

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Chief Executive

Julie Beilby BSc (Hons) MBA

Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent ME19 4LZ
West Malling (01732) 844522

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

1 September 2015

To: MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL
(Copies to all Members of the Council)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel to be held in the Civic Suite, Gibson Building, Kings Hill, West Malling on Thursday, 10th September, 2015 commencing at 7.30 pm

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

Part 1 - Public

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To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel held on 19 February 2015

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DISTRIBUTION

Borough Council Representatives

Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman)
Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Mrs J A Anderson
Cllr Mrs S M Barker
Cllr R P Betts
Cllr T I B Cannon
Cllr R W Dalton
Cllr Mrs S M Hall
Cllr S M Hammond
Cllr D Lettington
Cllr D Markham
Cllr R V Roud
Cllr T B Shaw

Parish Council Representatives

Addington Parish Council
Aylesford Parish Council
Birling Parish Council
Borough Green Parish Council
Burham Parish Council
Ditton Parish Council
East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council
East Peckham Parish Council
Hadlow Parish Council
Hildenborough Parish Council
Ightham Parish Council
Kings Hill Parish Council
Leybourne Parish Council
Mereworth Parish Council
Offham Parish Council
Platt Parish Council
Plaxtol Parish Council
Ryarsh Parish Council
Shipbourne Parish Council
Snodland Town Council
Stansted Parish Council
Trottscliffe Parish Council
Wateringbury Parish Council
West Malling Parish Council
West Peckham Parish Council
Wouldham Parish Council
Wrotham Parish Council

County Councillors

Valerie Dagger, Malling West
Trudy Dean, Malling Central
Matthew Balfour, Malling Rural East
Sarah Hohler, Malling North
Peter Homewood, Malling Rural North East

Apologies for absence

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Thursday, 19th February, 2015

Present: Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman), Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr J Atkins, Cllr M A C Balfour, Cllr Miss A Moloney, Cllr H S Rogers, Cllr A G Sayer and Cllr Mrs C J Woodger.

Together with Addington, Birling, Borough Green, Hadlow, Kings Hill, Platt, Plaxtol, Snodland and Trottiscliffe Parish and Town Councils and County Councillors Balfour and Mrs Hohler.

Councillors O C Baldock and M R Rhodes were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J A L Balcombe, Mrs J M Bellamy, D Keeley, M Parry-Waller and East Peckham Parish Council.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

PPP 15/1 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PPP 15/2 UPDATE ON ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

There were no actions identified.

PPP 15/3 CENTENARY FIELDS

Mr T Houseden (Development Manager) of the Fields in Trust gave an introduction to the Centenary Fields programme, which was a countrywide joint initiative with the Royal British Legion, aimed to safeguard, improve and protect open spaces for future generations and to commemorate World War 1.

To be eligible for nomination and dedication a Centenary Field needed to have a significant link to World War 1 and should be:

- Used principally for outdoor recreation, sport or play
- Accessible to the public
- Affordable for the local community

Sites with an existing or planned War Memorial; memorial garden or area for contemplation; plus amenities such as pavilions, village halls,

indoor leisure or heritage facilities used for community recreation could be included.

It was reported that the Borough Council had identified the recently refurbished Tonbridge Memorial Garden as a site to be nominated for dedication under this scheme. Parish and town councils were encouraged to protect at least one suitable site and were invited to make nominations. From February 2015 it was hoped to have 'Field Day' events to carry out dedication or commemoration events.

In response to a question, the Panel was advised that robust methods of protection were used, such as charitable or contract law, but some flexibility could be retained for the benefit of a changing community. It was reiterated that management and ownership of the site did not change and the initiative was a valuable tool in safeguarding open space.

As a beneficiary of the previous Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, Snodland Town Council welcomed this new initiative and highly recommended the programme. It was also noted that improvement funding to support and benefit the community could be available via this new scheme.

PPP 15/4 CHANGES TO THE CARE ACT 2014

This item was WITHDRAWN. However, a Frequently Asked Questions sheet had been provided by Kent County Council which had been circulated and tabled at the meeting. This information would also be attached to the Minutes and, therefore, available on the website.

[NB. Information correct as at 4 March 2015 but subject to change]

PPP 15/5 KENT POLICE SERVICES UPDATE

Chief Inspector Gill Ellis, Borough Commander for Tonbridge and Malling, provided an overview of the achievements made in performance and the neighbourhood policing agenda.

It was reported that the overall position in the Borough remained good with a reduction of 0.4% in victim based crime. Excellent partnership working with the established CSU at Kings Hill and other partners continued. Public satisfaction with local policing in the Borough, as at December 2014, was 83% and this was slightly higher than the force average.

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 in Watlingbury and Stocks Green Road in Hildenborough.

Reference was made to Oakdene Café and it was anticipated that following the success in 2014 agencies, including Kent Fire and Rescue Service and the Community Safety Unit, would again work in partnership to minimise anti-social behaviour.

Members expressed concern regarding the enforcement of speed limits in rural locations and asked that additional 'ad-hoc' operations be undertaken. Chief Inspector Ellis assured the Panel that Kent Police took this issue seriously and referred to the recent initiatives in Watlingbury and Hildenborough where traffic offence reports had been issued. However, if parish or town councils identified a speeding problem within their villages they could contact Chief Inspector Ellis directly on Gillian.ellis@kent.pnn.police.uk requesting speeding initiatives be undertaken. Kings Hill Parish Council referred to a previous offer of funding speeding enforcement operations with overtime. This position would be clarified by Chief Inspector Ellis.

Concerns regarding legal highs and site specific issues were also noted.

Finally, Snodland Town Council thanked Kent Police for their recent funding contribution towards equipment for a local club using the Police Property Fund.

PPP 15/6 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Kent County Council Community Engagement Manger reported that a 12 week public consultation on proposals to modernise libraries, registration and archive services had begun. Views could be registered online at www.kent.gov.uk/libraries ; information and feedback forms were available in all libraries, Register offices and mobile libraries. The following drop-in sessions were also arranged for Thursday 26 February:

- 0900 -1230 hours at Larkfield Library
- 1400-1700 hours at Paddock Wood Library

The consultation closed on Wednesday 8 April 2015.

Reference was made to the public consultation on the County's draft corporate outcomes framework which focused on what the Council was seeking to achieve rather than specifying the detail of how services were designed and delivered. This ended on 20 February 2015 and further details could be found at www.kent.gov.uk/corporateoutcomes

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. Members expressed a preference for these lights to be dimmed and this could be arranged by contacting the local County Councillor.

Inspections of Children's Centres in Tonbridge and Malling had taken place in November/December 2014 and significant improvements in all areas had been reached. It was reported that the number of families registered at centres had significantly increased but further improvement to reach 70% was required. Parish and town councils were encouraged to support and promote Children's Centres.

Finally, Members were invited to comment on proposed changes to Stansted School. This consultation would run until Friday 6 March 2015 and further information was available on:

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/StandedSchool/consultationHome>

The Panel expressed concern and sadness regarding the potential future of the school and the County Member for Malling North (Mrs S Hohler) advised that all options would continue to be explored, including 'free school' status.

PPP 15/7 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Director of Finance and Transformation provided an update on key points relevant to Tonbridge and Malling. The headline messages included:

- Airport Consultation:

The Borough Council remained opposed to a second runway at Gatwick and supported a second runway at Heathrow.

- Love Where You Live Initiatives:

Details were given of a number of initiatives planned for February and these included events in Larkfield, Mereworth, Platt and Snodland. National Spring Clean Day was Saturday 21 March 2015.

- Webchat:

This had recently been trialled on the Borough Council's website to support and assist customers on-line 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.

- Council Tax:

Council tax bills for 2015/16 were now being produced and would be received by households in March. Reference was made to changes to discounts and exemptions applicable to empty homes that came into

effect from 1 April 2015. Affected residents had been contacted to advise them of the forthcoming changes and to encourage these properties back into use. Members were advised that the long term empty properties, those longer than 2 years, would now be charged council tax of 150%; whilst the period for short term empty properties was reduced from 3 to 2 months.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm

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Agenda Item 3

Update on action identified in the last Minutes

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

10 September 2015

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 REVIEW OF THE PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Parish Councils 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 Parish Councils have been invited to complete a short questionnaire about the PPP and a number of have already completed and returned them. However, as the consultation period covered the main holiday period, and at the request of KALC, we have extended the original deadline of the 24th August to the 25th September to allow more time for responses to be made.

1.1.3 Parishes are therefore encouraged to complete a questionnaire if they have not already done so 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 indicate that there is support for retaining the PPP but a number of suggestions have been made regarding changes to the format of the meetings and creating opportunities to enable Parishes to suggest additional agenda items. In addition to the request to extend the consultation period, KALC has also highlighted the following issues:

- The participation of parishes in the meetings, and to draw to the Borough Councils attention that it is a partnership and as a consequence agenda items are not for the consideration of one party only.
- Matters raised by Parish Councils to be consider early on the agenda, not relegated to the very end.
- Matters raised should be for debate at PPP meetings by parishes concerned and should not be covered by prepared position statements, read out by officers at the meetings.

1.1.5 These are all valid points and they will be taken into account as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review is progressed.

Background papers:

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

Agenda Item 5

Police Liaison

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

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Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils

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Local Plan Update – report to follow

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Kent County Council Services Update

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Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Services Update

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