

Tonbridge Community Forum

- Meetings could be better organised with advance notice of dates and request for items.
- Police news is of interest, but would like more council news (future of Angel Centre, car park charges, flood planning decisions etc)
- Not keen on online meetings
- Prefer in person meetings, online lacks human touch
- It allows a forum for an exchange of information and discussion. Would prefer all meetings in-person. Online are impersonal and do not allow for meaningful networking
- Valuable outlet for imparting community information and community group visibility. Follow up liaison between groups is missing, not the fault of TMBC.
- Interval of meeting is about right at once a quarter.
- Previous planned changes have not been implemented and the Forum has reverted to sitting through presentations. Little to no input from groups. No space for open discussion, presented with an agenda without any input. Invite groups to talk at meetings, to consider challenges and support needed.
- Forum has become highly politicised. Should be focussed on community groups, rather than promotion tool.
- Councillors should not interfere with the running of events organised by groups as some suggestions may be detrimental to the group.
- Forum in its current format provides no benefits to the groups, the information could be shared as an email. An open discussion format would be more helpful.
- My preferred meeting type is via teams as I live in East peckham and it saves me another trip in to Tonbridge.
- Prefer meetings in person rather than online – enables participants to build rapport, encourages greater sense of community, which is lacking online.
- Format of the agenda and meetings is fine.
- There is a preference for face-to-face meetings and there is a very strong opinion that all meetings should be held in the Angel Centre, Tonbridge.
- The frequency of meetings, currently four per year, is fine. However, the dates of Community Forum meetings could be looked into for the following reason - This is to try and avoid clashes, where possible, with Council or Councillor meetings that prevent Council officers from updating or discussing issues with the Forum due to confidentiality or non-disclosure issues. In the past, issues raised by Forum members for inclusion on the agenda have been unable to be addressed. Then by the date of the next meeting; they are either out of date, decisions have been made, or issue's are back to Council for a decision. This can be most frustrating. The Society accepts that this may prove difficult, but it is worth looking into and giving careful consideration.