a bid for the Royal Oak public house in Prospect Road to become an asset of community value, as one of the first applications under this scheme. Cllr Paul Barrington-King added that a similar application was being prepared for a Pembury public house with the same name, adding that TWBC's Property Services had been very helpful in advising on the procedure to be followed.
- Mr Candlin, in response, advised that there had been a total of three applications to date: two had been for the Ridgeway Centre in Southborough and one for the Royal

Oak in Prospect Road, with both assets now having been listed and the owners having been advised.

- Cllr Webb advised that changes in planning legislation had resulted in an upgrading of public houses to A1; the implications of that, he felt, were that any enforced delay on the sale of a public house which was being considered for use as, say, a supermarket, and this led to a loss of sale or profit, might result in the Council facing a compensation claim. Mr Candlin advised that, under those circumstances, if the owner of the public house were able to prove that a loss had occurred, he/she might be able to claim compensation. If, however, there was no change of use involved, then the property would not form part of a community right to bid.
- The Chairman asked whether two specific assets of historical and amenity value – namely (i) The Pound, in Grove Hill Road and (ii) Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons – would be suitable for registering. Mr Candlin advised that this was up to whether relevant community groups felt that these two assets had sufficient protection already.
- Margaret Watts enquired what the position would be if an owner wished to sell a property which might be of community value but – concurrently – applied for change of use of the building. Mr Candlin advised that the ‘right to bid’ guidance was not clear on whether the process should be considered under planning legislation; he added that, as far as he was aware, an owner could still apply for change of use for a building which was the subject of a ‘right to bid’ process.

The Chairman thanked Mr Candlin for his presentation and for responding to the detailed points made.

**RESOLVED** – That the presentation on assets of community value be noted.

## 7. FIVEWAYS/MILLENNIUM CLOCK AREA – PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

TWBC’s Portfolio-holder for Sustainability, Cllr Paul Barrington-King, reported on the progress being made for a public realm improvement scheme for the town centre. He advised that the first part of the proposals would see a de-cluttering of the area around the Millennium Clock, which would involve some of the street furniture – such as posts – being removed, cycle racks being replaced with the Wiesbaden cycle stands and trial sample surfaces being laid down. He emphasised how the surfaces and overall appearance must be of a high quality and reaffirm the unique character of the town.

Cllr Barrington-King stated that, once the sample surfaces had been provided, the comments of Forum members would be very welcome as it was important that a consensus of approval was achieved.

He added that discussions were progressing with Network Rail over the need to repaint the bridge parapet on the south side of the station site, adding that it was hoped that they would contribute significantly to the cost of the improvement work. Cllr Barrington-King advised that Alastair Tod of the Civic Society and Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark were part of a working group leading on the discussions that will take place with the railway company.

Gary Stevenson, TWBC’s Head of Environment and Street Scene, tabled copies of the concept layout for the Fiveways scheme. He added that the trial scheme would feed into the design process for the next stage, which was proposed to extend both northwards and southwards along the bus gateway. Mr Stevenson advised that the lessons of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee councillor visit to Ashford town centre

had been learnt in respect of the type and quality of the materials; cost-effectiveness and long-term maintenance of the surface materials were key issues, he advised.

Forum members considered the proposals and raised the following points:

- Cllr Bob Backhouse enquired into the extent of local business support for the scheme. Mr Stevenson advised that a number of businesses in the immediate area had signalled their support for the proposals, adding that more would be contacted in the coming weeks. On this same aspect, Cllr Barrington-King thanked the K&S Courier for their publicity for the scheme and in contacting local businesses.
- June Bridgeman enquired what sort of taxi provision would be provided within the proposals. Mr Stevenson advised that, currently, a taxi rank and a feeder rank existed, adding that the results of a recent study into whether there was an unmet taxi demand in the town centre would feed into the design of the area. Cllr Webb, who advised that he was a member of the Licensing Committee who had commissioned the unmet demand survey, voiced concern that a decision on acting on the results of that survey had been deferred, to allow for full consultation. He urged that the findings be taken into account in the development of the public realm improvements.
- John Forster, in voicing his support for the design proposals and for the provision of a water feature in the Clock area, enquired whether this would result in the retention of the Millennium Clock or its relocation. Cllr Barrington-King, expressing a personal view, felt that the Clock would lend itself very well to being relocated in the main pedestrian area in Calverley Road, its former position thereby providing an improved setting for the water feature.
- Jane Fenwick raised two transport issues, namely: (i) with more traffic likely to turn into Monson Road, she felt that the location of the bus stops at the Mount Pleasant Road end would create unwelcome congestion. She felt that the bus stops should be removed from Monson Road, where there was limited pavement space for waiting passengers, and relocated outside the Town Hall, thereby creating an easier bus interchange for passengers and alleviating Monson Road traffic congestion; (ii) Mrs Fenwick felt that the parking regime in Monson Road was generally poor, in an area where there was much delivery vehicle activity and a high number of pedestrians crossing at all sections along the road. At the Calverley Road end of Monson Road, Mrs Fenwick believed that the increased traffic flow the scheme would generate would face yet more congestion, either down Camden Road or into Calverley Road, again because of a poor parking regime. Mrs Fenwick asked whether, to remedy this situation, TWBC might be considering a 'no parking' option on one side of the road. Mr Stevenson advised that these were elements of the scheme which were very much being looked at, adding that KCC highways officers were part of the discussion. Loading regimes and times were, he stressed, part of that thinking. Mrs Fenwick urged that traffic management in this area should be examined alongside the Fiveways scheme, rather than awaiting completion of the public realm proposals.
- Michael Holman voiced his strong support for the provision of more Wiesbaden cycle racks in the Millennium Clock area, which represented a welcome 'joined-up' conceptual approach towards public art, he added. Mr Holman asked how TWBC intended to move forward with the concept of a water feature and the possible relocation of the Millennium Clock, adding that

while the 'freeing-up' of the space for the water feature had some advantages, the public's view on this was vital.

- Michael Holman also referred to the 'concept layout' drawings tabled, which were dated February 2013. He asked whether there had been any subsequent changes in the design. Mr Stevenson advised that there had been no changes.
- Margaret Watts enquired whether a water feature in this location would use spa water; Mr Holman advised that there was no known spring in that location which would feed a water feature.

In summing up the discussion, the Chairman emphasised the importance of addressing the traffic implications of the proposals, which were, in general, well supported by the Town Forum.

There were no specific action points arising from this item.

## 8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN

Adam Chalmers, TWBC's Democratic and Community Engagement Manager, summarised the procedural requirements for the election of the Forum's Management Committee at the Annual General Meeting in November. This had been set out in detail in a report, circulated with the agenda.

The Chairman added that, to date, there had been no expressions of interest in the post of Chairman or Deputy-Chairman; to encourage nominations, he emphasised how the Chairman was assisted in his/her role through a supportive Management Committee, consisting of the chairmen of the five working groups.

It was noted that nominations for either of the two key posts had to be made by 14 November.

**Action:** Any nominations for the positions of Chairman or Deputy-Chairman to be submitted to Mike McGeary by 5pm on Thursday 14 November.

## 9. WORKING GROUPS

Update reports were made from the working groups as follows:

**Water in the Wells Working Group** – The Chairman, Michael Holman, had provided a written update report, which had been circulated with the agenda. He drew attention to three key aspects of progress:

(a) the working group's continued monitoring of key developments in the town, where the developers were actively using its unique selling point – the spa and water – in their marketing;

(b) the support provided by the Commons Conservators for a continuation of the investigations into a water feature at Brighton Lake; and

(c) an acknowledgement that TWBC's examination of responses to its Site Allocations document – which included submissions by the Water in the Wells group – was taking its time. Mr Holman added that he understood that recommendations on the Site Allocations document would be submitted to the Cabinet in the spring of 2014. He advised that he was pleased to hear details of TWBC's Vision 2020 from the Leader of the Council, adding that he hoped the spa town aspirations of the Town Forum could be incorporated into the Vision document.

In response to (b) above, Cllr Webb, who as a Commons Conservator had attended their September quarterly meeting, felt that the 'agreement in principle', to which Mr Holman referred, had not in fact been given. John Cunningham, who had attended the meeting and had made a presentation on behalf of the Water in the Wells Working Group, advised that the group had sought the Conservators' support for the continuation of investigations into the feasibility of a water feature installation at Brighton Lake. This, he opined, had been given.

Mr Holman added that further details, including the costings for power provision, fountain installation and maintenance, together with a presentation of the group's findings and recommendations, would be placed before the Conservators at a subsequent quarterly meeting of the Commons Conservators.

**RESOLVED** – That the progress report be accepted.

**Leisure, Culture and Tourism Working Group** – June Bridgeman, Chairman of this working group, reported on the progress made on souvenir survey work, adding that it was still possible for the questionnaire that had been provided to be completed. Mrs Bridgeman advised that the group's study had been extensive, covering a wide spread of views in terms of age and area, including discussions with the chairman of the town's business forum.

Mrs Bridgeman reported on her analysis to date on the questionnaire feedback in respect of 'the Tunbridge Wells brand', around the principal themes of 'spa', 'water' and 'the Garden of England'. She advised that top of the list was a demand for postcards and for souvenirs relating to food and drink.

Mrs Bridgeman believed that one of the issues which TWBC should consider was the use of the Borough's coat of arms in relation to souvenir items.

Mrs Bridgeman advised that she had also visited the relocated TIC on the Pantiles, to view its revised tourist 'offer'. She expressed her disappointment with the reduced size of the staffing and accommodation. Mrs Bridgeman sought the views of the TIC staff on what visitors most wanted in respect of pamphlets and was told that updating the Pantiles walk information was needed, as well as the provision of pamphlets on walks focused on interesting shopping, walks on the Common and a booklet format for cycle routes of interest.

This led Mrs Bridgeman to suggest that what was needed was a Michelin guide-type approach, aimed at short term visitors to the town. She invited Forum members to assist in developing this proposal.

In summary, Mrs Bridgeman advised that, once the working group had completed its analysis on souvenirs, a summary would be prepared and submitted to the Forum, for the views of its members. She also sought further information on TWBC's plans for the production of a Destination Management Plan.

In response, Cllr Jane March thanked Mrs Bridgeman and her working group for their extensive work. In response to the specific points raised, Mrs March advised that the operation of the TIC would be reviewed after 12 months; she added that the Borough Council was planning to look at the possibility and benefit of employing knowledgeable students to assist during the summer period.

On the Destination Management Plan, Cllr March supported June Bridgeman's view that there was a need for more written information to be provided in the form of pamphlets, where a focus on walks and cycling would appeal to many potential visitors, she added.

With souvenirs, Cllr March stressed the importance of encouraging private enterprise to lead on this provision, rather than it being TWBC-led.

Cllr March acknowledged the issue of the coat of arms, adding that while it existed for the Borough Council's sole use, she believed that the former (pre-1974) version was available for wider use.

In conclusion, Cllr March advised that there appeared to have been some parallel working taking place between the working group and TWBC in its Destination Management Plan work so far; she added that the Borough Council would be seeking the Town Forum's – and the working group's – support in delivering the Plan's recommendations.

**RESOLVED** – That the progress report be accepted.

**Traffic Strategy Working Group** – The acting Chairman, Jane Fenwick, had submitted an update report with the agenda; this included:

- (a) the **Transportation Strategy**, a revised version of which, she advised, would not appear until April 2014. Mrs Fenwick added that she hoped that TWBC's Parking Manager, Rosemarie Bennett, would be attending the 28 November Forum meeting, to talk about the draft **Parking Strategy**. It was anticipated that Forum members could play an active role in helping to develop the content of the draft strategy, Mrs Fenwick advised.
- (b) the **Carrs Corner roundabout**, where Michael Holman advised that, as far as he was aware, there were no plans for a water feature. He added that he felt that the new roundabout had actually resulted in a more dangerous crossing for pedestrians, due to the smaller structure leading to the likelihood of faster vehicle traffic. A point was raised as to why there had been no public consultation on this scheme. Mrs Fenwick advised that she expected this subject to feature on the agenda for the next Joint Transportation Board meeting, where she would voice these concerns, adding that she believed the pedestrian refuge had been planned for the wrong location.

Léonie Harrington, on behalf of KCC, offered to feed back views about the Carrs Corner roundabout to the Highways and Transportation service. Cllr Webb felt that while the structure was visually an improvement and assisted larger vehicles to negotiate the roundabout, he acknowledged that pedestrians faced a more difficult crossing. June Bridgeman particularly asked that the needs of wheelchair users be considered, especially across Crescent Road, adjacent to the roundabout.

**RESOLVED** – That, at the request of the Chairman, Léonie Harrington feed back the comments and views of the Town Forum – as summarised above – to the Highways and Transportation service at KCC.

**Planning and Development Strategy** – Michael Doyle, Chairman of this working group, drew attention to TWBC's latest 'Local' magazine, which he felt contained much helpful and informative detail about some key developments in the town, including the civic complex and Calverley House, the latter likely to be converted into 55 housing units but with no car parking provision, he added.

Margaret Watts enquired how many residents' parking spaces existed in relation to the number of permit holders. Cllr Catherine Mayhew advised that the answer to that varied significantly, according to which zone applied. Adam Chalmers added that this information could be researched and an answer provided direct to Ms Watts.

Cllr Mrs Mayhew also summarised how the Government's changes on permitted development rights were having an impact on TWBC's ability to manage changes of use of buildings – and other planning matters – which was causing concern in some areas.

**Action:** Mike McGeary to liaise with the Parking Manager re. resident parking statistics.

**Finance and Other Issues** – David Wakefield, Chairman of this working group, also drew attention to the 'Local' magazine and the article on TWBC's budget, which he commended to Forum members. Of particular note, he added, was the fact that TWBC was forecasting a net reduction of nearly £1m in the cost of delivering services in the current year. He added that the latest set of accounts had shown that there had been no transfer from revenue reserves in 2012/13.

Cllr James Scholes, the portfolio-holder responsible for finance, advised that TWBC needed to manage a government grant reduction of £657k in 2014/15; there was an additional cut of £520k in central government grant funding in 2015/16, he added. The consequence, Cllr Scholes advised, was that there was pressure to cut some services, although ways of trying to increase income and achieve yet more efficiency savings was a constant process.

Finally, the Chairman invited other members of the Forum to join him on the working group, which would need to meet in the autumn, to consider a number of TWBC consultation issues.

**Action:** Any Town Forum members wishing to be part of the Finance and Other Issues Working Group to contact David Wakefield direct.

## 10. FUTURE CONSULTATION ISSUES

Mike McGeary had circulated a list of future consultation issues which the Borough Council would be leading on, drawn from TWBC's 'Notice of Intent to Make Key Decisions'.

Cllr James Scholes particularly welcomed the Forum's input into the 'setting of fees and charges 2014/15' item, which was being considered by the Cabinet on 21 November.

Cllr Webb advised that the Leader of the Council had written to Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to voice this authority's concern over the level of grant cuts to local authorities. Cllr Webb added that he would like to see KCC having to face similar cuts, rather than a continuation of pressure on district councils. Cllr James Scholes, both a KCC and a TWBC member, advised that the financial pressures were just as acute on the county council as they were on TWBC.

There were no action points arising from this report.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Léonie Harrington advised that the six county councillors within the Borough had collectively been allocated a fund of £38,700, to award one-off grants for **small capital projects**. The projects, she added, had to be able to demonstrate a community benefit; the deadline for completed application was 13 October.

(b) Miss Harrington also advised that KCC's consultation process on the **future of children's centres** across the county was due to end on 4 October. She urged those wishing to comment to complete the process within the following week.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Town Forum administrator, Mike McGeary, reminded the group that the AGM and next ordinary meeting would be taking place on Thursday 28 November, starting at 6.30pm.

He also drew attention to the proposed meetings' schedule for 2014, namely:

16 January  
20 March  
8 May  
10 July  
25 September  
27 November (including the AGM)

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.



## ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

### WATER IN THE WELLS WORKING GROUP

#### Progress report for Town Forum Meeting 28 November 2013

I shall divide this report into two main sections. The first section details items of a general nature; the second includes updates on developments at potential individual sites.

#### 1. GENERAL

- a) **FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR TUNBRIDGE WELLS.** We welcome the declared intention of the Leader of the Council to prepare a five-year plan for the town's development. We will continue to lobby for a clearly formulated vision that would raise awareness of the importance of water, health, wealth and leisure has had in the town's past and linking that to the considerable potential for the town's tourist industry and related economic development.
- b) **WEBSITE.** Work is continuing on a website which will be operated by Water in the Wells CIC. In the meantime, the web-based collection of photographs of key sites can be accessed at <http://adoberevel.com/shares/650f0c7afc634e749506fab6a6b107b3>)
- c) **SUPPORTERS , PUBLICITY and FUNDRAISING.** We are now in the process of creating a database of organisations and individuals likely to give their support to the Water in the Wells initiative. This is currently being led by Carolyn Gray.
- d) **LOGO.** Water in the Wells CIC declares its vision as '*refreshing health and wealth in Tunbridge wells – a spa town*'. As part of their studies, students on a graphic design course at K College have been challenged to devise a logo for the Working Group. They have received a detailed brief, and a member of the Working Group will address them about the aims and objectives of Water in the Wells.

#### 2. SITE UPDATES

As you know, the vision of Water in the Wells is to have water features at the entry points to the town and at locations within it.

- a) **FIVEWAYS.** We consider Council managed 'decluttering' of the Fiveways, the laying of trial paving and the installation of additional Wiesbaden cycle stands as a first step towards the creation of a focal point piazza, complete, eventually with a water feature. The Working Group continues to support TWBC in these aspirations and eagerly anticipates receiving more detailed information about the Council's plans.

- b) CALVERLEY GROUNDS. The frozen water feature in the shape of the Ice Rink will again be in operation during the festive period before and after Christmas. Both electricity and water are now laid on, both prerequisites for an eventual 'liquid' water feature.
- c) BRIGHTON LAKE. We are continuing to prepare a detailed and fully costed proposal for the installation of a water feature at the site. We anticipate being in a position to do so in the near future. One key element is ensuring that there is a suitable electricity supply before making a further presentation to the Commons Conservators for their consideration of the proposal for this key entry point into the town.
- d) ROYAL WELLS PARK (Former Kent and Sussex Hospital). Demolition work has progressed swiftly. We follow planning applications from Berkeley Homes and eagerly anticipate the presentation of detailed drawings of the proposed water feature. Again this is seen as a key entry point to the historic centre of the town.
- e) KNIGHTS PARK. On 21 October at the TN2 Centre the developer Dandara held a further exhibition of plans for a large housing development at Knights Park. Members of the Working Group who visited the exhibition were able to speak to representatives of Dandara's senior management team, and express their concern at the lack of community facilities in the current plans. We are concerned that there is little in the design to demonstrate the development's link with Tunbridge Wells and its spa-town heritage.
- f) SOUTHBOROUGH FOUNTAIN. Costs of re-instatement, even of a drinking fountain, would be prohibitive. A splash and play feature in Pennington Grounds was considered by Southborough Council some years ago, but that too was rejected at the time on account of the cost.
- g) GROSVENOR AND HILBERT PARK. The outcome of the application for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant is expected early in December.

## FOOTNOTE

I have received a most encouraging letter from our MP Greg Clark, who writes:

**‘I think it is a wonderful idea – you can certainly count on my support.’**

I am happy to answer any questions and would welcome the Forum's endorsement of this report.

Michael Holman  
(Chairman, 20 November 2013)

## Report from the Transport Working Group for the Town Forum meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### Since the last Town Forum meeting

1. **The Working Group met** on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and planned its future attendance at the Public Transport Forum and Joint Transportation Board meetings through 2013-2014, with a view to ensure that matters of interest are placed on the Agenda at most meetings.
2. **Joint Transportation Board 21<sup>st</sup> October** was attended by Peter Parker, Stephen Bowser, Katrina Mahler-Bech and Jane Fenwick. Peter Perry spoke on the changes to Carr Corner roundabout which had significantly worsened the safety of pedestrians crossing on all of the roads around it. He was supported by Cllr Mayhew. The JTB chairman instructed officers to meet with Peter Perry and Cllr Mayhew to see how this situation can be amended – this meeting will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> November. We welcome the support of Mary Harris at the TW Courier for publicising this issue.  
We realise from this case that when changes to junctions such as Carrs Corner are planned and undertaken, pedestrian interests are not necessarily safeguarded or improved as a matter of course. We have, therefore, written to the chair of the JTB and TWBC and KCC officers to ensure that all proposed junction ‘improvements’ in the Transport Strategy should explicitly state that pedestrian safety must be taken into account and enhanced at all such locations.
3. **Public Transport Forum on 27<sup>th</sup> November.** We have had two items accepted for the agenda of this meeting. Peter Perry will address the meeting on *Marketing the bus services to Pembury Hospital* to urge improved marketing of this under-used but excellent bus service from central Tunbridge Wells to ensure its continued support for the future. Steve Bowser will speak to encourage *Innovation in town centre bus services in future*, and to examine the impact on bus services of the new 'shared space' at Fiveways.
4. **Santa Road Train.** This initiative for the festive season is welcomed. We have asked that TWBC monitor passenger numbers and share these statistics with the Working Group and the Town Forum. This innovation will be valuable experience for the consideration of future bus services within the town that link the top and bottom of the town.
5. **Parking:** We have circulated to the Town Forum a simple survey on town centre parking which will help to inform our response to the consultation on the Parking Strategy due in spring next year. In the meantime we welcome the presence of TWBC officers at the Town Forum meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November to outline the options and issues about parking in Tunbridge Wells.

Jane Fenwick,  
Acting Chair, Transport Working Group



## ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

### TUNBRIDGE WELLS TWINNING AND FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

#### 2014 Year of Anniversaries

2014 will see the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Assembly Hall and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter between Tunbridge Wells and Wiesbaden.

The Chief Executive, William Benson, is looking to designate next year as '2014 Year of Anniversaries'. He has asked the Tunbridge Wells Twinning and Friendship Association (TWTFA) to put together a programme of events, some in partnership with the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, to mark the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter.

**The Twinning Charter was signed in Tunbridge Wells on 22 April and in Wiesbaden on 30 September 1989.**

Events currently being planned:

- 1) **Mayoral visit to Tunbridge Wells** by the recently elected Lord Mayor (Oberbürgermeister) of Wiesbaden, Sven Gerich, perhaps with a small delegation of people involved with IT and graphic design.  
(Provisional timing: two days between 22 and 29 July 2014.)
- 2) **Mayoral visit to Wiesbaden** by Tunbridge Wells Mayor and delegation to coincide with the annual International Equestrian Tournament, hosted in 2013 by Tunbridge Wells.  
(Provisional timing: 19-21 September 2014.)
- 3) **Visit to Tunbridge Wells of the Wiesbaden Music Academy Symphonic Brass Ensemble.** 25+ musicians aged between 16 and 60 under the direction of Joachim Tobschall, for a series of open-air and indoor concerts. Director of the Academy and Patron of the Tunbridge Wells International Young Concert Artists competition, Christoph Nielbock, has undertaken to cover the cost of transport, insurance and part of the accommodation expenses.  
(Dates: 22-29 July 2014.)
- 4) **Tripartite cricket tournament in Berlin between Wiesbaden, Tunbridge Wells and Berlin Kreuzberg.** Berlin-Kreuzberg is also twinned with Wiesbaden. In 2014 the two towns will be marking the 50th anniversary of their twinning agreement. It is hoped to organise a visit to Berlin by an accompanying group of 'supporters' to coincide with the tournament.  
(Provisional dates: 5 days end of May or early/middle June.)
- 5) **Travelling photographic exhibition** in Tunbridge Wells and Wiesbaden to tie in with the Tunbridge Wells-Wiesbaden Project co-ordinated by David Bartholomew.  
(Provisional dates dependent on Mayoral visits. Wiesbaden exhibition may also be

# Agenda Item 12

arranged to coincide either with the 'Theatrium' Wilhelmstrassenfest (June) or the opening of Christmas Market end of November 2014).

6) **Visit of the Tunbridge Wells TS Brilliant Sea Cadets to Menin Gate and Wiesbaden.** Organised in conjunction with Wiesbaden Rote Herolde. This is at an advanced stage of planning. More than £5,000 already raised towards the total cost of nearly £9,000.  
(Dates: 27-29 July 2014.)

7) **Tunbridge Wells Blazing Saddles Cyclists ride to Wiesbaden.** Co-ordinated by Robert Gibson with the Wiesbaden Cycling Club. (Provisional dates: mid June 2014)

8) **A special lecture** in Tunbridge Wells - and maybe also in Wiesbaden - to mark the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter and 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.  
(Provisional dates: latter part of 2014, probably November.)

8) **An end-of-the year social event** in Tunbridge Wells in which TWTFa members and the great and the good of the town would be invited to participate.  
(Provisional dates: November, December 2014.)

9) **Compilation of a small 25th Anniversary booklet.**

10) **Tunbridge Wells stand at Wiesbaden Christmas Market or at the 'Theatrium' Wilhelmstrassenfest.** Provisional dates: either June or end of November, early December 2014

Other co-operative undertakings are also being planned as part of the regular interchange between Tunbridge Wells and Wiesbaden. These currently include the annual two-week work placement in and around Tunbridge Wells of 20+ pupils from the Mosbacherberg School (Jan/Feb. 2014) and a possible two-way visit between bee-keepers in Tunbridge Wells and Wiesbaden. These and similar events will go ahead anyway and need not be linked specially to the 25th anniversary.

The Town Forum is asked to endorse this programme of planned events as part of the '2014 Year of Anniversaries'.

(Michael Holman, Chairman, Tunbridge Wells Twinning and Friendship Association)

**Extract from latest version of ‘Notice of Intent to Make Key Decisions’, summarising issues on which TWBC will be consulting in 2013/14 (including existing consultations\*)**

**Cabinet:                      Advisory Board:                      Lead Officer:**

**(a) Leader of the Council: David Jukes**

(Draft) Asset Management Plan – start of consultation process	5 December	Finance & Governance 13 November	David Candlin
(Draft) Strategic Plan 2014/15 – start of consultation process	5 December	Finance & Governance 13 November	Holly Goring

**(b) Finance and Governance Portfolio-holder: Councillor James Scholes**

(Draft) Budget 2014/15 – start of consultation process	5 December	Finance & Governance 13 November	Lee Colyer
Local council tax discount scheme	5 December	Finance & Governance 13 November	Stephen McGinnes

**(c) Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development Portfolio Holder: Councillor Jane March**

Destination Management Plan	16 January 2014	Communities 18 December	David Candlin
Cultural Strategy (final)	5 December	Communities 13 November	Jo Wiltcher

<b>(d) Planning &amp; Transportation Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan McDermott</b>		
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(Draft) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – preliminary charging schedule	16 January 2014	Planning & Transportation James Freeman 17 December
Borough Transportation Strategy – to agree final document	10 April 2014	Planning & Transportation, David Candlin 18 March
Tunbridge Wells Parking Strategy – start of consultation	10 April 2014	Planning & Transportation, Kevin Hetherington 18 March

<b>(e) Housing, Health, Wellbeing &amp; Rural Communities Portfolio Holder: Councillor John Cunningham</b>
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None at present

<b>(f) Joint Portfolio-holders: (i) Leader of the Council and (ii) Finance and Governance: David Jukes and James Scholes</b>
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John Street car park - proposals for redevelopment	27 February 2014	Finance & Governance 15 January 2014	David Candlin
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Kevin Hetherington: Head of Communities and Wellbeing  
 James Freeman: Head of Planning  
 Lee Colyer: Head of Finance and Governance  
 Stephen McGinnes: Head of Revenues and Benefits Partnership

David Candlin: Head of Economic Development  
 Jo Wiltcher: Museum Manager  
 Holly Goring: Policy, Performance and Partnerships Manager