

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



## EXECUTIVE SERVICES

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### Chief Executive

Julie Beilby BSc (Hons) MBA

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**NB - This agenda contains proposals, recommendations and options. These do not represent Council policy or decisions until they have received proper consideration through the full decision making process.**

Contact: Committee Services  
[committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk)

3 September 2015

To: MEMBERS OF THE TONBRIDGE FORUM  
(Copies to all Members of the Council)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Tonbridge Forum to be held in the Riverside Lounge, Angel Centre, Tonbridge on Monday, 14th September, 2015 commencing at 7.30 pm

The meeting will be preceded by public question time and members of the Forum are welcome to attend and hear the questions and answers.

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

## A G E N D A

- |    |                       |        |
|----|-----------------------|--------|
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To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of Tonbridge Forum held on 9 February 2015

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## MEMBERSHIP

### Borough Council Representatives:

Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman)  
Cllr Mrs J A Anderson  
Cllr Ms J A Atkinson  
Cllr Mrs P A Bates  
Cllr P F Bolt  
Cllr J L Botten  
Cllr D J Cure  
Cllr V M C Branson  
Cllr T Edmondston-Low  
Cllr R D Lancaster  
Cllr Ms S V Spence  
Cllr F G Tombolis

### Members of the Forum:

Cllr C P Smith (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr R Long (County Councillor)

Age UK  
The Bridge Trust  
Kent Community Health NHS Trust  
Kent Fire and Rescue Service  
Kent Police (Tonbridge)  
Kent Youth Service  
Russet Homes  
Skinners Company  
St John's Ambulance  
Society of Friends  
Tonbridge Allotments and Gardens  
Tonbridge and Malling Seniors  
Tonbridge Angels Football Club  
Tonbridge Art Group  
Tonbridge Area Churches Together  
Tonbridge Citizens' Advice Bureau  
Tonbridge Civic Society  
Tonbridge Consortium of Head Teachers  
Tonbridge Division Guides  
Tonbridge District Scout Council  
Tonbridge Historical Society  
Tonbridge Line Commuters  
Tonbridge Lions Club  
Tonbridge Music Club  
Tonbridge Philharmonic Society  
Tonbridge Red Cross  
Tonbridge Rotary Club  
Tonbridge Round Table  
Tonbridge Sports Association  
Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club  
Tonbridge Town Team  
Tonbridge Volunteer Centre  
Tonbridge VSU  
University of the Third Age  
West Kent & Ashford College  
West Kent Chamber of Commerce  
West Kent Neighbourhood Watch  
West Kent YMCA  
Women's Institute



Apologies for absence

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## TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### TONBRIDGE FORUM

Monday, 9th February, 2015

**Present:** Cllr O C Baldock (Chairman), Cllr N J Heslop (Vice-Chairman), Cllr P F Bolt, Cllr V M C Branson and Cllr Ms S V Spence; County Councillor C Smith; together with representatives from:

The Bridge Trust  
Kent Community Health NHS Trust  
Kent Fire and Rescue Service  
Kent Police (Tonbridge)  
Skinners Company  
Tonbridge Art Group  
Tonbridge Area Churches Together  
Tonbridge Civic Society  
Tonbridge Line Commuters  
Tonbridge Rotary Club  
Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club  
Tonbridge Town Team and  
University of the Third Age

Councillor Mrs Murray was also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, Mrs M F Heslop, D J Trice, Mr R Long and Society of Friends

#### **TF 15/1 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **TF 15/2 UPDATE ON ANY ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES**

There were no actions identified.

#### **TF 15/3 TONBRIDGE HIGH STREET REGENERATION**

Representatives from Kent County Council provided an overview of the Tonbridge High Street regeneration project, which aimed to improve the appearance of the town centre, improve traffic movement and reduce congestion and make the town an attractive place for both businesses and visitors.

It was reported that £2.62 million had been secured to fund the regeneration of the High Street and the County Council would be

working in partnership with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. Plans were available for public viewing until Friday 26 February at Tonbridge Library and everyone was encouraged to comment.

The project was due to start in summer 2015 and would see pavements widened; a new road surface and improved pedestrian crossings. Free flow of traffic would be encouraged by creating delivery loading areas, rather than bays, to prevent vehicles obstructing the High Street. A 20mph speed limit would be enforced from the roundabout near the library to just beyond the junction with Church Lane. The one way system encompassing Bradford Street, River Walk and New Wharf Road would also be included in this zone.

Members were advised that while the scheme was being built some disruption was expected but this would be kept to a minimum where possible. In addition, it was planned to stop works during the Christmas period so as not to interfere with business. Kent Highway Services would communicate regularly with local traders so that they were fully informed of potential disruption, although it was hoped that access to businesses would remain possible.

Consideration was given to a number of issues raised by the Forum including disability access and public transport movements along the High Street. In response, it was explained that there had been direct engagement with disability groups to understand what was required by those with lack of mobility and to see what options could be found to resolve any concerns. Buses would continue to travel along the High Street and ways of managing these movements and routes would be monitored as the scheme progressed.

Reference was made to public open space and the potential for it to be used for activities and/or street art. A consultant had been engaged to look at opportunities for maximising the space.

Further details could be found on [www.tonbridgehighstreet.org](http://www.tonbridgehighstreet.org) Comments could be left on the website, or in writing at Tonbridge Library or by writing directly to Kent County Council.

#### **TF 15/4 STOP SMOKING SERVICES**

Natalie Ayles of the Kent Community Health NHS Trust advised that Stop Smoking was a Kent wide service that delivered a range of interventions to help people stop smoking. These included One-to-One sessions, quit clubs and virtual groups.

The service was free, although prescription charges could apply in some circumstances. A number of programmes were offered including a seven week quit programme, behavioural support and nicotine replacement therapy. In addition, 400 people in local communities had received training to provide additional help in delivering the programmes.



Particular reference was made to a number of areas in the Borough where Stop Smoking was having difficulty engaging with the local communities. It was reported that Trench and Judd had a high prevalence of smoking and these areas were being targeted.

The Service was keen to encourage communities to participate and especially welcomed local knowledge, information and promotion of the programmes available.

Finally, Members were advised that a 'no smoking day' initiative was being held in Tonbridge High Street on Wednesday 11 March 2015.

The referral line number for the Stop Smoking Service was 0300 123 1220 which was free of charge.

#### **TF 15/5 KENT POLICE UPDATE**

Inspector M Hutcheon provided an overview of the achievements made in performance and neighbourhood policing. It was reported that Tonbridge and Malling remained a low crime area and that victim based crime had reduced by 1.1%.

The current policing model provided challenges around crime series investigation and Tonbridge and Malling were using innovative approaches to address these.

Recent initiatives included Op Heath, a multi-agency taxi enforcement operation in support of the Borough Council; Op Caddy, a drugs dog visit to local schools and colleges and speed enforcement at Red Hill, Wateringbury and Stocks Green Road, Hildenborough. Future events and initiatives would be advertised on the Kent Police website.

Members referred to the increase in cybercrime and it was recognised that improving education around personal safety and security online was an important factor in addressing this trend.

#### **TF 15/6 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE**

The Kent County Council Community Engagement Manager reported that a 12 week public consultation on proposals to modernise libraries, registration and archives service had begun. Views could be registered online at [www.kent.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.kent.gov.uk/libraries) ; whilst an explanatory booklet and questionnaire were available in county libraries. The following Drop in sessions were also arranged:

- Thursday 12 February 1000-1900 hours - Tonbridge Library
- Thursday 26 February 0900-1230 – Larkfield Library
- Thursday 26 February 1400-1700 – Paddock Wood Library

The consultation closed on 4 April 2015.

Reference was made to the public consultation on the County's draft corporate outcomes framework and comments were invited on the draft strategic and supporting outcomes and how the County Council should measure progress in achieving these. The document was available on [www.kent.gov.uk/corporateoutcomes](http://www.kent.gov.uk/corporateoutcomes) until 20 February 2015.

Kent County Council had agreed to progress converting its stock of 120,000 street lights to LED. This improvement would help reduce the street lighting energy bill by around 60% which meant that all night lighting for residential areas could potentially be reinstated.

Finally, Members were invited to comment on proposed changes to Hugh Christie Technology College. This consultation would run from 4 February to 25 March 2015 and further information was available on [www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

#### **TF 15/7 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING SERVICES UPDATE**

The Chief Executive provided an update on key points relevant to Tonbridge and Malling and referred to the recent airport consultation which had ended on 3 February 2015. It was confirmed that Borough Council Members had endorsed opposition to a second runway at Gatwick and support for a second runway at Heathrow.

'Web chat' had recently been trialled on the Borough Council's website to support and assist customers online by offering guidance on how and where to self-serve and signposting to relevant departments. The service had received a positive reaction with over 800 visitors in a few weeks and this would shortly be expanded to other Services.

Details were given on a number of Love Where you Live initiatives across the Borough, including a number of specific projects in Tonbridge.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

# Agenda Item 3

Update on action identified in the last Minutes

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## TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### TONBRIDGE FORUM

14 September 2015

#### Report of the Chief Executive

#### Part 1- Public

#### Matters for Information

#### 1 REVIEW OF THE TONBRIDGE FORUM

##### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Members of the Forum will be aware that the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is currently undertaking a review of the ways in which the Borough Council engages with Parish Councils and with Local Community Groups in Tonbridge focusing on the Parish Partnership Panel and Tonbridge Forum.
- 1.1.2 All Forum Members have been invited to complete a short questionnaire and a number of have already completed and returned these. However, as the consultation period covered the main holiday period, and at the request of KALC, we have extended the original deadline of the 24<sup>th</sup> August to the 25<sup>th</sup> September to allow more time for responses to be made.
- 1.1.3 If they have not already done so, Forum Members are encouraged to complete a questionnaire to enable the Member Panel undertaking the review to be fully informed of local views on this issue.
- 1.1.4 Responses received to date from Forum members suggest that there is support for reviewing how Forum currently operates. Whilst some support its discontinuation, the current majority view is to continue the Forum but to reduce the frequency of meetings and review their format. A further report on the review will be made to a future meeting of the Forum.

Background papers:

Nil

Julie Beilby  
Chief Executive

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- Local Plan update

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# Agenda Item 6

## Police Liaison

Representatives of the Police to be present to address crime prevention issues, including any raised by Members of the Forum.

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# Agenda Item 7

Kent Fire and Rescue Services

Representatives of the KFRS to be present to provide an update on recent activities and to answer questions raised by Members.

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Kent County Council Services Update

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Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Services Update

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