

## ANNEX A

### Tonbridge & Malling Local Strategic Partnership Minutes of Meeting – 16 March 2011

**Present:** Cllr Mark Worrall – Leader, TMBC  
David Hughes – Chief Executive, TMBC  
Angela Painter – Kenward Trust  
Charles Wilsher – Kent Association of Parish Councils  
Debbie Smith – KCC  
Barbara Williams – Tonbridge Volunteer Centre  
Paul Hannan – Hadlow College  
Keith Austin – Age Concern Malling  
Cllr Valerie Dagger – Council Member, KCC  
Cllr Graham Gibbens - Council Member, KCC  
Jacqueline Wilkinson – Russet Homes  
John Handley – Bridge Trust  
Jon Kirby – Kent Police  
Julie VanRuyckevelt – WKPCT  
Nick Silvester – Kent Fire and Rescue  
Andy Forbes – K College  
Mark Raymond – TMBC  
Gill Fox – TMBC

**Apologies:** Bernadette Gillow – Ightham Mote  
Bishop Brian Castle (Bishop of Tonbridge)  
Cllr David Thornewell – TMBC  
Jay Edwins – West Kent PCT  
Cllr Nicolas Heslop – Cabinet Member, TMBC  
Steven Woodcock (Russet Homes)  
Barry Hughes – Tonbridge and Malling Seniors  
Chris Hare - K College  
John Reilly - KCC  
Father Brendan Grady (The Friars)  
Angela Newey – Tonbridge CAB

		ACTION BY
<b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b>		
Cllr Mark Worrall welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Angela Painter for the use of Kenward Trust's meeting room. It was also noted that Judy Edwards and Joanna Wainwright from KCC have changed jobs and will no longer be members of the LSP - the opportunity was taken to record thanks for their contribution.		MW – write to JE and JW on behalf of LSP

<p><b>2. Introduction to Kenward Trust</b></p> <p>Angela Painter gave a brief introduction to the history of Kenward Trust and the work that is currently being undertaken. Kenward Trust is a registered charity helping people recover from addiction to drugs or alcohol, so they can go on to leading non-dependent, fulfilling lives. They also run a range of youth services to help prevent future substance misuse and the effects they have on society.</p>	
<p><b>3. Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>Mark Worrall declared that he is a Non Executive Director of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust as well as the Chairman for Age Concern Malling.</p> <p>Cllr. Graham Gibbens declared that he was the KCC Cabinet Member for Public Health.</p>	
<p><b>4. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2010</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were signed and agreed as a correct record. Matters arising were discussed as follows:</p> <p>MW has sent letter on behalf of the LSP to urge the DoT to agree that the public inquiry (regarding the A21) should go ahead taking into account the possibility that KCC might wish to manage construction of the road improvements in place of the Highways Agency, at a cheaper cost. Although projects have been cancelled under the Comprehensive Spending Review, if the public inquiry is undertaken, we will be prepared when money does become available.</p>	
<p><b>5. Presentation: Public Health White Paper – Debbie Smith, Kent County Council</b></p> <p>A presentation was made by Debbie Smith from KCC, on the Public Health White Paper – Healthy Lives, Healthy People (presentation attached). This document is still in the consultation phase, with responses required back by 31 March 2011. The discussion focused on the role of KCC in leading the delivery of public health activities once the primary care trusts had been abolished in 2013.</p> <p>Angela Painter asked about ring fenced budgets and what they would be for – e.g. has it been ring fenced for particular areas?</p> <p>Debbie Smith replied that there will be different priorities in different areas – there needs to be flexibility and money available to identify priorities.</p> <p>Mark Raymond enquired about funding issues during the transition period. The PCT currently fund the Borough Council – many of the</p>	

<p>projects are long term initiatives, concerned that continuity of funding is at risk and will therefore put projects at risk.</p> <p>Debbie responded that projects delivered locally have been identified because of need. The public health agenda is mindful of these issues and all priorities should be identified within the JSNA for the area. Priorities identified in the JSNA need to have been brought forward from the local areas to make sure in an area the size of Kent, that all priorities are covered.</p> <p>David Hughes mentioned the need to address the obesity issue – described as “ticking time bomb” and not necessarily limited to the poorest areas.</p> <p>Debbie agreed that obesity is endemic in society – need to address social norms – fast food / good eating culture. Although obesity has risen in affluent areas, the rise is greater in the poorer areas - there is a trend in society, but health inequalities still exist.</p> <p>David Hughes also questioned the split between sexual health, with contraception dealt with at national level, whilst other sexual health issues are dealt with locally?</p> <p>Debbie confirmed that the accountability sits with Public Health England, with national campaigns considered to be effective, however the challenge is to ensure that programmes are delivered locally and there is continuity.</p> <p>Mark Worrall asked for reassurance that the good work undertaken by the PCT will be transferred to avoid starting again. He also asked about hospitals and mental health trusts and how they will be fed into the transition and decision making? They need to be engaged and informed given the two year timescale, how will organisations receive contact and move forward so they are all prepared at the same time?</p> <p>Debbie explained that KCC will be working with the PCT to ensure that the huge wealth of experience is retained. They are also setting up Decision Groups, asking for views, and demonstrating a commitment to engage and ensure that everyone gets fair input. These will be taking place throughout this year so everyone is ready for the transition.</p>	
<p><b>6. Presentation: Volunteering and the Localism Agenda – Barbara Williams, Tonbridge Volunteer Centre</b></p> <p>A presentation was made by Barbara Williams from the Tonbridge Volunteer Centre. The Localism agenda was discussed with reference to where the most impact will be regarding new rights and powers for communities. This included a discussion on community rights to buy local assets and challenge to take over the running of</p>	

local authority services. Many authorities are recognising the opportunity to involve voluntary and community organisations.

Local volunteering organised via the Tonbridge Volunteer Centre was also discussed. Volunteering brings many opportunities and can help people lead more fulfilling lives. More volunteers are needed at Tonbridge VC. The work undertaken by the centre is varied and includes brokerage (matching volunteers to opportunities), offering advice (over 400 volunteers access the TVC per year), promoting opportunities (150 different roles are promoted at any one time), marketing services (website, press, special events etc).

To respond to the demands of the Localism Bill, it is important to promote volunteering, dispel some of the myths surrounding it – e.g. benefits issues, CRB checking etc. Volunteer Centres also need to face new challenges regarding funding cuts.

Paul Hannan enquired about the criteria which determined whether an organisation could be accepted to get help from volunteers?

Barbara explained that the volunteer must not be covering a role that would otherwise be a paid position. Volunteers may offer support, must be over 18 and can assist with things like reading help, help for people with special needs etc.

David Hughes pointed out that the community right to buy within the Localism Bill, is actually a community right to “bid”; there is no obligation for anyone to sell to the community. It has the potential to create bureaucracy, with the right to appeal possibly leading to long delays. Although there are lots of good intentions, it remains to be seen if it will be practical in reality.

Mark Worrall thanked Barbara for her presentation and also praised the work of the Volunteer Centre, particularly the expansion of the service across the Borough which has been hugely beneficial to local residents and community groups.

#### **7. Older People’s Forum Update – Tonbridge and Malling Seniors (TAMS) – Mark Raymond, TMBC**

Barry Hughes was unable to attend the meeting, so Mark Raymond reported back on the work of TAMS. Decision taken to meet six times per year, three meetings will be held in Tonbridge and the remaining three to be held around the Borough. The TAMS management committee take responsibility for the local meetings. Worked well so far, with 50 people attending the Walderslade meeting, where they heard a presentation from Kent Adult Social Services, learnt about services available from Age Concern Malling and heard a presentation regarding the Tonbridge and Malling Character Area Assessments. Issues arising included concerns that there is a

<p>difference in service provision for the Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade area – for example access to GP services are very difficult, with long waiting times on premium line numbers if accessing by phone. There were also issues around public transport. The possibility of Age Concern Malling extending its transport service was discussed, which will help with the situation. The next meeting is due to be held on 14 April at the Age Concern Tonbridge offices.</p> <p>Keith Austin confirmed that following the meeting, community transport will be provided as from May, there is also a pop in service about to be set up, which will provide some day care. TAMS has been a useful vehicle to get these things set up.</p>	
<p><b>8. Vision for Kent Consultation – Mark Raymond, TMBC</b></p> <p>Mark Raymond discussed the Vision for Kent and the current County wide consultation that is taking place. He outlined a number of points on the document that the Borough Council had made. Currently at the preliminary stage of the consultation and if anyone from the LSP would like to feed back comments they should do so via Mark Raymond or Gill Fox.</p> <p>Mark Worrall invited all to respond on any of the aspects of the Vision for Kent, these can then be collated and represent the response from the whole partnership.</p>	<p>All – send any comments to GF / MR</p>
<p><b>9. The Borough Council's financial position – David Hughes, Chief Executive, TMBC</b></p> <p>David Hughes reported some good news amidst the general financial difficulties. The CSR had been anticipated and it had been recognised that funding cuts were inevitable, with this in mind many measures were taken in advance of this, which have helped with the current situation. David Hughes wanted to make four points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council Tax has been frozen at the same level as 2010/11 for the forthcoming year, so any possible increase will be from Parish Council precepts only.</li> <li>2. There will be no cuts to services for the forthcoming year, including grants to voluntary and community organisations, CAB, and Age Concerns and mainstream services of the Council will not be changed.</li> <li>3. There will be no redundancies in the forthcoming year. There are already fewer officers at TMBC than other local authorities as over the years TMBC has had to adapt to the lowest per capita Government grant in Kent, therefore always had to be lean, with capacity at full stretch.</li> <li>4. Planning to establish a community enhancement fund of £500,000 over the next 4 years, to assist with the society issues we've discussed. £125,000 will be issued each year to</li> </ol>	

<p>cover particular projects (not to provide core funding).</p> <p>TMBC has benefited from the Governments decision to introduce a “New Homes Bonus” – which provides a substantial reward to incentivise LA’s to welcome new development. However, he reported that there were concerns about the sustainability of the fund – money could be top sliced, so there is still an element of uncertainty in the future of this scheme.</p>	
<p><b>10. AOB</b></p> <p>Julie VanRuyckevelt discussed the new Healthy Passport club which is due to be launched with funding from the Department of Health. The aim is to assist people change to healthier lifestyles. This will be going live from April, with launch events taking place 4-9 April.</p> <p>Charles Wilsher mentioned that with regard to Parish Councils and Council Tax, they have not been capped; Borough Green PC will be increasing their precept by 3% this year.</p> <p>Cllr Valerie Dagger mentioned that she is chair of the Tonbridge and Malling Youth Advisory Group – which meets quarterly, there is great co-operation between borough and district on this and suggests a presentation at the next meeting, when there should be a new appointee in post.</p> <p>Jon Kirby mentioned developments with the Police and the re-structure which is due to take place – suggested item for next agenda.</p> <p>Mark Worrall wanted to reiterate the issue regarding the timescale of the A21 public inquiry – felt that this should be restated on behalf of the LSP.</p> <p>Mark Worrall also mentioned issues with local train services, in particular the closure of the Tonbridge to Gatwick line and the rise in the cost of season tickets and will be urging ministers to address these issues.</p>	<p>GF – include on next agenda</p> <p>MW to write letter to the DoT</p>