

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

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MINUTES

T & M Area Committee Virtual Meeting held on Thursday 21st July 2022 at 7.30pm

Attendees: Chrys Short - Addington, Jacquie Westwood – Birling, Sue Butterfill – Borough Green, Brian Biggs – Platt, Marius Carbini – Plaxtol, Mark Williams – East Peckham, Sarah Barker – Kings Hill, Mary McKinley – Ryarsh, Sandy Oram – Shipbourne, Jenny Bate – Shipbourne, Ian Mills – Trottiscliffe, Gwyneth Barkham – West Malling, Nicky Gibb – West Peckham, Harry Rayner – Wrotham and The Secretary.

1. **Apologies for Absence** - (See below list)
2. **Introductions and Announcements** - Hopefully this will be our last zoom meeting, our next meeting will be in person.
3. **Report from T & M Community Safety Unit** – Sgt Jon Turtle gave a report on behalf of Inspector Jones:
 - Pleased to report a good performance for TMBC with the lowest victim based crime rate in Kent, last month saw the largest decrease since the pandemic.
 - We have the largest charge rate for victim based crime in Kent.
 - Best Bar None initiative – tackles violence against girls and aims to reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder by building a positive relationship between the pubs and the police. There has been a good sign up to date, those who sign up can be held to account for any antisocial behaviour will address the issues.
 - Community Partnership has applied for funding to get youngsters to engage to tackle anti-social behaviour and exploitation.
 - My Community Voice (www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk) has been launched to promote 2 way engagement between police and the community. There has been good sign up but are trying to increase numbers to get better engagement and sending out as many messages as possible.
 - Additional officers from school teams, will assist with anti-social behaviour and other issues during summer months.
 - The Inspector has secured funding to provide the ability to pay overtime to deal with issues in the Mallings such as anti-social behaviour in Holdborough lakes. Continue to staff officers to deal with violence against women and girls and the ongoing problems with car meet-ups. Police are attending an organised car meet at Bluebell Hill this evening, organisers are supportive of police presence.

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- Kent Police are still suffering from reduced numbers of PCSO's.

Questions

Mary McKinlay said that a recent problem with bikes had been successfully dealt with in Ryarsh.

Gwyneth Barkham asked whether there was any information about the PCSO in West Malling as he has not been seen for a long time and West Malling is having a lot of problems with speeding which isn't within the Police remit but they would appreciate support and advice. Sgt Turtle said that he was back on duty and would ask him to pop into Parish Office and he would come out himself to monitor the situation with a speed gun.

Sarah Barker asked whether there is PR to advertise **My Community Voice**? Sgt Turtle said he would circulate some posters via the Secretary.

Sarah Barker asked whether there had been an increase in spiking drinks? Sgt Turtle said there hadn't in TMBC although there had been reports Tunbridge Wells where there is more of a night time economy TMBC is considered a safe area.

Sue Butterfull asked whether there are any programs for women and girls that we can raise awareness of to make them feel safe to go out? **Ask for Angela** is a campaign used by bars and other venues to keep people safe from sexual assault by using a codeword to identify when they are in danger and bar staff can get them to get a safe space. There have been no reports of "Spiking" (people being jabbed with needles) in TMBC as we have no night-time economy.

Mary gave thanks to Sgt Turtle.

4. Reports from outside bodies:-

- a. **KALC Executive Committee** - Mary McKinlay – The next meeting is on Saturday so there is nothing to report.
- b. **T&M Joint Transportation Board (JTB)**-Wendy Palmer – Wendy had given apologies, Mary asked whether Harry Rayner could give an update on transport as a lot of Parishes have issues with buses and a few villages are being left without any transport. Harry said buses are not a JTB issue JTB deal with highways but he could give an update as he has been involved in the bus situation. Predominant issues are mainly to do with children getting to school. KCC have reduced their budget to subsidise buses by £2.2 million but have attracted £35m central Govt funding over 3 years. This money is available from October and cannot be used to subsidise existing buses but can be used for new services. NuVenture today have agreed to continue with the 502 service until October when replacements W1 and W2 will take over. Sarah Hohler has saved some services in her Ward and Harry has saved the 222 and S4. The problem goes back to February when the budget was set, KCC hadn't anticipated the effect on other services of removing £2.2 funding. There are meetings taking place between bus companies and KCC and Harry is trying to save TW10, TW11, TW13, TW3 (which will be renamed 200S, if funding is available, between Hildenborough to Tonbridge). He is awaiting Go Coach figures to see whether there is anything that can be done.

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Brian Biggs from Platt said that he had several enquiries from his parishioners and gave thanks to Harry for his efforts. He said that the Radio Kent interview with Roger Gough made no sense with the £35 million funding having to be spent on capital items.

Gwyneth Barkham asked about the 58 service as it is the only bus to serve the hospital. Harry recommended contact her KCC member Trudy Dean and speaking to Phil Lightowner or Stephen Paye, Officers at KCC, to see what can be done. He also recommended talking to Parishes about using surplus funds towards providing subsidies if they are able to do so as there is nothing to stop Parishes for doing this. It may be a temporary measure and could attract funding from the larger pot. There also may well be that a deal can be struck for retrospective funding.

- c. **PPP** – Feedback from May meeting (Note from Tom Shelley - (*See attached*)). This was the first meeting of the newly formatted PPP. Sarah Barker was hoping that one of the Borough Councillors could come along to give an update on Reg 18 but they are meeting tonight. It is expected that Reg 18 will be launched in August.
- d. **T&M Street Scene** – Update on waste & recycling are we being better served than we were? Brian Biggs of Platt said that there had been a huge problem with bins at Stone House fields but thinks that it has now been resolved. Gwyneth Barkham raised concern that there was no longer a collection of smaller electrical items and textiles and the freighter service has also gone. Where should smaller items go? **It was agreed that this should go on next PPP agenda as it is a problem for those who can't get to an amenity site.**

5. Report from KALC T & M Working Groups:-

- a. **Climate Change** (*See attached Minutes CCF meeting 21 April*) Sarah Barker asked who is on the working group? It was agreed that Sarah Barker and Jenny Bate would contact Tom Shelley to set up a meeting and also invite Tim Shaw. The report from Tom Shelley was helpful in setting priorities for his Parish. Jenny Bate said that Shipbourne Parish is in the process of doing a strategy and working with South East New Energy Project and other members may be interested. It is a funded Group that helps communities look into what they can do to generate renewable energy throughout their community. They do spatial surveys and feasibility surveys and point you in the direction of funding which can be tailored to each Parish, projects can involve PV panels and ground source heating. Jenny will send information to the Secretary to circulate.
 - i. **Update from Parishes on their Plans** (*Aylesford PC draft attached*)
 - ii. **KALC Carbon Footprint Calculator & Other tools** Jenny Bate said that Shipbourne had used this to calculate their Carbon Footprint. Brian Biggs asked for advice on how to tackle bonfire night? Platt has recently rewilded pathways and has received a request to have a bonfire to raise money for the school. He felt that this was not environmentally friendly as it would leave a scar on the landscape and was seeking the best way to approach it. Mary said that she would raise the question at KALC Exec to see whether they have any ideas. TMBC have published rules and regulations on their

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website but they probably haven't been amended to deal with climate change. Sarah Barker recommended contacting Henry Saunders and Christian ? at TMBC.

- iii. TMBC Climate Change Action Plans Year 2 Progress and Year 3 Action Plan
(Attached)
 - iv. NALC Program for Climate Change
 - b. **Parish Forum (Parish Charter)** – Sue Buttefill said that she would ask Mike Taylor about the Charter. Sarah Barker said that she was aware of Charter in *Lancashire* PC and would be happy to share it. Parish Charter is being discussed in another area and as soon as it is available, will be circulated via KALC
6. **TfSE Launched Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)** on 5th July in Guildford. Sarah Barker encouraged everyone to have a look and is hopeful that JPCTCG would be able to respond. There isn't a lot included for Kent. KALC has details of people that will come and set up a zoom meeting. The Secretary said that she would speak with Sarah Barker about setting up a meeting with JPCTCG.
 7. **Local Plan Update** – Borough Councillors – West Peckham reported that they had been without water for 36 hours throughout the hot weather due to infrastructure shortfalls. This highlights that there's no room for any more houses until the Government puts more money into water infrastructure. Will something go into the Local Plan to address this? Mary said that the Local Plan was moving very slowly as TMBC has lost a large number of staff.
 8. **Revised version of the Kent Model Code** - Circulated
 9. **Matters to be raised at PPP - Co-operation between KCC and TMBC on fly-tipping & Update on UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) – What is it and will Parishes benefit? (Reports attached) TMBC should communicate with Parishes, we would like an update from Jeremy Whittaker**
 10. **KALC T&M AGM – 13 October** – In person meeting, venue to be confirmed. We will miss the deadline to submit a motion for **KALC Annual General Meeting on 19 November 2022** as it is Friday 23 September 2022 so use your Parish Council to send in any questions. The KALC AGM will be at **Ditton Community Centre.**
 11. **Matters raised by members councils** – Mike Taylor raised a question on confidentiality/Part 2 .This will be carried forward to the next meeting as no-one has any further information.
Jacquie Westwood had read the paper sent to Parishes about the Freighter service and found it very negative. Sarah Barker thought that service has been terminated. Harry Rayner said that the recommendation was to cease any further consideration of weekend freighter service. Urbaser was supposed to provide this service but it will cease. EEG – electrical waste material
Gwyneth Barkham said that hopefully they could re-establish roadside collections. It is important that we consider this decision alongside climate change. We don't want to encourage people to drive and the new facility at Allington but doesn't solve problems for those who cannot drive.
Chrys Short said that the service that was hugely valued, and the decision is wrong for rural communities.

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Brian Biggs said that there are organisation that will take this type of waste away and will recycle it, and that Platt has organised a service via the Parish Council. They will take electricals, iron work, some services are free of charge. A 10cubic m3 truck costs £350, he will circulate details via the Secretary.

12. **Speaker for next meeting** –suggestions? Sarah Barker suggested inviting the Leader and Chief Exec of TMBC.
13. **AOB** – Jenny Bate recommended if Parishes have problems in regard to the Local Plan, don't wait until consulted on Reg 18, write to your Borough Cllr and try and set up meeting. When Reg 18 comes up, don't respond to questionnaire, raise issues separately. Jenny Bate read through the Shared Prosperity Fund document and found it mainly related to crime in Tonbridge and mentioned nothing about the rural communities or climate change. We should address this with the Council. The bid has already gone in and we were not consulted. The Secretary will recirculated the information.
14. Sue Butterfill said that she had been through a Local Plan process at Dartford and said that it is very important for Parishes to make representations to the Chief Exec and Leader and lay out questions in advance.
15. Minutes of the last meeting – Agreed and signed off.
16. Matters Arising – all dealt with.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

APOLOGIES

Lorna Chalk, Addington

Tom Shelley - Aylesford

Mike Taylor – Borough Green

Tim Shaw – Borough Green

Lesley Bright – Hadlow

Charles Unter - Offham

Dan Benyon – Plaxtol

Wendy Palmer – Platt (May be late)

Yvonne Tisson – Stansted

Michael Wells – Wateringbury