



Executive Board

**Minutes of a meeting held on
Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 6.30pm**

**Sevenoaks Council Chamber
Bradbourne Vale Road**

Meeting started at 18.00

Meeting ended at 20.10

Executive Board Members:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cllr Simon Raikes | Sevenoaks Town Council | Present |
| Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter | Sevenoaks Town Council | Apologies |
| Linda Larter | Sevenoaks Town Council | Present |
| Cllr Avril Hunter | Sevenoaks District Council | Present |
| Cllr Elizabeth Purves | Sevenoaks District Council | Apologies |
| Cllr Tony Clayton | Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association | Present |
| Cllr Richard Streatfeild | Kent County Councillor | Present |
| Austin Blackburn | Go Coach | Present |
| Victoria Raggio | Southeastern | Absent |
| Jane Parish | Sencio | Absent |
| Cllr Andrew Eyre, Chairman | Stag | Present |
| Hannah Kay | Knole | Absent |
| Andy Sims | Savills (Blighs) | No Longer at Blighs |
| Luke Jacobs | Sevenoaks Chronicle | Absent |
| Roger Walshe | Sevenoaks Society | Present |
| Maxine Morgan, V Chairman | Specsavers | Apologies |
| Elizabeth Dolding | Warners Solicitors | Apologies |
| Roberta Ware | Francis Jones Jewellers | Apologies |
| Glenn Ball | Local Architect | Present |
| Dawn Blee | Chamber of Commerce | Apologies |
| Jim Hughes | Resident Association | Present |
| Helen O'Sullivan | Resident Association | Apologies |
| Byron Brown | Resident Association | Present |
| Mike Williams | Round Table | Absent |
| Police | Police | Absent |

In attendance: Cllr Richard Parry, John Levett, Paul Reid (Langford Russell), Mike Reid.



MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Purves, Cllr Granville-Baxter, Helen O’Sullivan, Roberta Ware, Dawn Blee, Maxine Morgans, Liz Dolding

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes

To receive and approve the minutes of the Town Team Board Meeting of 6th April 2022.

Approved

4. Patron

After many years of service, Sir Michael Fallon has stepped down from his role as Patron and our appreciation is expressed to him. Taking up the position, Laura Trott MBE, MP has already spoken publicly at the Business Awards about her enthusiasm for supporting business in Sevenoaks and we look forward to a long and rewarding relationship.

5. Personnel Changes

Elliott Waters, Station Manager at Sevenoaks and Bat & Ball has moved temporarily to Victoria Station. Until November, his place has been taken by Victoria Raggio.

At The Chronicle, Katie Boyden has left to take up a position with the Press Association and Gabriel Shephard has resumed responsibility.

6. Trail Tale

The Self Guided walk app produced by TrailTale is live and just over 100 downloads have taken place. According to the developers that is more than double the downloads of the trails for other towns which went live at about the same time. There is more work to be done in promoting the trail. It will now be added to the content of the four info screens operated by STC.

7. Childrens High Street Safari

The trail finished on 12th June. The stats were received on 16th June and are appended. The event was sponsored by Warners solicitors and a £100 gift vouched will be presented to a winner “drawn from a hat”.

8. Sevenoaks Business Awards

The event was held on Friday 10th June at the Bat & Ball Centre. The results were:

Independent Business with less than 50 employees:

Winner – Sevenoaks Sport & Wellbeing

Second – Prime Aesthetics

Third – Connectagroup



Larger Business

Winner – COOK
Second – Rockdale
Third – Paydens

Green Business

Winner – Mount Vineyard
Second – TN Card
Joint Third – Aquaoaks & Eat for Energy

New Business – less than 5 years old

Winner Sevenoaks Sport & Wellbeing
Second – TN Card
Joint Third – Eat for Energy & Aquaoaks

Micro Enterprise

Winner – Red Pizza Van
Second – Sevenoaks Sport & Wellbeing
Third – Connectagroup

Customer Choice

Winner – TN Card
Second - Aquaoaks
Third – Crop Hair

Judges Choice – Bill Terry of Wealden Properties

Main sponsor for the event was Manak Solicitors and thanks are expressed to them together with the category sponsors, Go Coach, Sevenoaks District Council, Kent County Council, Sevenoaks District Chamber of Commerce, Specsavers and Warners Solicitors.

The final figures are still coming in, and it is expected that the event will create a profit around £3,000 which will be put to good use by The Town Team.

The Mayor's Charity is the Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust and when a few IOU's are honoured the event will have raised £486.

9. Public realm

On 6th June the STC Finance & General Purpose Committee approved the expenditure to repaint 64 public realm items in the Town Centre. These are all items that have an electric component such as lamp posts, Belisha beacons and illuminated traffic signs. This work will commence on 18th June and provided are no weather delays should be complete four weeks later.

The meeting was asked why KCC is not paying for maintaining the appearance of these items. Apparently the lampposts were originally purchased by STC and while KCC pays to keep them in working order, they do not have any budget for decoration.



Six blue and white street name signs are being repainted, with just South Park outstanding.





SEVENOAKS TOWN TEAM



The District Council is working through a programme to upgrade or replace more than 1000 bins in the District and already we have seen new bins appearing in the town centre. The “before and after” examples below are taken at Boots The Opticians.

There are other jobs to do, such as the painting of bollards and the historic building plaques (Knocker & Foskett have just done theirs) but the town is well on its way to having the principle public realm refreshed.

As part of their celebrations to mark 25 years of their Sevenoaks office Warners Solicitors are to be thanked for providing two new “parklets” for the town. These will be positioned in Suffolk Way and at the Post Office in London Road.



The hoarding has recently been replaced at The Farmers site opposite Sevenoaks Station. STC has agreed with the owners that six Darent Valley Railway posters panels and a “Welcome to Sevenoaks” poster panel can all be displayed on the hoarding. There is a delay on the Railway posters pending resolution on some detail.



Further suggestions for action included:

- The Blighs' clock being made accurate
- Checking the status and responsibility for the derelict flower bed at West Kent Mind

10. Wayfinding project

The Draft Strategy has been accepted by STC and funding has been agreed to create a detailed design for the scheme. The Draft Strategy is attached.

A meeting with Thomas Heatherwick is scheduled to take place with a view to seeking his input into design ideas. Meanwhile All Points West are working on advice on design matters to be considered as this moves forward. Once we have a "direction of travel" then Councillors and TT members will be asked for views.

Some preliminary suggestions from Council members are already being reviewed.

11. Business Hub

A report regarding useage was presented by The Chamber and is attached. It was noted that the pods are letting satisfactorily and that further work is needed to boost the hot desk occupancy. The new hub in Lime Tree Walk is possibly taking away new customers though it seems targeted more at "sociable" type businesses.

12. Britain in Bloom

The town needs as many volunteers as possible to help with planting, cleaning and weeding. Leaflets were given to all attendees asking that they provide them to friends and neighbours.

Austin kindly volunteered free transport for any group of volunteers who need it. He also offered to host "call to action" posters to be put in the bus station.

13. 20 MPH Zones

The briefing meeting hosted by TT and given by KCC revealed a number of issues. KCC have now considered those and intend to come back to TT "in two weeks" for the update to be reviewed. The town wide consultation has been put on hold until this second review is undertaken.

14. Reports from Town Team Members

Richard Streatfeild

St John's Hill will be closed to traffic until 24th June. The reason for that being an extensive sewer collapse. He opined that this will not be the last of such issues as the reason for it happening is down to geological strata features which are a feature of the town.



Glen Ball

The Hub snagging is virtually complete.

Paul Reid

Langford Russell is one of the trading names of Acorn. An estate agency founded in London in 1984. They now have 40 offices, with Sevenoaks being the most remote from London. As they are a new name locally, they have been offering 0% agency fees. That has created 150 appraisals and 50 sales instructions. They are very busy! Nearly all transactions have been in relation to people moving locally and not a big influx from London.

He outlined the agency's community project [Acorn Book Club](#). The firm is looking for a substantial new project and would like it to be based in Sevenoaks. He is looking for suggestions.

Jim Hughes

He is concerned about the problem of speeding traffic in Brittain's Lane and the seeming inability of any authority to do anything about it.

Cllr Avril Hunter

Post Covid everything at SDC has returned to normal. There are no particular issues at the Council.

Austin Blackburn

He was pleased at the uptake of 93 passengers for the free service for the The Jubilee Big Picnic. Most passengers hadn't used a bus before.

The tendering for forthcoming services remains a very serious issue but he is encouraged that the Minister for Roads, Buses and Places, Baroness Vere of Norbiton will be visiting Go-Coach

Go Coach is moving its depot from Otford to Swanley.

A Heritage Bus Day will be held on 17th September. More detail to follow.

Staffing is a huge problem, mainly due to sickness which is running at a higher rate than during Covid.

Cllr Clayton

Discussed the forthcoming rail strike. Subsequently STC has received printed information and this is appended.

Andrew Eyre

Stag attendances are slowly recovering. He praised film distributors as they are releasing blockbuster movies to help build audiences.

He too is experiencing high staff sickness levels.



There was a discussion about evening parking restrictions and whether they are appropriate, or properly advertised, as some customers believe they do not have time to attend a performance and have a meal before or after.

Roger Walshe

The Sevenoaks Society has its 900 Years Sevenoaks Exhibition open next week. St Nicholas Church also has an exhibition and theirs is based on the influential people of Sevenoaks over the ages.

Cllr Parry

Explained that KCC is looking to take over responsibility for dealing with traffic offences and subsequently provided this information:

The Traffic Management Act 2004 Part 6 was discussed. Kent County Council is applying to DfT to use the powers to fine motorists between £20 and £105 for moving traffic offences. KCC hope the powers will enable them to safety, congestion and public transport improvements.

John Levett

Distributed leaflets for the Sevenoaks Festival which runs 18th June – 3rd July.

Linda Larter

The biggest current concern was the removal of travellers for Greatness Recreation Ground
Very busy with Bloom as national finalists
Climate Change Initiatives are being actioned
There are plenty of summer events coming up
And....staff shortages and sickness are presently a real concern.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 3rd August 2022