

**Minutes of Sevenoaks Town Partnership Meeting held at Sevenoaks Town Council  
on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 6.30pm.**

**Executive Board**

Representing	Number	Current Member	Current Organisation	
Sevenoaks Town Council	3	CEO / Town Clerk		Present
		Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter		Present
		Cllr Simon Raikes		Present
Sevenoaks District Council	1	Cllr Avril Hunter		Apologies
Transport	2	Tony Clayton	Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association	Apologies
		Austin Blackburn	Go Coach	Present
Leisure Facilities	3	Jane Parish CEO	Sencio	Apologies
		Andrew Eyre (Chairman)	Stag	Present
		Hannah Kay	Knole	Apologies
Chamber of Commerce	1	Julie Phillips	CEO Sevenoaks & District Chamber of Commerce	Present
Bligh's Meadow	1		Savills, agent for Bligh's owners Standard Life Investments	Apologies
Sevenoaks Chronicle	1			Apologies
Sevenoaks Society	1	Richard Baxter		Present
Large Business	2	Maxine Morgans (Vice Chairman)	Specsavers	Present
		Elizabeth Dolding	Warners Solicitors	Present
Small Independent Business	2	Roberta Ware	Francis Jones Jewellers	Present
		Glenn Ball	Local Architect	Present
Resident Association	1			
Round Table	1			Apologies
Police	1			Apologies
	20			

**Also, in Attendance:**

Stephanie Harrison – Committee Clerk & Pink Week

Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet – Sevenoaks Town Council & Sevenoaks District Seniors Action Forum

John Levett – Sevenoaks Summer Festival

Mark Underhill – Kims Hospital

Dan Keeley - AREWEOKUK

**1. Apologies for Absence**

As noted above.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Partnership meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were received and agreed.

**4. Neighbourhood Development Plan and proposed Cultural Quarter Presentation**

The Town Clerk presented the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Cultural Quarter plans to the Partnership, highlighting the importance of residents and businesses having their say on the future of the town. The Committee were enthusiastic about ideas put forward and voiced many of their own, especially in highlighting ways to make the town more user friendly. Copies of the plan could be provided to businesses to distribute to staff and customers.

**5. Sevenoaks Town Partnership Strategic Review**

The updated Strategic Review was noted and agreed to add a list of events to the website and the Town Crier, for easy access. The electronic loyalty card scheme was also discussed, and the Town Clerk suggested we invite the company responsible for the running of a scheme to attend the next meeting. Members were looking forward to seeing the new logo for the Town Team. (See attached)

**6. Sevenoaks Christmas Lights**

**i. Switch-On Event Proposals**

The Manak DVD of the 2019 event was viewed. Following the debrief for the Christmas Lights Switch-On 2019 it was decided to change the timings of the event, starting much earlier in the day, in the hope of taking it back to a more family friendly event and reducing the risk of large groups of youngster descending on Sevenoaks. It was the opinion of one High Street retailer that a Saturday would work better. Suggestions had also been that a Saturday would not address the original problem.

**ii. Business Contribution**

Two local businesses had been very generous towards the Christmas Lights. Financial support from other local businesses was poorer than in the past and ways of increasing interest and support were discussed. The Sevenoaks and District Chamber of Commerce suggested using their soon to be set-up 'Community Fund' as a way of a contribution from them. Further ideas to raise awareness of the need for support were discussed for this year's event. The following financial donations were received from businesses in 2019 towards the £26,000 budget.

Name of Business	Donation
Manak	2000
Specsavers	1875
Thackray Williams	500
Wettons	500

Sevenoaks Bookshop	50
<b>Paydens Ltd</b>	<b>50</b>
Baldwins Travel	50
Marcos	100
Helen Breeze	50
Francis Jones	50
Warners	100
County Clothes	250
The Chapel	150
Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,785.00</b>

#### 7. Sevenoaks in Bloom

The Partnership were pleased to hear that Sevenoaks is now a finalist in the Britain in Bloom competition. A greater community involvement in regards residents and businesses were needed, especially as that scores highly with the judges. It was also suggested that local businesses take care of the area around their own properties. A call for volunteers will go out soon.

#### 8. Heritage Open Day 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Plans to make this year's event bigger and better are underway. The No 7 will take its usual route to Knole Park, (subject to agreement) with the No 8 going through town and out to Otford. A brochure will be on sale which will substitute as a ticket. Three or more model railways will be on display at Bat & Ball Station, where refreshments will be served.

#### 9. Ferrari Event – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Preliminary plans were being put in place for 108 Ferrari's, which will make their way to London Rd for a record-breaking event to welcome Ferrari to the town on Father's Day. There will be display's, stalls and the opportunity to have your photograph taken with some of the best cars in the world.

#### 10. Members Organisations

**Specsavers** – It has been a record-breaking period for Specsavers over the last few months.

##### **Sevenoaks Station Manager**

The station has suffered several incidents of anti-social behaviour, resulting in the temporary removal of the sofas.

##### **Pink Week 2019**

A final total of £13,571.17 has been confirmed for 2019 Pink Week.

**Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association** – A recent meeting with the new Sevenoaks MP went well. A copy of the future rail services in Kent was attached to the agenda.

**Go-Coach**

Reported that plans were moving forward for the Heritage Open Day (see above)  
Running as usual. Investing in a new double-decker bus.

**Sevenoaks Society** – The Farmers site petition will be debated at the Sevenoaks District Council at 7pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020. A meeting of Residents Association would take place at 10am on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020. All town councillors to be invited.

**Chamber of Commerce** – Had recently moved into their new offices in Dartford Rd. These are spacious and well situated. However, they stated they would still like to move into the planned Sevenoaks Town council business Hub when it becomes available.

**Sevenoaks 20-20 Photography**

This is going well, with over 100 photographs already completed. Once the project is finished it will be exhibited at the Kaleidoscope Gallery.

**Sevenoaks Summer Festival**

The festival brochure is in production. Sponsorship is being sought for some of the acts, which include Elkie Brookes, David Gower and a Lindy Hop Dance group.

**Stag**

The cinema is very busy, with the recent films suiting the Sevenoaks demographic. Oaksey will be leaving for a short period, due to much needed repairs. The Arts Festival is moving ahead, as is the event being planned in conjunction with Sevenoaks Town Council.

**AREWEEKSEVENOAKS**

The first empowering Sevenoaks event will take place on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8pm at the Vine Gardens, with the hope that this will become a regular event on the events calendar. All will be welcome to discuss wellbeing and aims to involve many more relevant associations.

**Kims Hospital**

Kims will soon be moving into London road. 70 consultants will work out of this new diagnostic centre, with treatments taking place at their Maidstone Hospital. Launch events are planned for April time.

**Francis Jones**

Roberta was disappointed that she had not been informed regarding potential problems at the Christmas Lights Switch-On and recent funeral concerns. Requested information on the follow-up from the Police and Crime Commissioner who attended previous meeting. She was also concerned that anti-social behaviour and cases of theft are still on the increase. Would like some feedback from Matthew Scott after his presentation to the board last year regarding the use of radios and other matters raised.

**Warners**

All well and very busy.

**Sevenoaks Town Council**

- It was reported that the Bat & Ball Centre would be completed on December 4<sup>th</sup>, with a few trial events prior to that date. Building work will be finished in May with landscaping to follow.
- VE Day will take place on May 8<sup>th</sup> with music on the Bandstand and a picnic on the Vine. White Doves to adorn the trees and areas around the Vine Gardens.
- Distribution of the Town Crier to Sevenoaks homes has yielded lots of positive feedback and offers of help with community events.
- Public consultation for Neighbourhood Plan
- Finalist in national Britain in Bloom

**11. Dates of Next Meetings**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Aug  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October AGM  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

**12. Press Release**

None requested.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.32pm.