



# ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

## ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

Thursday 24 September 2015

**Attended:** Bob Atwood, Caroline Auckland (sub), Lindsay Barker (sub), David Barnett, Cllr Ronen Basu, Dr Ian Beavis (sub), Adrian Berendt, Lorna Blackmore, Mark Booker, Stephen Bowser, Cllr Peter Bulman, David Bushell, Adrian Cory, John Cunningham, Michael Doyle, Andy England, Alex Green, Cllr Lawrence Heasman, Dorothea Holman, Michael Holman, Ann Hughes-Wilson (sub), Bill Kern, Kyrios Kyriacou, Claire Luxford (sub), Katharina Mahler-Bech, Cllr Tracy Moore, Altan Omer, Peter Perry (sub), Nick Pope, Martin Prentice (sub), Cllr Catherine Rankin, Cllr David Scott, Cllr Don Sloan, Alastair Tod (Chairman), Mary Wardrop, Denise Watts, Cllr Lynne Weatherly, Dr Philip Whitbourn, Pat Wilson and Cllr Chris Woodward

**TWBC officers present:** William Benson (Chief Executive), Adam Chalmers (Head of Partnerships and Engagement), Kelvin Hinton (Planning Policy Manager) (item 8), Hilary Smith (Economic Development Manager) (item 7) and Mike McGeary (Democratic Services Officer)

**Guest speaker:** Stephen Gurney (item 7)

**Also present:** Cllr Jane March (Portfolio-holder for Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development), Sue Daniels and Tim Tempest

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were reported from: Cllr Bob Backhouse, Sally Balcon, Cllr Barbara Cobbold, Shauna Dupuy, Jane Fenwick, Allan Gooda, Michaela van Halewyn, Cllr David Jukes, Sue Kaner, Cllr David Neve, Cllr Peter Oakford, Anne Stobo and Cllr Frank Williams.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Adam Chalmers reported that the Town Forum's Management Committee had approved membership applications from: (a) the Mereworth Road Residents' Association, whose appointed substitute representative, Ann Hughes-Wilson, was welcomed to the meeting; and (b) the Tunbridge Wells Access Group, whose appointed representative, Andy England, was also welcomed to the meeting.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting dated 16 July 2015 were submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2015 be approved.

### 4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

16 July 2015

4(h) Sewage egress, Warwick Park

Mike McGeary advised that a meeting had been arranged by the Leader of the Council with Southern Water's operations manager to discuss the on-going concerns of sewage ingress at Warwick Park, to which John Cunningham had been invited. The meeting would take place on 9 October. Mr Cunningham added that the problems were still very much evident, including land at the Nevill cricket ground.

6 'Developing our Green Networks' (On-going action point)

The findings and recommendations of the recently-published report on 'Developing our Green Networks' have an impact on all of the Forum's working groups. This remains as an on-going action point for the immediate future.

8 Urban Design Framework

Mark Booker had circulated a draft action plan with the agenda, which covered both the **Green Network** issue and relevant sections of the **Urban Design Framework**. The recommended action plan set out how the principal proposals made in the Green Network report might be taken forward within three of the Forum's working groups, in collaboration with the remaining working groups where that was considered relevant.

**RESOLVED** – That this draft action plan be endorsed and forwarded to the Borough Council, so that the issues it raises can be discussed with Council officers when relevant planning, transportation, economic development and leisure-related decisions are being taken.

Mr Booker had also circulated a linked paper with the agenda, entitled '**pedestrians and buses** in Tunbridge Wells: an aide-memoire of issues'. This paper was intended to highlight some of the key points raised by members of the Forum in the recent past, some of which had now become even more topical due to the Borough Council's decision to commission a study into bus routing in the town centre.

Mr Booker welcomed the Borough Council's decision to commission this study. He stressed that bus routing and consideration of traffic restrictions within the town centre should be examined at part of an overall strategic plan to improve the public realm.

Mr Booker raised the following issues relating to the bus routing study: he stressed that bus usage should be encouraged, as a way of reducing congestion in the town centre; many elderly people, as well as those with a mobility problem, would find it difficult if access to buses in the town centre were removed; the relocation of some bus stops was a more realistic and acceptable solution, which could still enable a 'town square' concept to be realised.

Cllr Scott largely agreed with those views. He advised that Cllr Jukes had asked him to head up a study into this issue, adding that he was a strong advocate of improving transport for all people. His approach had two strands: (i) to find a solution which addressed the key issues over the next five year period; and (ii) the longer term position. In the short term, Cllr Scott advised, his focus was on how to make buses easier to use and to access. A bus 'staging area' was one option he had already expressed which would help

achieve those objectives. He added that he also wished to increase use of the new public realm without causing upset to bus users. Longer term, Cllr Scott advised, there was a growing acceptance that transportation in general would see dramatic changes.

Dr Philip Whitbourn was encouraged by Cllr Scott's comments and welcomed the forthcoming discussions that would be taking place. He commended Mr Booker's report, set out as 'appendix A' in the agenda, as a basis for that future debate.

Dr Whitbourn added the following comments: he emphasised how Tunbridge Wells was an important hub for bus users, which underlined the importance of ensuring easy inter-change access; the displacement of buses on to narrow roads would make congestion in the town worse; the Five Ways public realm scheme had been designed to accommodate buses, so why should they be excluded now.

Denise Watts stressed that it was not only elderly people or those with a disability who would be greatly inconvenienced by the loss of town centre bus stops but younger people as well. She added that re-routing of buses away from the town centre would most likely have an adverse impact on congestion and air quality elsewhere and possibly lead to a fares' increase because of the extra mileage vehicles would have to travel.

In response, Cllr Scott stressed how it would not be the intention to make bus journeys worse for users or for residents generally. He encouraged all interested parties to engage fully in the discussions about bus routing, once the formal consultation process started.

Andy England, newly-appointed member of the Forum, raised two aspects of concern about the current bus gateway in the town centre: (i) first, he felt that pedestrian safety had been adversely affected at the junction of Monson Road and Mount Pleasant Road, where the speed of the traffic had increased significantly; (ii) at that same junction, he advised that the highway sign at the end of Monson Road indicated that buses could turn right at that point. He advised that this was an impossible manoeuvre for buses and he proposed that the sign therefore be removed. Cllr Scott undertook to look at these points as part of his study.

**RESOLVED** – That Mr Booker's 'aide-memoire' on pedestrians and buses be adopted as the basis for more detailed discussions which will take place on bus routing and more generally about town centre matters in due course.

## 5. UPDATE REPORT FROM TWBC'S CABINET

Cllr Jane March, Portfolio-holder for Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development, reported on the following areas of interest:

- (a) **Cinema site** – where the authority was in regular contact with the site owners; she understood that they were in discussions with one potential buyer.
- (b) **Assembly Hall Theatre** – which now had a new bar area, new seats, air conditioning in the bar and a facility to pay for drinks by credit card.
- (c) **Holly Farm, Hawkenbury** – the sale of which had been approved by the Cabinet; Cllr March added that a letter from KCC had been received which confirmed their position over the provision of a new primary school.

- (d) **John Street car park** – the development of which was progressing well and to timetable.
- (e) **North Farm highway scheme** – which was likely to be completed by the end of October.
- (f) **Residents' survey** – involving 1,000 face-to-face interviews, the interim results of which would be available in November, the final report being made in December.
- (g) **Youth hub** – which Cllr March advised would be provided by KCC on the site adjacent to the Fire Station in Grove Hill Road.
- (h) **Cultural and Learning Hub** – where the HLF bid had been re-submitted, with a decision expected towards the end of the year.
- (i) **Town Hall reception** – Cllr March advised that an improvement scheme had been completed within the reception area, providing a much more welcoming and business-like environment.
- (j) **Cycling Strategy** – which was accessible on the TWBC website for comment, as part of the formal consultation stage, closing on 1 November.

Cllr March also provided an update on some issues which fell within her portfolio-holding: (i) the additional attractions being considered for the **ice rink** in Calverley Grounds had been withdrawn, following concerns expressed by local residents. Cllr March added that the Council would work with the Friends of Calverley Grounds to agree other attractions for the future, adding that ideas and suggestions could be made via the Assembly Hall section of the website; (ii) at the Tunbridge Wells Museum, all staff were now trained to be '**dementia friendly**'. Cllr March added that the Museum had achieved a 'runners-up' award in the national dementia friendly assessment; (iii) a successful **jobs fair** had been held on 16 September, which had seen 225 jobs on offer (as well as many volunteer positions advertised) and over 500 visitors. The event, Cllr March advised, had been held jointly with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, where 60 employers/voluntary organisations had been present. Already, she added, three companies had asked to be part of next year's event; (iv) and the proposed **pedestrian signage** scheme, details of which had been presented at the May meeting of the Forum. Cllr March advised that funding for the implementation of the initiative had been secured from the West Kent Local Sustainable Transport Fund, which would see the current information drums being replaced. She added that a meeting had been held with representatives of the Town Forum and the Civic Society, the feedback from which would be used to help in the design of the signs. The scheme was due for implementation by 31 March 2016, it was noted.

Dr Whitbourn enquired into progress with refurbishment work at the Sports Centre in St John's Road. Cllr March said that she had been advised that this was still progressing according to the timetable, adding that she was due to visit the Centre the following Monday for the latest update. Cllr March advised that she had asked for the latest timetable of when the facilities would be available again to be posted on to the Council's website.

**Action:** The Borough Council to post an update on the re-opening of sports facilities at the Sports Centre on its website.

Michael Holman enquired if anything further was going to be provided as part of the Fiveways scheme before it was declared as complete. He added that it would be

helpful to hear from the Borough Council when it was considered that the works were finished.

Cllr Ronen Basu, within whose portfolio-holding this scheme fell, advised that works to rectify the early-stage faults would be starting soon; this would involve examining the footings of some of the slabs which had become loose or broken.

Dorothea Holman added that she felt that the remedial works were not just limited to the paving but to other elements as well, including the waste bins at some of the cafes and restaurants and to the maintenance of some of the floral displays.

William Benson acknowledged the points raised, saying that: (a) the Borough Council would formally announce when all of the remedial work had been completed and the scheme was considered to be complete; and (b) at that stage, any possible enforcement action would be looked at.

**Action:** The Borough Council will announce completion of phase I of the public realm scheme formally, as soon as this position has been reached.

Andy England asked when phase two of the public realm scheme would be started. Mr Benson reaffirmed that no decisions on this would be taken until a proper evaluation of phase I had been undertaken.

There were no additional action points arising from this report beyond the two highlighted above.

## 6. TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

Hilary Smith, TWBC's Economic Development Manager, reported the details of a Borough Council initiative to work with local businesses in the formation of a Town Centre Partnership; this would be formally considered and determined by TWBC's Cabinet at their meeting on 29 October.

Mrs Smith introduced Stephen Gurney, Managing Director of the Index magazine, who explained the background to the proposal. He advised that the purpose of this initiative was for businesses and the Borough Council to deliver town centre management projects and services, leading towards making Tunbridge Wells a 'stronger brand', to strengthen its position as a great destination, and help businesses to attract quality staff because of that enhancement.

**Action:** Mike McGeary was asked to provide Forum members with a link to the Cabinet agenda item (and the Cabinet Advisory Board in advance of that), once these agendas were published. Members of the Town Forum were encouraged to either speak at the Cabinet and/or Advisory Board meetings on this topic or to come and observe the discussion.

Both Cllr Catherine Rankin and Dorothea Holman welcomed the Borough Council's intention to play a more active role in supporting local businesses in this partnership initiative.

Bob Atwood endorsed Cllr Rankin's comments and enquired whether this partnership superseded the existing town retailers' group. Mrs Smith advised that the intention was that the partnership would build upon the work of that group, adding that the active members of the retailers' forum were closely involved in the latest initiative. Mrs Smith also advised that local businesses had been asked to support the latest Christmas campaign, launched the previous week.

Michael Holman asked what the extent of the business involvement in this initiative would be. Mr Gurney advised that every business within Tunbridge Wells town area – including small businesses – would have the opportunity to become involved. Mrs Smith added that the intention was that the partnership would become a company limited by guarantee, with the employment of an administrator in due course.

Mr Holman advised that the Water in the Wells group had already established 'community interest company' status, adding that they were able to offer some relevant experience to the partnership, if that were helpful. Mrs Smith felt that this would be entirely welcome as the partnership developed.

Mrs Smith and Mr Gurney were thanked for their report. There were no specific action points arising, other than the agenda notification referred to above.

## **7. TWBC'S CORPORATE PRIORITIES 2016/17**

William Benson, TWBC Chief Executive, presented his report, which had been considered by the Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board in August, ahead of its approval by the Cabinet on 17 September.

Mr Benson explained how each Autumn the Cabinet began the process of formulating its key priorities and its budget strategy for the following year. His report, he advised, provided the context within which these processes were undertaken, which marked the start of the consultation stage.

Under each of the sections of his report – national, regional/county and local – the Chief Executive had listed a number of 'key issues', intended to act as pointers for councillors as to future actions or aspects where a close 'watching brief' was recommended. This led on to the Chief Executive's recommendations for what were considered to be the corporate priorities for 2016/17, following discussions with the Leader of the Council. In summary, it was proposed that the authority continue to follow the majority of its plans and projects as set out in the previous year's report, with two additions: (i) exploring the potential to deliver a higher education facility or campus within or around the town; and (ii) producing a sports facilities strategy that will set out a route map for upgrading and extending existing facilities around the Borough.

The Chief Executive advised that, subject to the Cabinet's approval of this list of recommended projects, full consultation with all interested parties would follow, in order to establish whether any additional proposals should be added.

A number of relevant issues were highlighted by Mr Benson: (i) he felt that the Government's proposed reduction in rent increases to social housing had the potential to impact adversely upon planned development programmes and improvements within Tunbridge Wells Borough; and (ii) the mechanism by which funding for infrastructure was secured for the Borough was now through the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), under which a regional grouping of Kent and Medway, East Sussex and Essex had been formed by the Government. Mr Benson added that a strong argument existed for infrastructure funding for the Borough through the LEP but, to date, it had fared quite poorly. He advised that the case for greater LEP funding would continue to be made, with a greater business input being added.

Michael Holman referred to a statement made at an earlier meeting by the Leader of the Council that discussions had been held with two universities regarding the establishment of a campus within the Borough; he asked what stage such discussions had reached and whether the Town Forum could assist in these aspirations. Mr Benson advised that discussions were still at an early stage and were on-going. He

added that he would happily return to the Town Forum if a stage were reached where some Forum input was felt to be helpful.

Mr Benson advised that there was a 'district deal' now in place, which was part of three pilot projects across the county. The 'district deal' had a focus of joint priorities and commitment towards specific tasks, under which higher education would be included.

Bob Atwood referred to paragraph (21) of the report and asked for clarity, particularly the phrase "integrating front-line services". Mr Benson provided an example of where this was relevant: if the Cultural and Learning Hub received the go-ahead, he advised that this would be a perfect opportunity for bringing the front-line services of both KCC and TWBC together. He added that there might be other such opportunities between the County and the Borough Councils, which would be the subject of discussions between the two local authorities.

Mary Wardrop referred to paragraph (26) within the context of the Five Year Plan and '...working with community groups'; she asked whether this included the Town Forum. Mr Benson confirmed that this was the case, as evidenced in the regular consultations that now took place.

Michael Holman said that the Town Forum had for some years produced many documents on town centre issues, which had been formally presented to the Borough Council. He asked when the Forum could expect to receive formal feedback on these. Mr Benson felt that, as part of the support process, the Borough Council should make a commitment to respond to such formal documents on a regular, say six-monthly, basis.

Mark Booker advised that, in some operational areas, such a process was already in place, which he welcomed.

Mary Wardrop wished to place on record her appreciation for the three new signs that had been installed at Hawkenbury Recreation Ground, which she assumed had followed on from formal representations having been made to the Borough Council.

The Chairman summed up the discussion by acknowledging the active and productive co-operation that already existed between the Town Forum and the Borough Council, which provided a sound base from which to build a future partnership.

There were no actions points arising from this report.

## **8. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Kelvin Hinton, TWBC's Planning Policy Manager, advised that the authority's 'Statement of Community Involvement' was a document which set out how the Borough Council involves the community, individuals and organisations with an interest in matters relating to development in their area. He added that a report was being made to the authority's Cabinet on 29 October, which would seek approval to consult on an updated version of the Statement.

Mr Hinton welcomed input from Town Forum members into the process, which would be the subject of a six-week consultation stage, beginning in December.

Mark Booker drew attention to the recent initiative by the Head of Planning Services in convening a number of briefings for Town Forum members on key planning issues. These had started in July, involving Mr Hinton and his staff, as well as officers from

other areas within Planning Services. Mr Booker advised that these briefings, which would continue on an approximately quarterly basis, had been very well received by Town Forum members.

The Chairman endorsed these comments and thanked Mr Hinton for his report on the Statement of Community Involvement update.

There were no action points arising from this report.

## 9. ELECTORAL EQUALITY AND ARRANGEMENTS

Cllr Catherine Rankin advised that a 'task and finish' group established by her Overview and Scrutiny Committee was examining the implications of an electoral review for the Borough Council. She was keen to learn what Town Forum members felt about some of the key issues being considered, such as: (i) did residents feel that the existing number of Borough councillors was right? (ii) did they feel that they were being sufficiently represented by their Borough councillors? and (iii) would they prefer 'all-out' elections every four years rather than the current 'elections by thirds' cycle?

Cllr Rankin added that, as a starting point, the Borough Council had no pre-conceived ideas about either what the ideal number of councillors should be for the whole Borough, or what the optimum size of the electorate should be for each councillor.

Dorothea Holman sought clarification over the impact on resident representation if the balance between urban and rural areas were altered.

John Cunningham sought further information and guidance on some of the alternatives, adding that he believed that the authority did have too many councillors. He advised that, in his opinion, the quality of representation was one of the most important factors.

Mr Cunningham also warned about the costs associated with an electoral review.

Cllr Scott cautioned that it was sometimes misleading to look at a particular councillor's activity and judge their level of effectiveness. He added that his own commitment assumed that two days a week would be spent on Council business but he paid tribute to other councillors who, because of work or family (or both) commitments, could only give a few hours each week to Council business. The role, he added, relied upon the commitment and goodwill of individuals in what was essentially an unpaid job.

**Action:** Cllr Rankin undertook to circulate the questions posed above and invited Town Forum members to comment on the issues raised, in respect of individuals' own ward areas.

## 10. WORKING GROUPS

Update reports were made from the working groups as follows:

**Water in the Wells Working Group** – the Chairman, Michael Holman, welcomed the Borough Council's Urban Design Framework document which, he added, had been prepared by someone "who has a mature understanding of Tunbridge Wells" and which provided a valuable framework into which plans for individual sites could be fitted.

Mr Holman added that, where sites offered the possibility of water feature installation, Water in the Wells would seek to be involved with developers and the Borough Council in drawing up detailed plans.

Mr Holman also reported on the following issues: (i) he drew attention to the outcome of a competition run by the South West Region of the Royal Institute of British Architects, called 'Imagine Bath'. The winner, announced in March, focused on celebrating what Bath was famous for – its water – by proposing to 'rehydrate' the city. He added that there was an uncanny similarity with the 'So create a difference' initiative which Tunbridge Wells architects Stuart Page and James Galpin had run in this town and in the 'Water in the Wells' work. Mr Holman felt that there were lessons which could be learnt from Bath's approach.

(ii) With Fiveways, Mr Holman felt that the point had been reached where a more active campaign for a water feature should begin. He added that the space remained one which people passed through rather than one which was more of a welcoming area where they could gather. A series of meetings with senior figures in businesses surrounding Fiveways was taking place, to enlist further support. Mr Holman added that it was hoped to be in a position to commission alternative designs that would incorporate the Millennium Clock with a cascading water feature. However, he stressed that the lead on this issue had to come from the Borough Council.

(iii) The Chalybeate Spring on the Pantiles had once more ceased to flow, Mr Holman advised.

(iv) Mr Holman had two items of good news associated with Calverley Grounds: first, he welcomed the news from TWBC that it was working with the Friends Group to help develop a long term vision for Calverley Grounds; secondly, the Friends Group was working together with a nationally-acclaimed, locally-based landscape architect to draw up plans for a quality play area on the bowling green. He was hopeful that the play area might have a water-based theme.

(v) Mr Holman ended with three new locations where his group hoped that water features might be incorporated: Dairy Crest site in St John's Road, where the developer's latest plans indicated a water feature for the internal courtyard which would be visible from the main road; Owls(wood) nest on the Tonbridge Road in Pembury, where there were plans for a 76-bed health and wellbeing facility; and the potential housing and new primary school development at Holly Farm, Hawkenbury.

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

**Tourism and Leisure Working Group** – The newly-appointed Chairman, Dorothea Holman, advised that the previous Chairman, June Bridgeman, would be finishing off work she had led on in respect of the pedestrian signage in the town centre (referred to in minute 5 above). Mrs Holman welcomed the news of the Town Centre Partnership under minute 7 above. She added that the group was still keen to see a clear tourism strategy in place for the Borough, which was one of a number of areas she and her working group would be examining in the coming months, along with other initiatives.

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

**Transport Strategy** – In the absence of the Acting Chairman, (Jane Fenwick), it was noted that there were no specific issues which needed to be brought to the attention of the full Forum at this stage.

**Planning and Development Strategy** – Mark Booker, the Chairman of this working group, reported on a number of issues of general interest to Forum members: (i) Dairy Crest site, to which reference had already been made under the Water in the Wells report above; (ii) Royal Victoria Place, where a further meeting with representatives of Hermes had taken place, to hear more about their plans for expansion; (iii) Union House, where the developer had taken account of discussions and was looking to link the site more closely with the Pantiles, by incorporating Linden Park Road; and (iv) the Site Allocations DPD process where he advised that the appointed inspector for the examination in public had submitted some ‘probing’ questions for TWBC to answer (covering the proposed ‘areas of change’ and the division of residential and retail accommodation) which Mr Booker advised reflected some of the same views expressed by his working group.

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

**Finance and Other Issues** – In the absence of David Wakefield, Chairman of this working group, there was no report made.

**Culture** – Bob Atwood, Chairman of this new working group, advised that he had drafted some terms of reference, which he would circulate for comments. He reported that some suggestions had been made for external membership of the group and added that people with relevant expertise would be very welcome.

Mr Atwood advised that the HLF bid for the Cultural and Learning Hub had been re-submitted, the only change from the initial one being in respect of the list of exhibits. He added that one of the tasks of the working group would be to shadow the progress of the HLF bid. He advised that the Cultural and Learning Hub proposal was very welcome, particularly so when so many of the building’s existing features would be preserved. The management of the Hub was a key issue, he added, and the working group would be maintaining a close watch on this aspect.

The Chairman of the full Forum reminded members that the wider group had already signalled their full support for the proposals for the Cultural and Learning Hub.

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

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) **‘Restore our identity’** – Andy England reported that he had raised a number of issues with Greg Clark MP on the theme of restoring Tunbridge Wells’ identity. One proposal, he advised, was to illuminate the Borough’s coat of arms on the Town Hall. Dr Philip Whitbourn supported this proposal, adding that he felt the Town Hall should be available for better public use;

(b) **RSS feeds on the website** – Stephen Bowser advised that the RSS feed service on TWBC’s website was not working. The Chief Executive undertook to investigate and rectify;

(c) **Britain in Bloom** – Dorothea Holman reported that Tunbridge Wells had once more won a gold medal award in the Britain in Bloom competition, in the large town category. Members of the Town Forum joined her in expressing congratulations to everyone involved in this wonderful achievement;

(d) **Future-proofing transport** – Cllr Don Sloan commended a Radio 4 broadcast he had listened to the previous evening entitled ‘Transport: future-proofing’. He said that the imaginative ideas discussed would be of particular interest to anyone involved in the town’s transportation discussions;

**(e) Future agenda items** – The Chairman advised that he had had a request to add some items to the agenda, but after the agenda for this meeting had already been published. He asked, therefore, that if anyone had some suggestions for agenda items, they should contact either himself or Mike McGeary at least two weeks before each meeting;

**(f) New housing on the southern border** – Altan Omer advised that Wealden District Council had given planning permission for a 60-home development on the southern border of the Borough, suggesting that interested parties view Wealden's website for further details. The Chief Executive advised that there was regular discussion taking place between planning officers of the two authorities, adding that Tunbridge Wells was trying to secure a developer contribution out of this development, to meet specified local facilities as a direct result;

**(g) Telephone boxes in Calverley Precinct** – Andy England felt that the public telephone boxes in Calverley Precinct should be removed, on the basis that they were very rarely used, they were not regularly cleaned and they spoilt the appearance of the area.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 26 November 2015 at 6.30pm (including the Town Forum's AGM)

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm.