

**Tonbridge & Malling Local Strategic Partnership  
Minutes of Meeting – 14 March 2014**

**Present:** Cllr Nicolas Heslop – Leader, TMBC  
 Julie Beilby – TMBC  
 Mark Raymond – TMBC  
 Cllr Brian Luker – TMBC  
 Cllr John Balcombe - TMBC  
 James Harman – KCC  
 Chris Hare – K College  
 Jane Heeley - TMBC  
 Gill Fox – TMBC  
 Angela Newey – Tonbridge CAB  
 Peter Robinson – T&M District Cricket Partnership  
 Harry Rayner - Kent Association of Parish Councils  
 Bishop Brian Castle - Bishop of Tonbridge  
 John Handley – Bridge Trust  
 Amanda Forrest – Kent Libraries  
 Nichola Hermitage – Kent Libraries  
 Bev Cleves – Hadlow College  
 Victoria Buckle – Tonbridge CAB  
 Angela Painter – Kenward Trust  
 Inspector Steve Lea – Kent Police

**Apologies:** Father Brendan Grady – The Friars  
 Chris Smith – KCC  
 Penny Nicholls – Age Concern Malling  
 Jon Kirby – Kent Police  
 Capt Richard Garrett – 220 Med Sqn.  
 Bernadette Gillow – Ightham Mote  
 Karen Hardy - KCC

	<b>ACTION BY</b>
<p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b>            Nicolas Heslop welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Chris Hare for the use of the meeting room at K College. Apologies received from those listed above.</p>	
<p><b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>            No declarations were made.</p>	
<p><b>3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2013</b>             The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
<p><b>4. K College Update – Chris Hare, K College</b>            Chris Hare provided an update on the situation at K College.</p>	

<p>Currently in due diligence mode, but was able to provide an outline of process and timings. Hadlow will run the Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford campuses. East Kent College will take over the Dover and Folkestone sites.</p> <p>Assets due to be transferred on 31 July. 2 principles – Paul Hannan (for Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford) and Graham Razey (for Dover and Folkestone).</p> <p>There should be no impact to students – if anything it will enhance the college, providing a wider scope of opportunity, unique in the Country. Beverley Cleves commented on the positive future for the college and huge range of opportunities that will be available. On behalf of Paul Hannan, she thanked TMBC and local partners for the support for their bid.</p> <p>It was noted that K College would now be rebranded as West Kent College and the LSP welcomed this change. A further report on progress will be made to the next LSP meeting.</p>	CH
<p><b>5. Presentation – Health Inequalities Report / Actions and Targets – Jane Heeley, TMBC</b></p> <p>A presentation was given by Jane Heeley on the Health Inequalities Action Plan– previously called “Mind the Gap”. Strong focus on behavioural change, themes including weight management, smoking cessation, health checks and early intervention. Aims to narrow the gap in health inequalities in Tonbridge and Malling.</p> <p>A number of issues were raised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The need to engage more local schools on health issues</li> <li>- Linkages to the Family focus initiative, it was agreed that an update on this be made to the next LSP meeting.</li> <li>- The links between sport and good health needed further discussion and development</li> <li>- Concern about the number of local alcohol related deaths</li> <li>- The need to engage with the work of the Clinical Commissioning Group</li> </ul> <p>Nicolas Heslop thanked Jane for her presentation. He suggested that members of the LSP could contact Jane Heeley with any further suggestions about how to best deliver the strategy.</p>	MR JH/PR  ALL

**6. Presentation – Emergency Response to the Flooding**

Julie Beilby covered this item as Mike O'Brien (TMBC) and Neil Gunn (EA) were unable to attend the meeting.

Julie expressed sympathy for all residents affected by the floods. Problems started on 5/6 December with tidal section in Aylesford – first rest centre set up. Then over Christmas, fluvial flooding of the Medway, Hilden brook and Bourne. Also surface water flooding, drainage flooding and groundwater flooding. From TMBC over 100 staff working shifts over Christmas and the following two weeks. Emergency Plan in place - operates at Gold (strategic group), Silver (tactical delivery group) and Bronze (on the ground) levels. Working with highways, police, and rest centres etc.

Following the flooding – community meetings have been held in Tonbridge. 335 residential properties were affected. 101 businesses flooded and approximately 720 have been affected by flooding. Government funding available – however funding application process not simple. £185k available to support businesses that have flooded or been affected by the floods plus 3 months business rate relief. For residential – 3 month council tax redemption if the house had water in, in addition to this repair and renewal grants are available (up to £5k) to provide flood protection measures. Details on TMBC website.

Investment in flood defence and the capacity of the Leigh Flood Barrier (scheme planned for 2030, but still not funded). Need to re-enforce the message about flood protection. John Stanley and Tracey Crouch both supportive and lobbying for improvements.

Work is ongoing and the Borough Council will take a lead role to work with partners on drainage issues etc. We are now in the recovery phase and focus is on future planning.

AN commented that the CAB was completely flooded on the ground floor. Smell caused concern for staff, would be useful to have more messages about hygiene and whether it was safe to work in the conditions. Also, difficulties around insurance / lack of knowledge about the process, particularly as CAB are not the landlord of the building. The "Bronze" team are looking into these sorts of issues for future.e.g. what advice is needed and how to disseminate.

HR commented that mapping needs to take place prior to development taking place in areas liable to flood or ensuring that any

<p>new developments include flood resilience measures.</p> <p>PTR drew attention to the number of sports pitches that have been flooded and damaged and the effects this had had on the viability of local sports clubs etc.</p> <p>JHarman mentioned that the flood response undertaken by T&amp;MBC had been highly respected by other agencies and confirmed via Twitter and engagement with residents T&amp;MBC were viewed as an example of best practice.</p> <p>J Handley considered there was a need to clarify the roles of various agencies involved in dealing with the floods.</p> <p>Bishop Brian Castle mentioned the effects on the community, the fear felt by many, which will be extremely difficult to overcome.</p> <p>Neil Gunn from the Environment Agency and Mike O'Brien from TMBC to provide full updates at the next meeting.</p>	<p>N.Gunn and M.O'Brien</p>
<p><b>7. Presentation – Advice Service Transition Fund – Angela Newey, Tonbridge CAB</b></p> <p>AN provided an update on the Advice Service Transition Fund, which came from the Big Lottery Funding a year ago. The aim is to ensure partners are working together and advice services are not duplicating their efforts etc.</p> <p>The service had been renamed “Advice Together West Kent Partnership” and has so far proved beneficial to providers and those seeking advice, providing a much more joined up approach.</p> <p>It was suggested that there was scope for local Church premises to be used for outreach support/advice services. AN to discuss opportunities with local clergy/rural deans.</p>	<p>AN</p>
<p><b>8. KCC Update – James Harman, KCC</b></p> <p>JH provided an update covering budgets, savings and the KCC Transformation Programme. The Member Grants for 2014/15 were also discussed - £25,000 available for each Member to spend on community enhancing projects. Details of application process will be available in April.</p>	

<p>KCC have announced proposals to change the Freedom Pass - increasing it to £200 to take effect in 2014. Consultation closes 24 March.</p> <p>KCC have signed the Time to Change pledge underlining their commitment to tackling mental health stigma.</p> <p>Postural stability classes have been commissioned by KCC, planned to roll out more classes across Kent from April 2014. Details on website.</p> <p>Updates on the street lighting scheme – also on website.</p> <p>Improvement plans for the Children’s Centre Cluster, following the Ofsted report, was discussed.</p> <p>Consultation available on line for the new Road Casualty Reduction Strategy.</p>	
<p><b>9. AOB</b></p> <p>Police response teams are due to change from July – will move to a district based approach.</p> <p>MR mentioned the Peer Challenge 28-30 April, focus on economic regeneration, will need to talk to partners. Planning a round table discussion for 29 April for members of the LSP. Details to follow.</p> <p>Young Leaders in Cricket launched at Hadlow. 1<sup>st</sup> aid module due to start in April. Presentation on 5 October at Lords.</p> <p>AF mentioned ASB issues outside library and thanked police and TMBC for the support they had received.</p> <p>AP mentioned Community Relief Fund, to tackle stigma around alcohol and abuse – partners welcome to get involved. Recovery café proposed.</p> <p>BC mentioned the forthcoming lambing weekend at Hadlow.</p> <p>Next meeting due to be held 13 June at Ightham Mote.</p>	<p>MR to send further details</p>