

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, 29th June, 2010

Present: Cllr Mrs E M Holland (Chairman), Cllr P J Homewood (Vice-Chairman), Cllr J A L Balcombe, Cllr Ms V Branson, Cllr F R D Chartres, Cllr J R H Clements, Cllr Mrs F A English, Cllr D Keeley, Cllr Mrs S L Luck, Cllr Mrs A S Oakley and Cllr Miss J L Sergison.

Councillors Balfour, N Heslop, Rhodes and Worrall were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allison and Dalton.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**RA
10/001 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**RA
10/002 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Notes of the meeting of the Rural Affairs Advisory Board held on 17 November 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**RA
10/003 RURAL BROADBAND ISSUES - PRESENTATION BY BRIAN
TAYLOR, KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Advisory Board received a presentation from Brian Taylor of Kent County Council in respect of Broadband issues, particularly in the rural areas of the Borough. He presented details of the limitations of the data available to the County Council, outlined the infrastructures involved in upgrading the systems and assessed the feasibility of achieving the standard provision of 4MB within Kent.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

**RA
10/004 SOUTH EAST SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND FOOD CHARTER**

Decision Notice D100076MEM

Consideration was given to whether the Borough Council should be a signatory to the South East Sustainable Farming and Food Charter.

RECOMMENDED: That the Borough Council be commended to become a signatory to the South East Sustainable Farming and Food Charter.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

**RA
10/005**

VALLEY OF VISIONS

The report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure updated Members on progress with the 'Valley of Visions' project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Rick Bayne, Project Manager at the Valley of Visions Landscape Partnership Scheme, gave a detailed presentation on the main activities of the Project over the past year and outlined a number of ways in which the work of the Project could be carried forward when the current funding arrangement terminated at the end of the year.

**RA
10/006**

MEDWAY VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP

The report of the Chief Leisure Officer provided an update on work undertaken by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership in 2009/10. Caroline Drewett, the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership Manager, provided a detailed presentation on specific schemes within the Borough and drew the Board's attention to the development of community-based environmental initiatives and the encouragement of outdoor activities, and the ensuing health benefits these schemes provided.

**RA
10/007**

ANCIENT WOODLAND SURVEY

The report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure set out the findings of a survey of ancient woodland in the Borough. Patrick McKernan of English Nature provided a detailed assessment of the results of the survey, a brief summary of which had been circulated with the papers.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

**RA
10/008**

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2012 hours
having commenced at 1800 hours

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

**Decision Taken By: CABINET MEMBER FOR
Community Development**

Decision No: D100076MEM

Date: 29th June 2010

Decision(s) and Reason(s)
South East Sustainable Farming and Food Charter
(Report of Chief Executive) (Annex 1)
Consideration was given to whether the Borough Council should be a signatory to the South East Sustainable Farming and Food Charter.
Following consideration by the Rural Affairs Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Community Development resolved that the Borough Council becomes a signatory to the South East Sustainable Farming and Food Charter.
Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Rural Affairs Advisory Board of 29 June 2010.

Signed Cabinet Member for N Heslop
Community Development:

Signed Leader: M Worrall

Signed Chief Executive: D Hughes

Date of publication: 02 July 2010

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.