

Notes on Tonbridge and Malling KALC Zoom meeting July 22nd 2021

Sarah Barker in the chair

Margaret Colman observed that she was getting 18kW from her solar panels purchased using the KCC Solar Together scheme which is expected to be repeated later this year.

Inspector Lizzie Jones, police. She is part of the Community Safety Unit. She said they have carried out lots of visits to pubs, mostly found to be compliant with regulations. They have disrupted a Class A drugs gang in Tonbridge and Malling. There were lots of burglaries of outbuildings earlier in the year which have now been much reduced by concentrating effort. Domestic abuse remains a priority.

Janice Massy reported a problem with drones. People object to them flying over their gardens. Lizzie Jones said she was not in favour of shooting them down in case they fell on somebody. Patrick Thomas said drones are prohibited in law from flying over private houses.

Wendy Palmer referred to the Oakdene Cafe site. Wheelies and other accidents are still waiting to happen there. Lizzie said that they had been out in force and that there was a minimal presence when the police were there. The problem has been going on for 20 years. KCC is closing off the layby permanently. Wendy Palmer said the bikers and spectators were on the other side of the road from the layby. The problem is most prevalent on Wednesdays.

Matters arising from minutes. Sarah Barker. The JTB agreements have been signed and dated. The Parish Charter is up for discussion and renewal.

David Lettington. Government will be adopting new legislation. TMBC will be introducing new standards in its nNew Local Plan. Not just electric charging points. Nothing specific yet. I commented on the Climate Change Forum and asked for clarification about the proposed templates. He said he would pass by query back to Robin Bates. I mentioned the Bushy Wood Scoping Report. He said it had not yet got to being a formal planning application.

KALC Climate change working group. The idea is to tap ideas from Parish Councils. I suggested trees and vegetation at Parish level and pressure to put on TMBC to adopt greener building standards. The setting up of the working group was agreed and I will be on it.

Jenny Bate. Canterbury Council will be demanding much higher standards from developers. Developers are quite happy to oblige with new standards, as they still sell buildings.

Mike Taylor. Once developers get their permissions, they will ignore requirements by citing viability.

I repeated that eco friendly designs have been viable for decades. See my research on solar hot water heaters in the 1970s which are not more expensive if they are made part of the roof. And think of all the heat pumps in Scandinavia which work well despite being in a much colder climate

than ours. I suggested that it's just a matter of pushing developers into adopting 'greener' technologies that have been around for a long time.

David Lettington. It is not possible to get planning officers from agencies. There is a shortage of trained planning officers because of all the developments.

David Lettington is happy to be invited to Parish Council meetings individually or collectively provided it does not clash with a borough council meeting. Said he found the meeting with the Medway Gap parishes very useful.

Mary McKinley. We need a new local plan.

David Lettington responding to Mike Taylor. We are not going to change the 21 days. We are doing things late and need to get back on track.

Margaret Colman. Complained about a permission given for an unsuitable building in an area of old buildings. Could not get a reply from TMBC planning department. David Lettington will take this up and invited correspondence on any matter to david.lettington@tmbc.gov.uk.

Jenny Bate. The only defence we have is to have a strong development team.

Kirsty Mitcham. Traveller site in the middle of the village (Ightham). This was permitted on appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

David Lettington. Present local plan is still in force with its policies, even if some of them are out of date.

Matt Boughton. (New TMBC chair) We want to make sure the council better reflects the views of residents and PCs. Parish Partnership Panels. Views on their possible reconstitution can be sent in until end of August. Roger Doulton will be chair. Next meeting will be on Sept 2nd, last one under present rules. There will be a new consultation across the borough to identify a vision of how we want TMBC to look. What areas can the Borough Council improve? What should they invest in? We have to look at the long term future of the Urbaser rubbish collection. Some people are waiting for collections due on Tuesday. "It's my most immediate priority."

Jenny Bate. Shipbourne. The problem is how the people in the PPP relate to each other. Has been a planner all her life and found she could not have a friendly conversation with planning officers. Said it is all about working together.

Roger Doulton. Has been a parish councillor for 35 years (Burham) and a borough councillor for 18 years. Said the Borough must listen to parish councils. Parish Partnerships are for the parishes. The parishes should set who they talk to and about. Questions from members have tended to come from 3 or 4 members. Wants more people to be able to say something.

Wendy Palmer. Said some of the people present at PPP meetings have been borough councillors from non parish areas and turned discussion to non parish matters.

Matt Boughton agreed. The Tonbridge Forum also exists for non parish areas and will also be reformed.

Sarah Barker said communication must be on the top of your agenda. Some parishes do not attend PPP meetings.

Nicola. Fly tipping is blocking roads at 5pm in the evening. Asked that bulky waste collections be reinstated.

Matt Boughton. Bulky waste collection will be reinstated. Flats recycling is coming at the end of August. Boundary commission: 54 wards will reduce to 43.

Harry Rayner. "TMBC has never prosecuted anyone for fly tipping." Asked why TMBC had not taken up offers of cameras and help from KCC.

Matt Boughton Invited Harry to send him the correspondence. Roger Dalton said they have prosecuted one person for fly tipping on Common Road, fined £4000. Wendy Palmer said they have lots of evidence as to who has been fly tipping in her village but nobody has done anything with it.

David Lettington. Local plan. The secretary of state will not intervene. The right thing to do is to withdraw the local plan, revise it and re submit it.

Not going right back to the beginning. Will ensure that policies conform to the latest requirements. The basic spatial applications are unlikely to change. Aim to resubmit in 18 months. Every site is to be re-assessed including brown sites previously considered undeliverable, but which will be looked at again. Had to find another 7000 sites. Will now have to find another 3000 sites. Commercial and retail buildings can now become residential. Additional floors. There will be opportunities in town centres that were not there before.

One of the things missing that was commented on was the lack of a green belt study with Sevenoaks. Section 33a of the planning act about the Duty to Cooperate is very vague. The sustainability appraisal was inadequate. TMBC will not be using the same consultants. We have very little unconstrained land. We will not be taking housing requirements from other boroughs. The complaint was that we did not have constructive discussions with Sevenoaks. It looks as if they will meet their own needs now. The timings will be in step.

Items to be raised at PPP on Thursday 2nd Sept. Next meeting after that will be November 4th 2021. Next KALC meeting will be the AGM. Overview and scrutiny meeting to consider changes to the PPP will be on October 7th. Harry proposed October 21st. Zoom or Room. This was agreed. Sarah Barker asked for any input on changes to the PPP to be sent by August 20th.

Tom Shelley July 23rd 2021