

Notes on Kent Association of Local Councils meeting at Potters Mede Sports Pavilion, Borough Green on Sept 19th 2019

Sarah Barker in chair. Many councils not represented, possibly because of getting home problems associated with M20 night closures.

Local Plan. Mike Taylor referred to an ED32 letter from the inspectors. They are not happy with the planning representations on the TMBC website <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/planning-and-development/planning/planning-local-plans/local-plan-examination-contents/regulation-19-consultation-representations> . They said the database needed to be made more user friendly so one could search it. Having just tried it, I have to agree with their complaint. Apparently, they will not move onto the next stage until this is put right to their satisfaction.

Tim Shaw said there is a petition going round, "Protect our green belt". There are 1,152 representations with policy LP11 - Green Belt, but they are just represented on the website as a long, numbered list. See <http://keepkent.green> .

Policing I found myself sitting next to Inspector Kerry Rothwell, so I asked her what was the solution to fly tippers and other professional criminals using false number plates, just as I asked the inspector at the Parish Partnership Panel on September 5th. She was well aware of the problem but also had no answer to this. She said that new reporting software on the Kent Police website had just been initiated the previous day, <https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-a-crime/online/advice> . The new interface does look much better with 8 different pages with different approaches according to the type of incident being reported. There then followed a discussion about problems with travellers. Inspector Rothwell said there had been 12 incursions in TMBC but the police had only become involved in 4 of them. Patrick Thomas asked if there was not a short paper from NALC on what to do when an incursion happens. Sarah said she would find out.

Pollution. Tim Shaw brought up the subject of particulates other than in diesel exhaust. There was said to be no monitoring of particulates in Kent other than in Medway and London. There was a move to formulate a motion to do something about the problem. Harry Rayner said KCC has no environmental function, no resources and no budget. It was decided to look for a legal requirement that KCC should already be attending to this since it was a public health issue.

Transport. There was a move that Parish representatives should have voting rights on TMBC's Joint Transportation Board as they do in Swale and Maidstone. Harry Rayner said that Ebbsfleet car park D is to be turned over to customs for non compliant vehicles. The steel barrier on the M20 will be put back on October 23rd. Harry Rayner said that if Dover gets clogged up, he was sure there was spare capacity at Thamesport.

Training. Planning response training is in hand. Minimum of 10, maximum of 2 to 25, £72.60 each, no date set yet.

Planning There are problems with the lack of time to respond to planning applications. 21 days is considered insufficient. It was mooted that 6 weeks were required.

Next meeting. Next KALC meeting will be on December 5th and there will be another on April 17th 2020. I shall be unable to attend the meeting on December 5th as I shall be presiding over the Tunbury Hall AGM which is the same night.

Tom Shelley