

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

MINUTES

Thursday, 3rd November, 2022

Present: Cllr R W Dalton (Chair), Cllr Mrs M Tatton (Vice-Chair), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr Mrs S Bell, Cllr R P Betts, Cllr P M Hickmott, Cllr Mrs F A Kemp, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr M R Rhodes and Cllr M Taylor.

Together with representatives of Addington, Aylesford (Dr T Shelley - Vice-Chair), Birling, Borough Green, Burham, East Peckham, Hadlow, Kings Hill, Platt, Ryarsh, Trottiscliffe, Wateringbury, West Malling, Wouldham and Wrotham Parish Councils and County Cllr S Hudson and County Cllr H Rayner.

Councillors M C Base and D Keers were also present in the Chamber pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Councillor D Davis, representatives of Hildenborough, Offham, Plaxtol, Stansted Parish Councils and County Councillor Mrs T Dean participated via MS Teams and joined the discussion when invited to do so by the Chair in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M A Coffin, A P J Keeley, D Lettington, East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council and County Cllr Mrs S Hohler

PART 1 - PUBLIC

PPP 22/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PPP 22/21 UPDATE ON ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

The Chair advised that no updates had been identified in advance of the meeting.

PPP 22/22 DISCUSSION WITH MATTHEW SCOTT, KENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Further to the discussion on General Policing and Anti-Social Behaviour at the meeting of the Panel held 26 May 2022, the Chair was pleased to welcome the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, and

Inspector Mark Stubberfield of Kent Police to the meeting. The Chair advised that Mr Scott would respond to questions relating to strategic issues and victim services while Inspector Stubberfield and Alison Finch, Safer and Stronger Communities Manager (who was available on-line), would deal with any other matters. The Panel noted that the questions submitted to Democratic Services by 21 October 2022 by Wouldham and Burham parish councils were attached to the agenda with additional questions raised by Kings Hill Parish Council circulated as a supplemental report. All the questions raised had been sent to Mr Scott and Inspector Stubberfield in advance of the meeting.

Inspector Stubberfield gave a detailed response to the questions raised regarding clear-up rates, action taken to protect vulnerable people who are the target of violent and sexual offences, the time taken to respond to calls reporting anti-social behaviour, including drivers under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and action taken to reduce speeding in rural areas. He outlined the background to and work undertaken by the Community Policing Teams across the County. In response to concerns expressed by a number of members of the Panel about the level of interaction between PCSOs and parish councils, Inspector Stubberfield invited those parish councils which wished to have a PCSO attend their meetings to contact him direct. It was acknowledged that, while the KCC Highways Service held responsibility for the application of speed limits, Kent Police was working in partnership with the County Council to resolve issues regarding high speed driving. In response to a question regarding Fly-Tipping Inspector Stubberfield confirmed that Kent Police undertook proactive and reactive work in partnership with the County Council and the Environment Agency to 'crack down' on this issue.

Mr Scott provided an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and outlined his key priorities and the significant challenges faced within Kent. He referred to the progress achieved in strategic and neighbourhood issues through collaboration with other emergency services and neighbouring police authorities and partnerships with local authorities and communities, to the recent recruitment and training of police officers, to the focus given to the prevention of violence against women and girls and to the reduction in incidence of burglary. Particular reference was made to the model of policing arising from the Neighbourhood Policing Review which Mr Scott believed would lead to opportunities for both police officers and PCSOs. In response to a question raised regarding the outcome of the review of the bombing of Manchester Arena, Mr Scott confirmed that responses to extreme emergencies were regularly tested on a multi-agency basis to ensure that the correct policies and procedures were followed.

PPP 22/23 LOCAL PLAN

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure provided an update on the Regulation 18 Consultation which was due to close that evening. He advised that over 2,000 responses to the consultation

had been received and that the outcome would be reported to the meetings of the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee scheduled to be held on 6 December 2022 and 21 March 2023.

A number of members expressed concerns that the general public had been unaware of the consultation and that the documents were difficult to understand as they were too complex and technical. It was suggested that consideration should be given to a 'plain english' version of the questions within future consultations and to the use of mailshots to all households to raise awareness.

PPP 22/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Next Meeting

The Democratic Services Officer provided an update on the items included in the Panel's Forward Plan and reminded members that the next meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel would be held online via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 9 February 2023. She advised that the following items had previously been identified for consideration at this meeting:

- Improved enforcement of building regulations (Aylesford PC)
- Update on Climate Change Strategy (KALC Tonbridge and Malling)

The Chair advised that any questions relating to these items or requests for other items should be submitted to committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk by no later than Friday 6 January 2023 so that any responses could be provided at the meeting by the appropriate Cabinet Member and Officers.

The meeting ended at 9.47 pm