

## Thanet Local Board

Tuesday, 16 October 2012

**Present:** Bill Hayton (Chairman), Robert Bayford, Robert Burgess, Charles Hibberd, Michael Jarvis, John Kirby,

**Apologies:** Elizabeth Green, Chris Wells

**KCC Officers:** Anne Charman (Community Engagement Officer), James Harman, (Community Engagement Officer)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome to the meeting – Mr Bill Hayton, Chairman</b>
	<p>Mr Hayton welcomed everyone to the meeting</p> <p>The members of the board introduced themselves.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Notes of Local Board meeting held on 3 July 2012 and progress on any actions agreed</b>
	<p>The notes were agreed as a true record.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) / Thanet Youth Council (TYC), Cameron Taylor, Sadie Williams and Claire Trainor</b>
	<p>Cameron Taylor is a member of the Birchington Youth Club, on the Concorde Youth club committee and is currently standing for election to become a member of KYCC representing Thanet. Cameron was also representing TYC who were unable to send a representative as they were busy planning events for Local Democracy Week aimed at inspiring local young people to become more interested in local decision making.</p> <p>Cameron is heavily involved in many youth activities and is awaiting results from the recent local KYCC elections which took place on-line and in schools and youth clubs. Cameron also spoke of the Youth Advisory Group, a forum with representation from Kent County Council, Thanet District Council and local community organisations, where young people have a say and are able to monitor the Thanet Youth Strategy priorities and outcomes. In particular Cameron has been involved in the 'All About Youth' programme enabling young people to decide on funding for local projects.</p> <p>Cameron is campaigning on three issues; more things for young people to do, advice and help with employment (Cameron felt that currently there was very little advice available in schools or elsewhere) and cheaper or free transport.</p> <p>While Cameron recognised that transformation was an inevitable process in the development of future youth work and looked forward to working with new people, he wanted to take this opportunity to thank youth workers, past and present from Artwise and Concorde, and particularly Erin Bell for all they had done.</p> <p>Sadie Williams introduced Claire Trainer and spoke about her work as a Youth Participation Worker. Sadie works closely with KYCC which comprises young people who are elected from all the districts in Kent and who campaign on issues that are important to young people, both locally and nationally. Currently KYCC is campaigning on employment, positive</p>

	<p>images/activities and transport issues, all voted for by young people. The transport group are working for cheaper and better transport for young people, particularly improving the quality of services in rural areas, working hard to maintain the Freedom Pass for 11-16 year olds and the 16+ Travel Card. KYCC is also encouraging young people to use cycle routes and other modes of transport.</p> <p>The Positive Images group want to change the media image of young people, producing short films. It is also working on the introduction of a discount leisure card for young people, as it is important for young people to have a range of activities available. In a survey by KYCC, 82% of young people said they would use a discount card and KYCC is currently running a pilot scheme in Tunbridge Wells.</p> <p>Youth unemployment is a big issue for KYCC and, to support young people when applying for jobs it has produced 5,000 Employment Rights 'Z' cards that have been distributed to all youth centres in Kent. This contained all the information a young person needs when applying for jobs. The employment group has also produced a film, giving the employers perspective when recruiting. Sadie told of one young person who had been part of the film making, taken all the advice given and within three hours of circulating his CV had secured interviews.</p> <p>Claire Trainer spoke of Local Democracy Week and the work being undertaken to encourage young people to vote in the KYCC elections. There are eight KYCC seats in Thanet and much work is being done to encourage young people to get involved with online, text and 130 polling stations across Kent.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> (Howard Evans, Academy FM.) There is a wealth of things to do in Thanet and I would invite you to come into Academy FM's offices and find out more.</p> <p><b>R.</b> Cameron and Sadie thanked Mr Evans for his invite and said they would be in touch.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> (Kate Kneale.) I organise the Games Expo in East Kent and we are looking for young people to join our board. People come from as far as Europe to join in these games and this may be something young people in Thanet would like to know about.</p> <p><b>R.</b> Sadie offered to take details at the end of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> (Vera Elliott.) As Chairman of the Thanet Senior Citizens Forum we are very interested in participating in intergenerational projects and wondered if you would like to write an article in our newsletter?</p> <p><b>R.</b> Thank you.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> Cllr Iris Johnston. As a Thanet District Councillor and the Community Services portfolio holder and as Vice Chair of the Thanet Youth Council I am aware of much work being undertaken, for example Kick out Racism at Margate Football Club. There are also intergenerational projects underway, for example the Rock Café. There's plenty happening but better signposting is needed, perhaps through schools. Work shadowing of councillors is also another possibility.</p> <p><b>R.</b> On Friday, 23 November it's 'Youth Takeover Day' when young people take over jobs for a day and we would welcome the opportunity to take over a councillor's job for the day.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>KCC Budget Consultation. John Simmonds, KCC Cabinet Member for Finance and Business Support</b>
	<p>KCC's Budget consultation 'Framing our Budget' was launched on 6 September (finishing on Thursday, 1 November). John Simmonds described how KCC planned to freeze council tax while still delivering excellent services and save money to meet the multi-million pound budget challenge.</p>

Mr Simmonds described the significant year on year savings that have had to be sustained over the next five years as a result of reduced government grants, additional spending demand and no increase in Council Tax. Throughout this however, KCC's key priority has been to maintain services for the vulnerable.

The rising costs of adults who are living longer and with more complicated ailments together with the rising costs of waste have meant that the money available for other services is reduced and unless there is a change in direction, current services cannot be sustained. This situation has been exacerbated by the changes to Council Tax announced recently.

Next year overall funding is to reduce from £1.78bn to £1.71bn. KCC does propose protecting some services, for example eligibility criteria for adult social care (KCC is one of the few local authorities that still has moderate social care criteria), highways maintenance, libraries, the apprenticeship programme and the Freedom Pass, but asks for views on £44m of new proposals.

KCC is also not seeking views specifically on small scale spend under £300,000 (although it is happy to discuss any specific questions) but is undertaking a wider, earlier consultation than ever before on £44m. Mr Simmonds urged people to respond to the Budget consultation as it was not set in stone and it was important to get resident's views. Some of these new proposals include savings on adult social services by looking at transforming services to identify problems early so that timely support is provided. The proposals also include savings to Looked After Children and Children's Services and KCC is aware of the need to address Other Local Authority placements which bring with them significant health and education costs.

A variety of organisations have already been consulted ranging from local community organisations to private businesses and all the information collected will be feedback to Cabinet Committees in November with a formal response to Cabinet in December and a revised final proposed Budget being launched in December. Budget will go before County Council for approval in February 2013. Mr Simmonds warned that there were some health warnings; not least that government spending plans will not be announced until the beginning of December. However, KCC thought it was important to consult on the transformation proposals early and hoped to manage this risk.

To view Mr Simmonds presentation please visit:

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s36850/KCC%20Budget%20Consultation%20Oct%202012.pdf>

**Q.** (Mr Hayton). Please could you explain to the audience present what Cabinet Committees are?

**R.** There are a variety of committees for all the directorates for example Highways, Children's Services, Communities plus support services such as Finance. These committees go through in detail what consultations such as this are proposing, influence what is being proposed and take into account what the public has requested. They are responsible for holding Cabinet Members to account to ensure that what is said will be done, is done.

**Q.** Where do we need to go to on the KCC website in order to take part in this consultation?

**R.** Contact details are available on the cards that have been distributed around the room or you can go onto the KCC home page where you will be directed to the Budget consultation pages.

**Q.** (Tom Brown, Thanet Gazette.) A question about the numbers. Regarding the amount of admin and staffing costs, considering you are such a large organisation why are you

cutting 5% from Adult Social Care and less than 1% from staff costs, bearing in mind the reduced services you will be delivering. Also regarding reductions in Children's Services, in Cliftonville both Kent Police and the politicians have mentioned about the number of Looked After Children and we do seem to have a disproportionate amount in this area.

**R.** Over the last three years we have taken out over 1500 jobs so staff reduction has been a continual process. Adult Social Care costs and Fostering costs are huge and it is felt that there are reductions and economies still to be made in these areas.

**Q.** (Graham Razez, Principal of East Kent College.) We provide education for about 1500 people every year. We heard from Cameron about the lack of advice over options for young people and within your budget statement you described looking at the various options to provide specialist careers advice. Can you provide any more detail about this given that the Budget consultation closes in a couple of weeks?

**R.** KCC has had a long term contract with Connexions which is now coming to an end. The budget for this has now gone directly to schools and in light of the fact that there has been duplication and confusion in the past with schools delivering careers advice as well, perhaps schools are now better placed to deliver this in a more resource efficient way.

**S.** It is important that young people have advice on what to do and the employment opportunities that are available and if schools are not delivering on this, does KCC feel it has a duty to support this work?

**R.** The problem is exacerbated by the fact that many schools have now become Academies and therefore when it can is questionable as they may choose to ignore any advice offered.

**Q.** Has all the money been recovered from the Icelandic banking saga?

**R.** To date KCC has received back £35.3 million. KCC is confident that it will recover the full £50 million as it is classed as a priority creditor, but it may take some time.

**Q.** (Rex Goodban.) Do you have any new projects that are relevant to Thanet in your capital programme?

**R.** The most recent project just completed is the East Kent Access Road. Unsure of what other projects are in the pipeline and obviously the development opportunities at the Pfizer site. If you leave your details, I will get back to you.

**Q.** (Cllr Will Scobie.) Regarding the Council Tax freeze, in the context of funding cuts and increased cost of services, is this the right decision? Will the quality of services be affected?

**R.** Significant savings have already been made over the past couple of years by changing the way we do things. Regarding the quality of services, there are savings to be made and technology is assisting with this. Savings do not necessarily equate to poor services, as evidenced with the recent youth service transformation programme.

**Q.** Regarding transport and careers, why is there no accountability by the schools if they are not delivering career advice? Is there no regulatory body? I understand that the teaching unions are going to London to strike on the 20<sup>th</sup> with the questions of school accountability.

**R.** Many secondary schools have decided to run their own budgets and therefore they are responsible for what they deliver. Some academies have opted into the services KCC provides, schools appeals etc, but it's up to local people to ask the question of these schools. Please remember also that there are some superb governing bodies with some excellent work going on in schools. It will be interesting to see how schools, some with budgets of £20m-£30m will cope with this huge financial responsibility.

**Q.** (Cllr Iris Johnston) As a District Councillor since 1995 I find increasingly the questions being asked by local residents are about KCC business. This presentation has not

	<p>covered the impact of Universal Credits, affecting TDC when advising residents about cuts to housing benefits, hospitality and travel bills for staff and councillors. My questions are: how much has KCC paid out in redundancies, how much has been paid out in hospitality, how many children are being put in private fostering care and how much money is spent refilling potholes?</p> <p><b>R.</b> I will send you a copy of KCC last year's annual accounts which will answer these questions. If you cannot find the answers you require, please contact me via Anne Charman. Regarding potholes, KCC has new contractors Enterprise, who have made considerable improvements to the way in which potholes are repaired. There is a reporting system on line which ensures a timely response to all pothole incidents reported.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> (Cameron Taylor). Regarding the school budgets and the reference to Connexions. As far as I am aware we haven't had Connexions into our school (Dane Court) yet we're being told there's a school budget. How can you help with this situation?</p> <p><b>R.</b> As an academy, Dane Court has control over its budget and its spend.</p> <p>As this item was running over time, Mr Hayton asked that any further questions be given to Anne Charman after the meeting. Mr Hayton also advised that the next agenda item would be Turner Contemporary as Richard Morsley had travel issues.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Turner Contemporary. Richard Morsley, Deputy Director</b>
	<p>Before his appointment as Deputy Director of the Turner Contemporary (TC) just over a year ago, Richard Morsley was a Project Manager at KCC and has been heavily involved with the Turner project for about five years.</p> <p>The idea of creating a gallery to celebrate the life and works of J M W Turner, who had been a long standing resident of Margate, came about in the 1990's. Situated in one of the two most deprived wards in Kent, TC was to be a hub for regeneration in Margate and its wider area, as well as a centre of cultural excellence for the South East.</p> <p>Since 2001 Turner has been actively engaged in the area using audience development and outreach programmes to ensure that it kept on the right track. KCC, the Arts Development Agency, SEEDA along with TDC who donated the land on the Rendezvous site, appointed David Chipperfield to design and build the new TC gallery. From 2006/7, using public consultation to engage the community about the design as it developed, the concept for the building emerged, with the ground breaking ceremony in 2009.</p> <p>TC is a charity with a Board of Trustees who leases the building from KCC. Funding comes from a variety of sources and includes a grant arrangement from KCC, funding from the Arts Council England plus other commercial activities and income generating activities.</p> <p>The Gallery was opened on 16 April 2011 by Tracey Emin and Jules Holland, on time and on budget. Over 16,000 visitors came through the doors on the first weekend, with great publicity and re-ignited Margate as destination for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. By July TC had reached its annual target of 150,000 visitors with 497,000 visits in its opening year. (Far exceeding estimates based on other galleries around the country.) To date 750,000 people have visited, with year on year numbers rising rather than dropping.</p> <p>Much work is being undertaken to understand TC's audience, where they come from and their motivations, linking this through to economic impact and assessing the effect on the local economy. About 33% of its audience is from Thanet, 35-37% Kent and the wider SE, 30% from the rest of the UK and 2-3% internationally. TC also knows that people are coming specifically to Margate as a destination to visit the TC gallery. The positive changes are becoming evident when walking around Margate Old Town with a new hotel opening and new</p>

	<p>businesses.</p> <p>External experts have analysed that the financial benefit in the first year to the local economy amounted to £13.9m.</p> <p>The programme over the past 18 months has included: Turner Contemporary Revealed, Nothing in the World but Youth, Turner and the Elements, Rodin's 'The Kiss', a Tracey Emin exhibition and currently Alex Katz's exhibitions. Alex Katz is a very influential American artist who has chosen a wonderful collection of works from the Tate Collection as well as his own material.</p> <p>TC also does a huge amount of work both formally through schools and informally through community groups and outreach work. A significant number of schools have been working with TC over the past 18 months and it delivers programmes from reception age through to university students (approximately 25,000 students) plus a variety of family based holiday activities, for example Easy Sundays. Margate and Thanet communities are very central to its work. The visit by Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Phillip was also a huge honour.</p> <p>Regarding future plans, TC is mindful that it is operating in a challenging financial environment and in response is becoming increasingly commercially focused through its shop, café, venue hire and fund raising (an endowment scheme is currently being set up with funding from Arts council to establish this.)</p> <p><b>Q.</b> As a Margate resident I work on a number of projects and wondered about the possibility for local artists to display work in Turner?</p> <p><b>R.</b> TC concentrates very much on well-known national and international artists. However it does work with local universities to display works but it is not a central part of our programme to display local artists' work. We also use the café space to display other works.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> Do you have any plans to charge an entrance fee?</p> <p><b>R.</b> No plans at this moment in time, but this could change if levels of funding support alter as there has to be a sustainable business plan in place.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> There is local concern about the much loved Webb painting. Will it be returning?</p> <p><b>R.</b> There are no plans to return the painting yet, but it may do so in the future.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> One thing missed in your presentation was the number of critics slating Turner; what a brilliant turnaround. I would like to thank everyone involved for their vision; the positive changes happening in the Old Town are now moving towards the High Street. It has put Margate on the map.</p> <p><b>R.</b> Thank you, I agree the changes are tangible.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> Where do the attendance figures you quote come from? I don't wear a label on my back when I visit the gallery and I haven't been asked this question either.</p> <p><b>R.</b> We have people with tally counters throughout the gallery, making allowance for staff and visitor movements. Regarding audience participation and motivation, we have undertaken a programme of research, with a team trained to undertake sample surveying around the building using iPads.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Expansion East Kent. Jacqui Ward, Programme Manager</b>
	<p>Following on from her presentation at the Thanet Local Board's March meeting, Jacqui Ward provided an update on the Expansion East Kent scheme which has made £35 million available in the form of 0% interest free loans for businesses to invest in East Kent.</p>

	<p>Expansion East Kent came about as a result of the closure of Pfizer. Just over a year ago KCC was successful in its bid to the Regional Growth Fund and awarded £40m; of this £5m went towards improvements to the HS1 rail link between Ashford and Ramsgate and the remaining £35m towards a programme of financial support to business in East Kent for investments that will lead to job creation.</p> <p>Expansion East Kent's key principles and criteria are about creating or safeguarding existing jobs with funding over a four year period, encouraging specific business opportunities and growth (but not land development in particular areas). Any business applying for funding much show evidence of additional funding or resource and the positive impact it will have on the economy of East Kent.</p> <p>Key sectors have been identified but the funding is open to all sectors. However due to EU State Aid regulations there are some sectors that are not eligible (see PP presentation).</p> <p>There is a simple four stage application process with advice and progress provided at every stage, with a 40 day turnaround period.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> What percentage of private funding does a business need? How long is the loan for?  <b>R.</b> When this scheme was first launched we wanted to hear from local businesses about what it was they needed. Hence this answer is going to appear vague. We suggest that you come to us first with your business proposal as it also depends upon the need of the individual business and other financial responsibilities.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> In Thanet the majority of businesses are small to medium sized. How will they benefit from this programme? Feedback has been that smaller firms have put in pre-application forms and not been successful. How will this tie in with partners?  <b>R.</b> Answering the question of partners, the East Kent Expansion programme has worked with a number of partners, working with existing business support networks such as the Chamber of Commerce. We are also working with banks as a number of applications are saying that they either haven't involved a bank or that the bank has not understood this process. We have had over 400 applications and we are getting more applications from smaller businesses. However we cannot disclose any information because we are in the contractual process, but £6m is due to be awarded shortly. It is important for applicants to marry up properly the information they supply in their business proposals with the application they submit. Regarding small to medium sized businesses, this process is under constant review to ensure that it is inclusive to all businesses.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> I attended your first presentation in March and I understand that funds will be recycled. For small schemes the application process is very onerous; larger schemes can employ professional help. The cost of preparing the information you require is piling up the costs and putting people off.  <b>R.</b> Yes, loans will be recycled. Preparation cost is feedback we have had already and we will be constantly reviewing the process.</p> <p><b>Q.</b> How far are you towards achieving your target for the results you hope to achieve?  <b>R.</b> Presently there is a likely commitment for £6m, subject to contract.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Opportunity to ask questions about local public services</b></p> <p><b>Q.</b> (Cllr Tom King) In view of the fact that tourism is so important for Thanet, why are there so many weeds along grass verges, etc.?  <b>R.</b> (Mr Jarvis) Regarding the weed situation TDC and KCC are working on a project with Canterbury University looking at the weed problem throughout Kent and we are still awaiting the feedback from this research.</p>

	Mr Hayton will make enquiries with KCC Highways regarding this issue and respond to Mr King.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Any Other Business notified to the Chairman prior to the meeting.</b>
	None
<b>9.</b>	<b>Close</b>
	Mr Hayton thanked all the speakers for their presentations and the public for attending and closed the meeting.