

# Westerham Town Partnership

## Minutes of Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 Council Office at 6pm

**Apologies for absence:** Diana Esler, Kevin Maskell, Eddie Boyle, Gordon Rodgers, Malcolm Basing, James Millard, Alison Burt

**Present:** Stuart Merrylees Jane Hunter Bill Curtis Nick Tonge Hannah Marsh Alan Wesley Alex Bates Zoe Colbeck Henry Warde David Robinson Ian Sharp John Edwards Barry Reid Viv Sheffield Richard Banister Mark Banister Robert Wicks, Kathryn Wells, Ian Rose (Aqualisa)

### 1. Minutes of last meeting were agreed

### 2. Matters Arising

- a. Late Night Shopping and Xmas lights  
**SM** commented: Hard work for small team. Had to improvise stage. Got too crowded. Traffic holdups. Crowd dispersed when celebrity made their exit. 246 rerouted to avoid the centre. Expenses 383, income 525, profit 142. Spent 600 on outdoor cables and matting. **HM** commented the Xmas lights were better received although still ongoing issues and new contractors would be considered this year. Council budget has been increased.
- b. Linden Homes development  
**SM:** On 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015, Steve Houkes reported 45 housing units now reduced to 38. There will be parking spaces for 83 cars, ie ratio of 1.9 per house. **AW** said WTC has commented on pedestrian safety, public parking spaces, and narrow access to allotment area
- c. M25 Junction slips  
If this project ever happens it will help people get on/off the M26, rather than needing to go up to J3 at Swanley. Our SDC councillor Diana Esler is on the committee and has recently commented that there is now a shortlist of 3, Westerham being one
- d. Market  
Winter winds are most unkind. Fresh pasta will be here on 1st Sunday each month. Fish here 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Need more stalls. **JH** commented Sevenoaks are starting a new outdoor market at the Vine.
- e. Town Sign update

**SM** reported that WTC has mixed views and didn't like the position of Verrells Corner, or saw the need for more than 1. Undecided about location, **HM** requested sight of latest designs

f. **Village Design Statement**

**HM** and WTC are leading a team of volunteers, including input from a town planner. Draft to be published at Town Meeting in April. The sentiments in this document will be adopted by planners and influence design of houses in Westerham

**3. Proud to do Business and Finance statement**

**NT** report was presented, the two sources of income being the market and the Proud to Do Business initiative.: bank balance is £7419. Expected expenses this year: Talking Statues project, sculptures, Xmas lights, gym pieces

**4. Moorhouse development** planning application refused at the first round

**5. Open Air Gym** equipment at King George's Field - obtained SDC grant (£1000) + Richard Parry+ £1000 from WTP- awaiting council proposal – cost expected to be £8-9000

**6. Future Events**

- a. Fri 4<sup>th</sup> March : Clean for the Queen 11am -1pm (WTC initiative)  
Plus “wash down your road sign”
- b. Mon 14<sup>th</sup> March: Commonwealth Day ceremony 9.45 at Church
- c. Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> April: Town Meeting organized by WTC.
- d. Sun 1<sup>st</sup> May: Beating the Bounds (Westerham Society and WTP)
- e. Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May Rotary Fair
- f. Sat/Sun 27/28<sup>th</sup> August Proposal for Scarecrow Festival (WTP)  
Needs subcommittee and poster: No volunteers appeared

**7. Talking Statues, actors scripts, trails.**

**BC** is masterminding script committee. 22 locations identified, 8 of which are written. **JH** asked that 3 be in place for marketing purposes by spring and undertook to ask Council for permissions to be sought (separate ones for The Green may not be required)

**8. Business Development District (BID)** Oxted has already made successful bid for money, which comes from a levy on business rates. **JH** and **HM** to meet Oxted BID coordinator with **AH** and take forward with SDC

## **9. Proposal for a Westerham Bypass**

- a. **AW** confirmed a town meeting has been called for the 25<sup>th</sup> February.
- b. **HW** put the case for a by-pass funded by new homes, to include relocation of the school and improvement of infrastructure to support, and reiterated he only wanted to proceed with town support. It would involve lorries filling the Covers Farm quarry for 4-5 years prior to building foundations for by-pass. Estimated number of homes 600-800 (as a guide Madan Rd is about 300 homes)
- c. **JH** commented that a holistic approach should be implemented: advantages and fears raised must be studied and mitigation plans effected.
- d. **SM** speculated that a risk analysis would be a valuable approach

## **10. AOB**

- a) **Walking Trail to Chartwell: ZC** confirmed it was all agreed, permissions still need to be granted and she would chase up, to see if we can implement before the season
- b) **Darent Valley: HW** is talking to Rick Bayne about signage

## **11. Date of next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 6pm Council Offices**