

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Chief Executive

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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

6 November 2019

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, 14th November, 2019 commencing at 7.30 pm

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

Part 1 - Public

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes

5 - 10

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel held on 5 September 2019.

3. Update on action identified in the last Minutes

4. Speedwatch

Speedwatch Co-ordinator invited to participate in discussions related to the initiative.

5. Kent Police Services Update

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

6. Street Scene Services

This item will include updates on:

- *the Waste Services Contract*
- *Car parking management*
- *the provision of a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in the Borough.*

7. Local Plan

11 - 16

The Planning and Transportation Advisory Board report, dated 13 November 2019, provides an update on the Local Plan, including the public consultation exercise requested by the appointed Planning Inspectors, and is attached for information.

8. Kent County Council Services Update

9. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Services Update

DISTRIBUTION

Borough Council Representatives

Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman)
Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Mrs J A Anderson
Cllr R P Betts
Cllr R W Dalton
Cllr P M Hickmott
Cllr F A Hoskins
Cllr S A Hudson
Cllr Mrs C B Langridge
Cllr D Lettington
Cllr B J Luker
Cllr M R Rhodes
Cllr M Taylor

Parish and Town Council Representatives

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

County Councillors

Trudy Dean, Malling Central
Matthew Balfour, Malling Rural East
Sarah Hohler, Malling North
Peter Homewood, Malling Rural North East
Harry Rayner, Malling West

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Thursday, 5th September, 2019

Present: Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman), Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr R P Betts, Cllr R W Dalton, Cllr F A Hoskins, Cllr S A Hudson, Cllr Mrs C B Langridge, Cllr D Lettington, Cllr B J Luker and Cllr M Taylor.

Together with Addington, Aylesford, Borough Green, Burham, Ditton, East Malling and Larkfield, Hadlow, Ightham, Kings Hill, Offham, Platt, Snodland, Trottiscliffe, Wateringbury, Wouldham, Wrotham and County Councillor H Rayner.

Councillors H S Rogers, R V Roud and J L Sergison were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P M Hickmott, M R Rhodes, Birling, Hildenborough, Leybourne, Mereworth, Plaxtol, West Malling, West Peckham, Mrs T Dean, Mr M Balfour and Mrs S Hohler.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

PPP 19/18 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PPP 19/19 UPDATE ON ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

The Chairman of the Kent Association of Local Councils (Tonbridge and Malling) referred to Minute Number PPP 19/12 (Southern Water – responsibility for fire hydrants) and advised that a Fire Hydrant initiative, established by Kent Fire and Rescue Services in 2017, provided location maps of all fire hydrants in parishes. Further information would be circulated to all parish clerks in due course.

PPP 19/20 SPEEDWATCH

The Chairman advised that apologies had been received from the Speedwatch Co-ordinator (Alan Watson) due to a prior commitment. However, Parish Councils were invited to share their experiences of the initiative and the following points were made:

- There were significant challenges around the setting up of a community scheme, particularly as these were reliant on the support of volunteers;

- Equipment, such as speed indicator devices, were not always financially viable and the purchase of kit was expensive; and
- Active enforcement by Kent Police was decreasing.

The Kent Association of Local Councils referred to the recent cancellation of the annual Speedwatch Conference due to the insufficient numbers of attendees. This illustrated the lack of support for local community schemes.

Kent Police remained committed to Speedwatch but recognised the challenges around staffing which impacted on their availability to offer support. However, it was hoped that this would improve once new police officers were in place. (Minute Number PPP 19/21 refers)

The issues raised would be passed to the Speedwatch Co-Ordinator for addressing at the next meeting of the Panel.

Hadlow and Watlington Parish Councils, which had shared their experiences of an active Community Speedwatch, felt that overall the initiative was effective despite the many challenges. Parishes which had operated a Community Speedwatch offered to share any information with other interested communities.

PPP 19/21 KENT POLICE SERVICES UPDATE

Acting Inspector Turtle provided a verbal update on the achievements made in performance and the neighbourhood policing agenda. The headline messages were that a new police constable would be based in the Malling area from November, active recruitment for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) continued and a new two year programme for graduates (Police Now) had been introduced to encourage recruitment into community policing. Acting Inspector Turtle was pleased to announce that a new recruit would join the Community Safety Unit in November for 18 months as part of this scheme.

During the summer there had been several traveller incursions, including unlawful encampments in Ightham and Platt. The use of Section 61 notices had proved extremely effective and Kent Police would continue to take action immediately. This approach was welcomed by the Panel.

Recent crime trends and activity identified during the 3 month spring period included:

- Increased theft of car keys from homes. It was hoped that this could be improved by educating residents to think differently and putting keys out of sight.
- A Serious and Organised Crime Board met monthly to focus on and identify trends.

- Tom Tugendhat MP for Tonbridge and Malling had recently joined a foot patrol.
- There was an aspiration to extend the Shop Safe initiative to West Malling.

The following trends and initiatives were identified for monitoring during the autumn period:

- There would be a focus on tackling nuisance cycling which continued to be a significant issue throughout the Borough;
- Continued engagement with young people;
- Licensing enforcement in the lead up to Christmas
- Safeguarding of vulnerable people and victims; and
- Seasonal activity during Halloween and Bonfire Night

Several parishes reported evidence of the increased use of nitrous oxide (laughing gas). Kent Police were unaware that this was a significant issue but now that it had been drawn to their attention this would be actively followed up. Acting Inspector Turtle assured Members that tackling drug abuse remained a high priority for Kent Police.

Other parish specific concerns raised were noted for addressing by Kent Police where possible.

Finally, it was indicated that calling 101 or online was the best way of reporting problems. Alternatively, the Community Safety Unit could be contacted on csu.tonbridge.and.malling@kent.police.uk

PPP 19/22 PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION RECHARGE COSTS

In response to a request from the Kent Association of Local Councils (Tonbridge and Malling), the report of the Chief Executive set out details of the costs of parish/town council elections.

There were a number of costs involved in the running of an election and these included clerical and administrative support, notices and stationery, delivery of poll cards, postal vote postage costs, hire of venues and supply of voting equipment, polling and counting staff and the Returning Officer Fee.

The cost of a contested Parish/Town election was based on several factors and these were detailed in paragraph 1.3.3 of the report. However, it was noted that the costs applied to Parish Councils were in accordance with the agreed Kent scale of fees, attached as Annex 1.

PPP 19/23 LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure (Councillor David Lettington) advised that the Borough Council's

responses to the points raised by the Planning Inspector, in a letter dated 23 May 2019, had been submitted in June and July. Both of these could be found on the Local Examination page of the Borough Council's website.

At the current time there was no date for the Local Plan Hearing confirmed.

The Panel noted the progress being made.

The Chairman referred to an issue raised by Aylesford Parish Council, outside the meeting, related to planning decisions and parish councils' submitted comments on applications. The Chief Executive clarified that the request was to seek advice as to how parish council representations could be of as high a quality as possible when commenting on planning applications. Particular reference was made to the training opportunities provided by the Kent Association of Local Councils and the Chairman (Mrs Sarah Barker) offered to attend Aylesford Parish Council to give further information on the courses available.

PPP 19/24 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The County Councillor for Malling West (Councillor Harry Rayner) provided an update on key points of relevance to the Malling Division. The headline messages included the ongoing planning for Brexit, new proposals for a Kent County Council Strategic Plan were under consideration and there were upcoming reviews of the Social Care Charging Policy and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Reference was also made to the introduction of charges at County recycling sites and these were supporting a targeted approach on fly tipping initiatives. In response to a question from the Panel, it was indicated that there had been no cost analysis undertaken regarding charging for certain items. However, it was hoped that sufficient funds could be used to progress fly tipping enforcement. It was reiterated that there was no evidenced correlation between increased fly tipping and the introduction of charges.

Finally, it was reported that the Leader of the County Council (Paul Carter) had announced that he would stand down from this position in October.

Members asked for an update on the proposed household waste recycling site for Tonbridge and Malling. The Chairman indicated that the County Council had gone out to tender to identify a provider/site and there was no further information. However, it was noted that Medway Council might be amenable to a further extension for the use of the Cuxton site if there was a reasonable financial contribution from Kent County Council.

PPP 19/25 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Chairman, in his role as Leader of the Council, provided an update on key points of relevance to Tonbridge and Malling. The headline messages included:

Waste Services Contract

The new collection arrangements would start on 30 September 2019. A leaflet would be posted to all residents outlining new service provision and new collection days. Take up of the new garden waste service was 42% and was the highest in Kent for a similar service.

New brown bins were being delivered and there was an online form for residents to report missing bins.

A number of recycling/bring bank sites were being retained although this would be reduced following the full introduction of new services. Details were set out in the report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services considered by the Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board on [3 September](#).

Shop Front Improvement Scheme

Fifteen grants had been awarded in the Borough, including premises in West Malling, Larkfield, Hadlow, Borough Green and Kings Hill. Further applications were under consideration. The Scheme would close by the end of 2019 and anyone interested should contact the Economic Regeneration Officer (jeremy.whittaker@tmbc.gov.uk) for further information.

A Scheme focusing on local centres and parades would open in the New Year.

Jobs and Training Fair

This would be held from 1000 – 1400 hours on Tuesday 15 October at the Capel Morris Centre, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford. Thirty local businesses were participating and it was free to attend. All Members were asked to promote this event.

Climate Change Strategy

The Borough Council had declared recognition of global climate change and biodiversity emergencies in July. Services and operations would be reviewed to ensure policies supported climate change mitigation. A draft Strategy would be out for consultation in May 2020 and parishes were encouraged to contribute. Suggestions should be passed to the Scrutiny

and Partnerships Manager (gill.fox@tmbc.gov.uk) who was co-ordinating responses.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

13 November 2019

Report of the Director of Planning, Housing & Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

This report provides Members with an update on the Local Plan including the public consultation exercise requested by the appointed Planning Inspectors. There are no direct financial implications arising from this information report.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Since the last update to the Board in June, the Council has responded to the Inspector's letter of the 23rd May. The Inspectors have subsequently requested that the Council undertakes a further round of public consultations on some of the documents that have been published since the Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in January. The focus of the consultation is whether in the light of the new documents the soundness of the Local Plan has changed.
- 1.1.2 The consultation was launched on the 4th November and will be open until 4pm on the 16th December. Further information on the consultation arrangements are set out below. They can also be found on the Council's website.
- 1.1.3 The Council has also reached agreement with the Inspectors on how to display respondent's details in the redacted version of the Regulation 19 response database. Members will recall that the Council was concerned that what was being requested was not in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR). The database has been reloaded to reveal name, ID number and partial postcode for individuals. The search function has also been improved.
- 1.1.4 The Local Plan update also considers the next stages of the Examination process and the implications for the Local Development Scheme or timetable.
- 1.1.5 This report also provides Members with an update in respect of Local Plan progress in neighbouring Local Authorities as part of the ongoing Duty to Cooperate.

1.2 Local Plan Update

- 1.2.1 The Inspectors confirmed that they wished the Council to consult on some of the documents submitted to the examination since 23rd January before the Hearing sessions could be arranged in their letter of 12th September. The Council has since agreed with the Inspectors how this consultation should be carried out and this was launched on 4th November for six weeks.
- 1.2.2 All respondents to the Regulation 19 consultation have been contacted as well as statutory consultees, neighbouring local authorities, local councils and MPs. The consultation has also been publicised on the Council's website and social media accounts and press releases issued.
- 1.2.3 The Council has purchased new consultation software (INOVEM) which will be easier to use and collate the responses. Respondents will be encouraged to use it where possible. There will be reasonable alternatives available for those who cannot access the internet.
- 1.2.4 Previous respondents at Regulation 19 will be asked to use the same ID numbers so that responses may be linked in future searches of the database. New respondents will be issued new ID numbers.
- 1.2.5 After the consultation has closed on the 16th December the responses will be sent to the Inspectors for their consideration in finalising the main issues and questions (MIQs) that will form the basis of the discussion at the hearing sessions. How long this part of the process will take will depend in part on the number and type of responses received. However, it is anticipated that the MIQs will be issued early in the new year and a date for the first three days of the hearing confirmed at the same time.
- 1.2.6 As it is normal for there to be at least 6 weeks from the receipt of the MIQs and the start of the hearing to allow for statements for those invited to appear to be prepared, the hearing is not likely to commence before mid to late February and this could extend into March.
- 1.2.7 The Inspectors will advise the Council when the remaining sessions will take place after phase one of the Hearing early next year.

1.3 Update on Local Plan Progress in Neighbouring Authorities

- 1.3.1 Members may also be interested to know of Local Plan progress in neighbouring authorities. It is important to demonstrate that cross boundary issues continue to be the subject of ongoing discussions as part of the Duty to Cooperate. It is also interesting to note how national planning policy is interpreted by different local planning authorities and how Planning Inspectors respond.

1.3.2 Sevenoaks

- The Sevenoaks Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in April this year and the first two weeks of a four week hearing began in September.
- The submitted Local Plan did not allocate sufficient sites to meet all of the objectively assessed needs for housing over the plan period and some of the sites that were included raised some questions over their deliverability. The second two weeks of the programmed hearing were due to recommence in November, but the Inspector wrote to the District Council in October recommending that the plan be withdrawn due to significant concerns over soundness and legal compliance issues.
- Sevenoaks District Council has written back to the Inspector asking her to reconsider. Her final decision was still awaited at the time of writing this report and any further update will be provided verbally.

1.3.3 Tunbridge Wells

- The draft Tunbridge Wells Local Plan has reached the Regulation 18 consultation stage. Members will recall the extraordinary meeting of the Board on the 2nd October that considered a formal response to the draft Tunbridge Wells Local Plan. The proposed response was amended to reflect the concerns of Members raised at the meeting and further refined following the Cabinet meeting on the 16th October. The response has now been sent to Tunbridge Wells.

1.3.4 Maidstone

- The Maidstone Local Plan was adopted in 2017, but with a recommendation from the Local Plan Inspector that the plan be subject to an early review.
- Maidstone have recently undertaken a Local Plan Review – Scoping, Themes & Issues Public Consultation under Regulation 18, although this did not include detailed proposals or site allocations, which are expected to be the subject of a further round of Regulation 18 consultations early in 2020.
- An officer level response was returned in September identifying relevant cross boundary issues including highway, air quality and local landscape for ongoing Duty to Cooperate discussions and looking forward to further engagement as evidence is updated and more detail emerges.

1.3.5 Gravesham

- Gravesham shares a short boundary with Tonbridge and Malling and has a separate Housing Market Area. The current Local Development Scheme (last updated in October) indicates a second round of Regulation 18 public consultations on a preferred option in January 2020.

1.3.6 Medway

- Medway Council also shares a boundary with Tonbridge and Malling to the north. The Council's current Plan was adopted in 2003 and is now quite dated. The Council's Local Development Scheme indicates there will be a Regulation 19 consultation on its Local Plan in December, but this may now be delayed.

1.3.7 Kent County Council

- The County Council is responsible for preparing the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-2030 (adopted in 2016), which also forms part of the Borough Council's Development Plan. This Plan sets out a strategy for the sustainable management of Kent's minerals and waste.
- KCC have recently carried out an early partial review of the Plan, which included the Minerals sites Plan which identifies mineral sites and locations for extraction, processing and importation. The Plans were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 3rd May 2019 and the examination hearing sessions took place between the 8th and 15th October. KCC are now waiting on the Inspector's report and are anticipating commencing a consultation on proposed modifications within the next few weeks.

1.3.8 The London Plan

- Although Tonbridge and Malling does not share a boundary with Greater London the influence of London on the wider south east is far reaching. The Inspectors examining the London Plan have recently published their report, which has recommended that the Mayor reconsiders his policy of not reviewing the Green Belt within Greater London as this is contrary to the NPPF.

1.4 **Summary**

- 1.4.1 This informative report sets out an update of the Local Plan progress since June. The Inspectors have requested a targeted consultation on some of the documents submitted by the Council to the examination since January and this is currently open until the 16th December.

1.4.2 Once these responses have been collated and passed to the Inspectors we can expect confirmation of the date of and arrangements for the phase one Hearing expected to be early in the new year.

1.4.3 A summary of other Local Plan processes in neighbouring authorities and London is provided for context.

1.5 Legal Implications

1.5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this information report.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.6.1 There are no financial or value for money considerations arising directly from this report.

1.7 Risk Assessment

1.7.1 Failing to have an up to date development plan puts the Local Planning Authority at risk from unplanned or speculative developments.

Background papers:

Nil

contact: Ian Bailey
Planning Policy Manager

Eleanor Hoyle
Director of Planning, Housing & Environmental Health

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