

KALC Meeting September 10th 2020: Tonbridge and Malling area committee

Sarah Barker in the chair

Charmaine Keatley KALC Learning Development Support Officer attended the meeting

Inspector Elizabeth Jones: Community Support Unit. Crime against the person is the lowest in Kent. Burglary and robbery are down by a third but domestic abuse has risen. Both because of Covid. Have secured some more funding for Covid compliance. Sickness under 3%. Have not seen a rise in anti-social behaviour. Main area of concern in Snodland. A lot of work of our unit is neighbour disputes. We get lots of complaints about speeding and obstructive parking.

Mike Taylor. Speeding. What can we do? Reply. As regards cameras, there have to be deaths and injuries for them to be installed. There is speeding all the time. Our residents are adept at jumping out of the way so there are not too many accidents.

Elizabeth Jones. We are happy to bring cases to the attention to Kent Highways. Best contact is to email me or use 101. 101 complaints can sometimes get money assigned to deal with a particular problem. Good if you get the car numbers.

David Lettington: Strategic Planning. Section 106 agreements. T&M has been developing a protocol for section 106 agreements. They tend to be for larger schemes. They have to be related to the development.

Sarah Barker asked for the latest draft.

David Lettington: It is the same as on the T&M website except with very minor changes. We are always happy to hear comments.

Trudy Dean. Complained that "We are often only told very late on".

David Lettington: Generally, officers will have discussed with developers in a "very formulaic" way. Highways and education matters may be outside the parish where the development is taking place. We expect to take comments from parishes at the beginning of the process.

David Thornewell said parish council used to be consulted more, especially as regards play and recreation areas.

Eleanor Hoyle: Asked for Parish Councils to help add to the evidence base. Not sure how this would be in the future in the light of proposed changes. In January, she said the government will be asking where 106 funds have been spent and that they have been spent in.

David Lettington: Local plan. No more news. Have still not received second letter about what their concerns are.

David Thornewell was disappointed that TMBC did not get the housing land supply situation across. They are supposed to have a 5 year supply and only have 4.3 years supply which is a deficit of 650 houses. The initial figure cited was only 2.6 years. Nobody seemed clear how the difference was made up.

Tim Shaw: The Local Plan has 50% of sites in local green belt. David Lettington said this was not true. The call for sites is the first stage. A figure of 11,000 sites which seem to have been rejected was thrown back and forth between different people. David Thornewell wrote in the chat: "There is a tension between putting houses in the Tonbridge market area and putting them all in the Medway Gap."

"I think the issue is likely to be the issue of if the consultation with Sevenoaks was met. If the EIP inspectors decided there was not the draft local plan will not be able to proceed.

"Lastly can I say I feel the counsel and outside reps employed by the BC did a good job in difficult circumstances".

David Lettington. The inspector was not clear how the allocation of sites had been made. There were gaps in the sustainability appraisal and the sustainability addendum. The inspector did not get as far as looking at specific sites. We are not aware that we are at a point that the plan has failed.

There was more discussion about the 21 days. The start date is on the top of List B. David Lettington said they may also add the end date.

Robin Betts. Fly tipping. We did send out some guidance for evidence gathering to all parishes. T&M has an online reporting form on their website. Fly tipping has been a bit of a nightmare.

Wendy Palmer asked how many prosecutions?

Robin Betts: Main effort has been sorting out Urbaser. There have been a couple of prosecutions. He promised to obtain figures.

Jacqui Westwood, Birling. Complained there had been no prosecutions in 2018 or 2019. She said she is looking for a strategy.

Nicola. West Peckham. Since KCC started charging money, fly tipping has gone up.

Robin Betts. Trying to identify areas for planting small woods. There have been 3,800 solar together purchases across Kent. Green Homes Grants. Grants for chargers at your home. Low Carbon across South East. (I cannot find these on the T&M website but did find various schemes on the KCC website

https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/11975/Ton-Mall-Briefing.pdf)

Feed in tariffs have ended. OLEV grants are £450 per each charger.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles>

Robin Betts confirmed that the idea of the Climate Change Forum will be brought up at street Scene on Feb 9th. Who is going to take part in the forum? It transpired that the forum would be an advisory body of experts. It is was not clear who was going to take part in the Forum if it happens.

Sarah Barker asked what are parishes doing re green issues?

I asked Robin Betts to circulate information to promote all the green initiatives TMBC are doing that we can take advantage of and support.

Wendy and Brian will finalise a questionnaire or Survey Monkey about the Parish Charter.

Future PPPs on Feb 4th and June 10th 2021.

T&M parking policy meeting will be on December 17th 2 to 4pm.

The KALC AGM motion to ask for car registrations to be printed on wrappers that might be discarded was carried.

Sarah Barker also missed the AGM because of IT problems. Information on how to book onto events will be circulated from which I deduced that other people also had problems logging in.

Sarah will be asking parishes to nominate a climate change person.

Plan Bee Pollinator action plan from KCC.

Next KALC will be 18th or 25th March. Likely to be Zoom.

I offered to speak about the importance of climate change and what we can do about it and this offer was accepted.

Tom Shelley