

# Public Document Pack

## TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

#### MINUTES

Thursday, 2nd September, 2021

**Present:** Cllr R W Dalton (Chairman), Cllr D Lettington (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr Mrs S Bell, Cllr M D Boughton, Cllr M A Coffin, Cllr Mrs F A Kemp, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr M R Rhodes, Cllr N G Stapleton and Cllr M Taylor.

Together with representatives of Aylesford, Birling, Borough Green, Burham, Hildenborough, Ightham, Platt, Plaxtol, Shipbourne, Ryarsh, West Malling, West Peckham, Wouldham Parish Councils and County Councillors Mrs T Dean and Cllr H Rayner.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R P Betts, P M Hickmott, Kent Police and Snodland Town Council.

### PART 1 - PUBLIC

#### **PPP 21/7 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **PPP 21/8 UPDATE ON ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES**

##### **PPP 20/17 – Invitation to Southern Water**

Due to a period of maternity leave, Southern Water were unable to attend meetings of the Parish Partnership Panel for the immediate future. Borough Green Parish Council, who had initially requested Southern Water attendance, indicated that there had been an improvement in communication and was pleased to report that ongoing works in the parish were due to finish shortly.

##### **PPP 20/22 (c) – Climate Change Strategy**

The Chairman advised that the Minutes of the inaugural Climate Change Forum had been presented to the Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board on Tuesday 31 August 2021. The Minutes were available on the website for those interested in viewing them.

**PPP 20/27 – Update on Waste Services**

The Chairman advised that the Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board had also received an update on waste services. The reports and livestreaming of the meeting were available on the Borough Council's website.

**PPP 21/9 KENT POLICE SERVICES UPDATE**

As a result of operational pressures, Kent Police were not in attendance. However, Acting Chief Inspector Elizabeth Jones had provided a written report setting out the latest initiatives, activities and operations that had taken place since the last meeting. The report had been circulated to all parish clerks in advance of the meeting and would be attached to the Minutes for convenience.

Any specific community or parish issues that Members wished to raise with Kent Police were to be emailed to [allison.parris@tmhc.gov.uk](mailto:allison.parris@tmhc.gov.uk) for onward circulation to Acting Chief Inspector Jones for addressing.

**PPP 21/10 WEBSITE DEMONSTRATION**

The Head of Communications provided a demonstration of the Borough Council's new website which had been launched in June 2021. Early feedback had been extremely positive as users found it easier to navigate to points of interest and undertake key tasks and transactions.

Particular reference was made to the 'my account' application which enabled residents to create a personalised online account to pay council tax bills, apply for permits and find information relevant to their local area, such as bin collections.

During the discussion the Head of Communications noted a number of concerns and points raised and these areas would be monitored, reviewed and/or progressed by the Media Team and IT developers.

In summary the key matters raised related to:

- the search area radius related to planning applications needed to be extended to reflect a wider area;
- improving how planning applications could be viewed including reinstating the ability to select multiple documents for downloading;
- the availability of historic planning applications on the website, which parish councils found a useful reference tool;
- enabling reporting of littering and flytipping.

**PPP 21/11 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE**

The County Member for Malling West (Councillor Harry Rayner) advised that the County Council were currently consulting on 'Booking to visit a Kent Household Waste Recycling Centre' and 'Budget 2022-23'. All were encouraged to submit a response as the views of individuals were important in setting targets and priorities.

All Kent County Council consultations could be viewed online at:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/>

**PPP 21/12 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE**

The Leader of the Borough Council (Councillor Matt Boughton) reminded Members of the ongoing review into the operation of the Parish Partnership Panel. A number of options would be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee later in the year and it was hoped that a revised Panel would be launched as soon as possible.

Members welcomed the opportunity to express their views and to work in partnership with the Borough Council in identifying improvements that would benefit all those involved in the Panel. In addition, Members recognised that the Panel was an important forum for communication between all tiers of local government.

However, parish councils indicated that they would like more involvement in setting the agenda for meetings and to ensure that matters discussed were relevant and appropriate. There was also an acknowledgement that larger and smaller parishes had different challenges and all views should be accommodated.

The Leader invited all parish councils to submit their views as soon as possible to inform the options to be discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

There was also a discussion on the performance of the waste service collections and the Leader set out the difficulties related to the operating model of the contractor and the national shortage of HGV drivers. The Borough Council continued to work with the contractor to resolve the issue.

In concluding the meeting, Councillor Roger Dalton indicated that it was a great honour to be invited to be Chairman of this Panel and having served as a parish councillor for 30+ years he would encourage communication with and participation of all parishes.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

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## **Tonbridge and Malling CSU Police Update**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**

**Acting Chief Inspector Lizzie Jones**

*I apologise for my absence from this meeting, but as ever, I continue to appreciate your on-going support and welcome any news, views, or questions which you think the CSU can assist your communities with.*

### 1. Anti-Social Behaviour

The CSU took part in the national ASB week of action. This included Operation Bee, which successfully tackled the nuisance and dangerous riding at the former Oakdene Café site, which has continued to note a significant decrease in activity at the location. We continue to work with the Parish Council and KCC Highways to tackle this in the long-term.



Operation Recess has been an operation to positively engage with young people across Tonbridge and Malling at key times and locations, such as exam results day. We have been working with our partners at Ember Trust and St Giles to ensure that young people are safe and don't engage in harmful ASB or drinking alcohol in public spaces.



Operation Pool has sought to end the ASB at waterside locations such as Tonbridge Lock and Leybourne and Holborough Lakes. Officers are investigating crimes reported at these locations. CSU officers have attended community meetings in order to advise on prevention and dispersal orders have been utilised when needed.



## 2. Burglaries of out-buildings

This has, understandably, been a concern for residents over the last few months. The CSU and investigators have been working hard to prevent these crimes and bring offenders to justice. Several people have been arrested and these cases are being progressed. The CSU continue to monitor the situation closely and have seen a significant reduction in reported crimes.



## 3. Drug crime

The Community Policing Team are a proactive unit and have been working tirelessly in the area with some very positive results. Whilst I can't discuss many cases at a pre-conviction stage, I can highlight the imprisonment of one offender, which is a small sample of the ongoing work we do to halt the supply of drugs in our area.



Tommy O'Toole was sentenced to 3 years for dealing Class A drugs in Tonbridge and Malling. I hope to report more good news in the coming months.

#### 4. Road Traffic Offences

Many in the community highlight areas of concern. I pass them on to the Road Safety Unit for their professional opinion and do hold regular discussions with KCC about how road layouts could be changed to make roads safer. The CSU now have more PCSOs trained in the use of speed guns, so that areas highlighted by anecdotal evidence (rather than statistical data,) can have some enforcement, evidence gather and then feed-back to community representatives. Our PCSOs also support speed watch schemes.



#### 5. Domestic Abuse and vulnerability

The main function of the CSU is to protect and support vulnerable people. Whilst of course we can't report back on individual cases, we do support our policing colleagues to ensure that victims are protected and community members can access support, such as DAVSS and the One Stop Shop.

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