

Tenterden Forum

Notes from Meeting:

Date: 15 March 2011

Venue: Tenterden Town Hall

Attendance:

Chairman: Mike Hill, Frances Smith, Keith Ashby, Phil Carley, John rivers, Alan Sugden, John Link, Peter Goddard and Ian Brooks.

Apologies: Paul Clokie, Michael Burgess, Duncan Murray, Jillian Eldridge and Tom Lumpton.

Detached Youth Work:

Ian Brooks gave a report of his detached youth work; which has been seen as a model of good practice.

Action: Ian to provide the Forum with progress reports.

Mr Hill explained a new model for the youth service which would see a district hub and a reduction in KCC owned youth centres and a move to commissioning services.

Highways:

A Highways Parish and Tenterden report showing works was distributed. (A request was made for a larger font size in future reports).

Mr Hill said he had now allocated £40K from his Highways Fund of £25K a year. (The 2009/10 had been rolled over into 2010/11 giving him £50K). If there were any schemes needing funding please refer to Mr Hill.

Localism:

KCC and ABC will sit together in a new Locality Board which will improve public services and joined up working.

The Localism Bill will devolve more planning and control to Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums. These will also play a greater role in prioritizing works.

Tenterden Issues:

There was a useful discussion on the future development of Tenterden; particularly in the light of the new localism powers.

Within Tenterden there had been a number of complaints about the greens and the left fallen leaves that were destroying the grass. Mr Hill agreed to take this forward with KCC and ABC and if necessary he would offer some funding to get the leaves cleared.

Parish Issues:

Kenardington: would like a village hall grant application pack.

Wittersham: would like to know what is happening with the village green. Chairman John Rivers was asked to email Mr Hill and he will look into the issues with ABC.

Appledore: good neighbour scheme working but more volunteers were needed. Can ABC planners be challenged when they say they are not allowed to stop housing development over parking spaces where spaces meet the minimum requirement? The Localism Bill (due to become legislation in Nov 2011) will advocate a more permissive policy from local authority planning departments and give a greater role to Parish Councils.

Supported bus services are at risk of being cut in January 2012. Savings will be implemented after consultations have finished.

Any Other Business:

The draft KCC budget was approved and savings of £340m will be made over the next 4 years. More will be saved in the first years. Mr Hill's portfolio had to make 35% cuts which will be achieved by redesigning services; particularly in libraries and the youth service.

The next meeting will be planned for June 2011