

**Minutes of Sevenoaks Town Partnership Meeting held at the Town Council Chamber  
On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 p.m.**

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**Executive Board:**

Cllr Stephen Arnold (Chairman)	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Cllr Andrew Eyre (Vice Chairman)	Stag	Present
Linda Larter	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Cllr Tony Clayton	Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association	Present
Cllr Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Council	Present
Neil Jackson	Coolings	Apologies
Gabriel Shepherd	Sevenoaks Chronicle	Apologies
Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks Society	Present
Jane Parish	Sencio	Apologies
Fergal Parkinson	Sevenoaks Round Table	Apologies
Austin Blackburn	Go Coach	Apologies
Roberta Ware	Francis Jones Jewellers	Present
Glenn Ball	Local Architect	Present
	Blighs	Apologies

**Also in Attendance:**

Stephanie Harrison – My Sevenoaks Community  
Cllr Pam Walshe – Sevenoaks Town Council  
Mike Williams – Sevenoaks Round Table  
Cllr Matthew Dickins – Sevenoaks District Council  
Sharon Wright – Sevenoaks District Council CCTV operations  
Cllr Richard Parry – Sevenoaks Town Council

At the start of the meeting a presentation was given to the Committee regarding the operational details of the CCTV in the town and the partnerships that were involved. It was requested that the Town Clerk send a list of queries raised by the Executive Board to Cllr Dickins for reply.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

As noted above. Apologies also received from Cllr Maxine Chakowa and Cllr Merilyn Canet.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Partnership Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were received and accepted as a true record.

**4. Pocket Size Town Map**

A copy of the printed map was received. Some issues were raised with the design and amount of road names. The issues would be discussed between the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

## 5. Friends of Bat & Ball Station

A copy of the minutes of the Friends of Bat & Ball Station held on 17<sup>th</sup> April were received and noted.

It was noted that a talk on the Social History relating to Bat & Ball would take place at the Town Council Chamber on 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.

## 6. Sevenoaks Business Show 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

An update was received from the Committee Clerk. The event was well received by exhibitors and members of the public. A feedback questionnaire would be sent to exhibitors shortly with result brought to the next meeting.

## 7. Sevenoaks Wellbeing Show 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

An update was received from the Committee Clerk. The event stand spaces were sold out with a waiting list. The event would be opened by the Mayor, Cllr Roderick Hogarth at 10am at the Stag Plaza.

## 8. Member Organisations

### i) Stag

Cinema ticket bookings were doing very well. It was noted that local drama/production groups were struggling with increased costs of productions.

### ii) Francis Jones Jewellers

Attempted robbery took place the previous evening. The smashed front window would be covered and then replaced as soon as possible. It was noted that the suspect had been arrested. Business had been quiet since Easter. It was noted that Darcey's Coffee shop had closed and no movement still on the Linen Shop.

### iii) My Sevenoaks Community

The website was now up and running, with lots of interesting information and events.

### iv) Sevenoaks Rail Travellers

An update was received from Cllr Clayton.

1) The threatened cuts to direct services between Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells (and points south) after 2021 in the next South Eastern franchise is still a major concern. We need all the support we can get to present the case to the next franchise winner to continue four services an hour in both directions through the day, for people travelling to and from work and for school students. Anything less frequent will make the rail service much less user friendly.

2) The restoration of the West Kent mainline timetable during the week, to almost the service before the London Bridge rebuild in 2013, has been successfully managed by Southeastern. We think it is a reliable and robust service pattern, evolved over time, which makes the best use of the available pathways to London. It helps strengthen the case for keeping it after 2020, and we will be using this argument with the MP, Department for Transport and whoever wins the franchise.

3) The new timetable for Thameslink trains via Bat and Ball, Otford and Swanley, in contrast, has been a real problem. Cancelled trains, trains routed to wrong platforms, and misleading information on cancellations have made life very difficult for rail travellers from Sevenoaks right up the Darent Valley. In part this is because changes were made at the last minute by DfT, but it is also clear that planning and training by the rail companies, and the number of available trains bought by DfT, were inadequate. We will need to lobby hard with others affected to get the deficiencies fixed, or the rail service improvements promised, which were cited in the case for the Bat & Ball refurbishment, will not be delivered.

i) Sevenoaks Round Table

Plans for 2018 Torchlight Parade were now underway. Funds were still available from 2017 to allocate to local charities. It was requested that any ideas of local charities that might benefit from the money to contact the Sevenoaks Round Table for an application form.

i) Glenn Ball

It was noted that the new public toilets at Greatness had now been opened.

Concern was raised over the new evening parking charges and how this would affect the businesses in the town and their night time economy.

i) Sevenoaks Society

The Sevenoaks Society had currently been working on the Local Plan and the issue of Air Quality Management in the Town Centre.

ii) Sevenoaks Town Council

Business Awards 2018 – It was noted that nominations were open. Two categories were still looking for sponsorship (Independent Retailer of the Year & National Chain Retailer). If there were any businesses interested in sponsorship please contact the Committee Clerk. The black tie awards would take place on 14<sup>th</sup> September at Knole Academy. A speaker was still need for the awards evening and any suggestions should be emailed to the Committee Clerk for consideration.

Sevenoaks In Bloom – Plans for In Bloom 2018 were in full swing with judging taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> July. It was requested that any volunteer gardeners please contact the Committee Clerk as any help was very much appreciated. Two volunteer dates had been arranged:

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Stag 10-1

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June – The Vine 10-1

**9. Dates of Next Meetings**

Please note the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June is cancelled. The next meeting would take place on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 6.30pm at the Town Council Chamber.

**10. Press Release**

It was agreed to continue to produce press releases regarding events as when needed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.