

Parish Partnership Panel November 12th 2020

Nicholas Heslop in the Chair. He began by apologising that he had not managed to get anyone from Southern Water to answer questions about the flooding problems

Patrick Thomas. Thanked TMBC for an assurance that 21 days was really 21 days, but said that there were still problems.

David Lettington. There is still a technical issue with notification after validation. He said he had been told that it can be resolved, and that other councils have managed to do this.

There were complaints that several people could not get into the meeting, which used Microsoft Teams. New links were sent out. The others eventually managed to join later in the evening. The meeting was paused in the middle of the evening when the YouTube link went down.

Nicholas Heslop. Covid. Active cases, 243. Trend is upwards. 137.1/100,00. Clusters in workplaces. Kent average is 152. Don't know where we will be on December 2nd. Receiving funds for closed businesses scheme from government. An additional restrictions discretionary grant scheme is 'Coming shortly'. Details on TMBC website. <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/business/business-support-and-advice/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-businesses>

About 4,000 residents are judged to be extremely vulnerable. The number keeps changing.

Local Plan. David Lettington. After the first three days of the enquiry, TMBC received a letter from the inspector asking for a pause because of legal problems. They are awaiting a second letter with an explanation.

Section 106 protocol has been worked up. This is attached. TMBC welcomes input from parishes and other community groups.

Harry Rayner. Are you still confident that the local plan will progress through?

David Lettington said they did not know what the inspector's problem is.

Harry Rayner. Have you any objection to parishes having agreement with developers?

Answer. No, if it is a private arrangement.

Harry Bott. Asked if section 106 agreements could be made public. Harry Bott said they had experts on their Parish Council willing to give free advice under NDA.

David Lettington. Not sure if they can be made public. Said section 106 agreements are more flexible than in the past. He stressed that they are the responsibility of the borough council.

Mary McKinlay. Concerned about applications coming forward while we are in limbo.

David Lettington. Felt that the planning inspectorate is far too slow. It has taken 2 years from plan submission to hearing. Wondered about how the government's 2 ½ year goal can be accomplished.

David Lettington spoke about statutory consultees, e.g. education and health services. He said parish opinion carries more weight in some areas than others, for example, in leisure provision.

Robin Betts. Waste services. Since Aug 14th They have been receiving daily updates. This coincides with a new manager who lives in the borough and who seems to be doing much better. Recycling performance is 57%. Refuse, April to June. Up 28%. Dry recycling up 28%. Paper and card up 45%. Food waste up 13%. Less than 0.1% of waste goes to landfill

The Dunbrik Waste transfer station is closed until December 21st. <https://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/business-and-commercial-waste/transfer-stations>

Wendy Palmer. Fly tipping is still continuing. Asked for a note to be sent to parishes about what information would help prosecutions. Robin Betts said he would do that.

Harry Rayner. Asked about brown bin subscriptions. Answer: 56% of residents who previously had green bins now have brown bins.

Trudy Dean asked about the rotten eggs smell across Kings Hill and Offham.

Robin Betts. The anaerobic food waste digester is being commissioned. It was being tested on maize, not its normal feedstock. It has now been given a certificate. It should be OK now

Fly tipping in Common Road. Offenders have now been prosecuted and fined.

Question about the bulk waste collections which stopped during the first lockdown and have not re-started. Robin Betts said he will be chasing this one. The problem was the risk assessment supplied by Urbaser. He said it did not cover enough areas.

Sarah Hohler. KCC Update. KCC budget out to consultation. <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budget/our-budget> . The consultation closes on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Kent Community Foundation Knock and Check. <https://kentcf.org.uk/knockandcheck>  
KCC gave out 20,000 food vouchers over half term.

Air Quality. Robin Betts 'Plugged' electric vehicles again, to use his own pun. There is now lots of monitoring and we have a problem. Possible solutions are in Annex 2.  
<https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/documents/s49005/Annex%202.pdf>

The next meeting of the panel is on Feb 4th 2021.

Tom Shelley