

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2015, 7.30 PM
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present: Ms H Marlor (vice-Chairman, in the chair)
Mr K Bullard
Mr R Selkirk
Mr P Stevens

Also in attendance:
Borough Cllr Mrs S Luck
Sgt Ashley Boxall

Mr M North (resident of Norman Road and co-opted member of WMPC Planning Committee)
Mrs A Turner (Booking Secretary, WM Village Hall)
Mr J Collins (WMPC employee)
9 members of the public

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
15/ 460	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> were received from Mrs T Dean, Mr J Galloway, Mr S Harriott; Mrs L Javens, Mrs C Lane, Mrs Y Smyth; also from PCSO Harrison			
15/ 461	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> None other than those routinely declared.			
15/ 462	<u>MINUTES</u> of the meeting held on 7 September 2015 were approved and signed			
15/	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda			
463.1	(15/398.6) Rail Services - Mr Selkirk had formulated some comments; he agreed to re-send these to the Clerk as the Clerk could not trace having received them.	RS		
463.2	(15/414.2) Donation – a letter of thanks had been received from Victim Support.			
15/	<u>POLICING MATTERS</u>			
464.1	Ms Marlor welcomed the members of the public to the meeting; as they were specifically concerned about policing matters it was agreed to take this agenda item first. Ms Marlor welcomed Sgt Boxall to the meeting. Ms Marlor summarised the background to the current problems of anti-social behaviour problems in West Malling.			
	Sgt Boxall reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He works out of Kings Hill • WM had been given priority since the end of July 2015 • He fully understands residents' concerns • Has identified vehicles involved – have to have evidence in order to take things forward • In past two weeks have identified ten people • Three dispersal orders put in place – powers have changed so that dispersal is allowed to last only 48 hours – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4-6 September ○ 18-20 September 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2-4 October • 5 people aged 16 with mopeds involved • Another 2 referred to T&M Antisocial Behaviour task group • Will call on other agencies • Next 3 identified – making 10 “hard core” • “top” 5 referred to T&MBC – asked them to look at new ASB legislation – they have to take CPNs forward • Some residents expressed their willingness to give witness statements 			
464.2	Policing Report The report from PCSO Harrison is appended to these minutes (Appendix 1)			
15/465	<u>CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> – None			
15/	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u>			
466.1	(15/413) Tree Wardens – in answer to Ms Marlor’s question, the Clerk reported that no applications had been received for the vacancy arising from Mr Doyle’s resignation.			
15/467	<u>PROPOSED ABOLITION OF T&MBC AREA PLANNING COMMITTEES</u> Mr Selkirk had drafted a letter to be sent to T&MBC’s Chief Executive Ms Julie Beilby to express WMPC’s objection to the possible abolition of the three area planning committees to form just one committee. This letter had been e-mailed to T&MBC on 3 October 2015. The sending of this letter was ratified (see Appendix 2) The letter asked for WMPC’s views to be brought to the T&MBC Cabinet meeting on 7 October 2015. Mrs Dean had obtained information about the working of Maidstone Borough Council which had just the one Planning committee.			
	If no response had been received from Ms Beilby by midday on 6 October 2015, the Clerk was to remind Ms Beilby that a response was awaited.	Clerk	✓	
15/468	<u>PLANNING APPLICATION</u> The Clerk had placed this item on the Full Council agenda (to consider submission of comments in respect of the following (in view of time constraints: TM/15/00402/FL - erection of three storey building to provide 1 x one-bed flat and 1 x two bed flat and two car parking spaces (renewal of TM/10/01045/FL) at Land rear of 71-73 High Street for Gracerange Ltd) because the Clerk had been informed by T&MBC that it was not possible to permit additional time to allow the application to be considered at WMPC’s Planning Committee meeting on 20 October 2015. However, Mr Selkirk informed the meeting that he had obtained agreement from T&MBC that additional time could be permitted; the Clerk was to place this application on the agenda for meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on 20 October 2015.	Clerk	✓	
15/469	<u>“THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT”</u> Members were invited to consider a response to the House of Lords Select Committee (deadline 6 October 2015) In view of the tight deadline Ms Marlor had drafted a response which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. (see Appendix 3) Mr Selkirk proposed that this draft be submitted on behalf of WMPC; this was seconded by Mr Bullard and agreed unanimously. Clerk to submit this response.	Clerk	✓	

15/470	<u>KCC STREETLIGHTING CONSULTATION</u> WMPC was invited to consider a response by 29 November 2015 (KCC propose switching to LED streetlights). Members agreed that this should be considered by the Highways, Transportation & Streetlighting Committee which was due to meet on Monday 19 October 2015. Clerk to note.	Clerk	✓	
15/471	<u>ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT</u> totalling £4,031.66 were approved for signature. It was noted that payments totalling £3,692.23 had been approved at quorate meetings since the previous Full Council. This total included payments totalling £84.95 authorised under Section 137. It was noted that Direct Debits totalling £5,383.54 had been paid since the previous meeting.			
	The Clerk was to ask the Assistant Clerk to arrange a date with Turfsoil for the completion of the work to the allotment hedge.	Clerk	✓	
15/472	<u>FINANCIAL STATEMENT</u> The Bank reconciliation as at 23 September 2015 was received.			
15/	<u>MATTERS FOR REPORT</u>			
473.1	Amenities Committee – the draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2015 were received. Mr Stevens pointed out that the reference ought to be to Woodland Close, not Woodlands Close; the Clerk would mention this to the Assistant Clerk so that this could be corrected.	Clerk	✓	
473.2	Finance & General Purposes Committee – the draft minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2015 were tabled at the present meeting. Mr Stevens pointed out that the minutes ought to record that he had asked the Clerk arrange for the WMPC website to be updated. Clerk to note.	Clerk		
	Mr Bullard offered to phone Simmons Lighting to clarify the installation of the light outside the church.	KB	✓	
473.3	Planning Committee – the draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2015 were received.			
473.4	Macey's Meadow Advisory Committee – the Clerk was not yet able to present the minutes of their meeting held on 16 September 2015. Members were pleased to hear that the Applefest event on 3 October 2015 had been a success.			
473.5	Report from Joint Parish Councils Traffic Consultative Group – Ms Marlor's notes of the meeting held on 28 September 2015 were received. (see Appendix 4)			
473.6	Malling Action Partnership (M.A.P.) – no report			
473.7	Rotary House – no report			
473.8	Village Hall Management Committee – it was noted that their next meeting would be on Wednesday 25 November 2015, 8pm Mrs Turner reported that anti-social behaviour at the Village Hall had a detrimental affect on hirings; Mrs Turner had asked hirers to report any incidents direct themselves using the 101 phone number. Mrs Turner reported that there had been a water leak in the Village Hall car park; this had been repaired and was, according to the contractor, being damaged by trees. The repair bill had been sent to the VHMC but was in fact the responsibility of WMPC; Mrs Turner would arrange for the bill to be forwarded to WMPC .	AT	✓	

473.9	School Governors – no report		
473 .10	Malling Society – no report It was noted that the Secretary of the Malling Society had copied the Clerk into the Malling Society’s objection to the proposed change to the area planning system.		
473 .11	Christmas Lights Committee – it was noted that Mrs Jane Marshall was organising the switching-on event on Sunday 29 November 2015.		
473 .12	Chamber of Commerce – no Chairman had yet been elected. Mrs Luck reported that Mr Russell Meader from WM Flowers was the contact in the interim.		
473 .13	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council – receipt was noted of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minutes of their Parish Partnership Panel meeting held on 10 September 2015 • agenda for T&MBC Cabinet meeting to be held on 7 October 2015 <p>Ms Marlor reported that she had attended the PPP meeting on 10 September 2015.</p>		
15/ 474	<u>MEETING DATES</u> The following dates were agreed/noted: Amenities Committee – Monday 12 October 2015 (concentrating on Churchyard) Finance & General Purposes Committee - TBC Highways, Transportation & Streetlighting Committee – Monday 19 October 2015 @ Clout Planning Committee – Tuesday 20 October 2015 Macey’s Meadow Advisory Committee – Tuesday 24 November 2015 Ms Marlor tendered her apologies for the meeting on 19 October 2015 and also for Full Council on 2 November 2015.		
15/ 475	<u>REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLORS</u> Mrs Luck’s report is appended to these minutes (Appendix 5)		
15/ 476	<u>REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR</u> Mrs Dean’s report was not available at the meeting but was provided retrospectively (see Appendix 6)		
	There being no further business, the vice-Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30pm Signed..... Date.....		

APPENDIX 1

Parish council

West Malling Council, monthly update for September 2015

Crimes of note

Burglary

- A garage and a shed belonging to a house on OFFHAM Road was broken into and a number of --tools were taken.
- Enquiries are on-going.

Burglary

- A house on BIRLING Road had the garage door forced open and garden tools were taken.
- No Lines of Enquiry.

Burglary Attempt

- A house on OFFHAM Road had the garden shed door damaged when there was an attempt to ----break in.
- Enquiries on-going.

Theft

- A Pedal cycle was taken from the front garden of a house on Fatherwell Avenue overnight.
- a named suspect was recorded.
- Enquiries are on-going.

Theft

-RYARSH Lane Allotments, wood pallets / metal cans stolen

- No lines of Enquiry.

Theft

-A Petrol garage on London road had frozen food and other food items taken from the garage

-food store, a description of the offender has been circulated.

-Enquiries are on –going.

Criminal Damage

-WOODLAND Close 3 vehicles scratched and damaged by sharp implement, during the early -----

--hours of the morning.

- Enquiries are on-going

Criminal Damage

-Vehicles parked near to the recreation ground on NORMAN Road have been damaged , one -----

--vehicle had the bonnet dented and tyre marks left on the front and rear bumpers by persons

-Unknown.

-No lines of enquiry.

Criminal Damage

-A public house in the High Street had hanging baskets damaged and a hanging basket bracket --
-broken off, youths were seen climbing up and sitting on the flat roof, but no descriptions were ---
taken.

-No lines of Enquires.

Criminal Damage

-Norman Road at Macy's field, trees belonging to the orchard had the bark stripped off and -----
some branches were damaged.

-No lines of Enquiry.

-The area is now regularly patrolled by police.

Criminal Damage

-A vehicle parked on the London Road was scratched with a sharp implement during the early ----
-hours of the morning.

-No lines of Enquiry

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note

A dispersal order was in operation during some weekends and patrols took particular interest in
the Norman Road and in the surrounding areas to combat Anti-Social behaviour.

Updates of previous reported issues

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Crimes of a serious nature may not be disclosed as it may effect an investigation



APPENDIX 2

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

Kent Rural Community of the Year 2012

9 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6QH

Telephone: 01732 870872

e-mail: carole.wmpc@btconnect.com

website: www.westmallingspc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Clerk to the Parish Council: Carole D'Silva

2 October 2015

Chief Executive
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Dear Julie,

I am writing to you on behalf of West Malling Parish Council in my capacity as the Chairman of WMPC Planning Committee concerning some recent action by TMBC regarding the future of the TMBC Area Planning Committees. We would like our letter to be before the cabinet at their meeting next Wednesday.

This letter has been approved by the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and will be considered further by full Council on Monday.

This structure has worked successfully for a number of years to allow the thorough public examination of planning applications and allow local Borough Councillors to be responsible and accountable for making local determinations. This has been held up as an example of how to handle these sometimes controversial applications in an open, democratic forum.

We were then somewhat dismayed to find out by chance that TMBC had pushed through a proposal to eliminate this structure and replace it with a small, centralised Planning Committee designed to cover the whole borough.

We are sure that you would agree that Parish Councils are a key strategic partner with TMBC and play an important role in planning matters, yet it appears that this proposal is being pushed through without any form of discussion, consultation or even notification with us or any of the other Parish Councils.

This is of even greater concern as the Parish Charter, which was set up to build a constructive relationship, covers how TMBC will engage and consult with Parish Councils. This leads us to ask 2 questions.

1. What consultation took place with Parish Councils on this proposal?
2. If no consultation took place, why did TMBC feel it was not appropriate to discuss this with them?

The actions taken by TMBC seem at odds with desire stated by Tom Tugendhat MP at the recent JPCTCG where he recognised the value of devolving powers and the large benefits of local experience and knowledge, both at Parish and Borough Councillor level.

Over the next couple of years there are a number of planning challenges for TMBC and Parish Councils to navigate, from the current 'Call for Sites' through to the creation of a final Local Plan. Removing the local accountability that is built into the Area Committee structure at this time is a move that will lead to poorer decisions.

The current system allows the local Borough Councillors to thoroughly examine all aspects of planning applications and come to an informed decision. The proposed system will limit them to a maximum of 5 minutes and remove their involvement in decisions that directly affect their wards. We do not consider this a positive change.

This rushed proposal will, according to your figures, lead to a £15,000 to £20,000 saving. This seems to be derived from savings for meeting rooms, refreshment etc. This leads us to ask the following questions.

1. Will you please provide a full breakdown of all savings identified, with supporting evidence, related to the current structure.
2. Will you please provide a full breakdown of the proposed costs of the new centralised Committee.

We are, of course, supportive of the need to review the structure and workings of TMBC in the current financial climate and are willing to work with you to help identify changes that could be made to help reduce costs. It is possible to achieve this without reducing the level of local accountability.

As we are aware that many other Parish Councils are now aware of this issue and many of them may wish to write to you separately about this we have sent copies of this letter to each of them.

We are also sending this to all of our Borough Councillors

In addition, we are seeking a meeting with Tom Tugendhat MP to ask him to get involved.

We would like you to withdraw this proposal from going forward to the TMBC cabinet and enter into a discussion with all of the Parish Councils on how to improve the current planning system.

The next TMBC Cabinet is planned for 7th October 2015, where I understand this is due to be discussed, so we would appreciate a reply before this date.

Yours Sincerely,

**Richard Selkirk
Chairman Planning Committee
West Malling Parish Council**

APPENDIX 3

6th October 2015

Submission of written evidence to the Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment

By West Malling Parish Council, ME19 6QH

West Malling is a historic market town of around 3,000 people in the Tonbridge and Malling district of Kent. It has a main line railway station with a journey time of 60 minutes to London as well as easy access to several motorways, including the M25, coastal ferry ports and the Channel Tunnel.

Councillors are very much aware of the need to provide a better environment for future generations and wish to pass on the following comments. Please note that these responses are listed in the same order as the questions of the Call for Written Evidence dated 27 July 2015.

Policymaking, integration and coordination

1. The role of a national policy must be a "light touch framework" which considers the way in which infrastructure and economic development align with energy provision, specialist industry, higher education, demographic change and environmental issues like flooding and the green belt as well as housing growth. While the built environment should be ultimately in the national interest, such a policy would be either too weak to be able to address local issues or too prescriptive and inflexible to deliver well designed and viable communities. A National Policy must be drawn up primarily from the regions upwards and not passed down from central government and the work and role of local authorities should be expanded to give Parish Councils a higher profile in recognition that their input is based on personal knowledge and experience of their parish.
2. Whilst a policy may be common to several Government departments, invariably each one interprets it from their own perspective. To achieve an integrated, properly coordinated and workable policy, the recipient's perspective must be the guiding principle. The man in the street (and his successors) is the one most affected by poor housing, design, transport etc. By acknowledging this, each department can still offer their own perspective around the guiding principle as well as retaining flexibility to embrace change.

National policy for planning and the built environment

3. The three principle dimensions (economic, social and environmental) in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) require the planning system to administer a number of roles to lead sustainable development. However, allowing a single policy to oversee such a wide range of elements inevitably leads to difficulties in finding the right balance between development and the environment. Decisions can appear to be made by ticking boxes rather than taking time to consider the costs and benefits to the community both existing and future. Sustainability has to be considered a prime factor. Without it, future generations will lose basic day to day rights and freedoms as their choices become non-existent from poor decisions made now.

4. National planning policy no longer has an effective spacial element. By re-introducing it, decisions will have to take into account the effect on neighbouring communities, whether across a number of local authorities or a larger area (e.g. county or region). This must lead to greater discussion of and possible challenge to, planning policies but will ensure that decisions are made with enhanced transparency.

5. Any timescale should include frequent, if not continuous review to allow for changes in the economy, its principle driving force. Thus the targets the policy sets could be arrived at by averaging out good years with bad to provide better management and engagement with the community's needs. Currently, a 20 year timescale seems reasonable and practical.

Buildings and places: New and old

6. Under occupation is an unsustainable aspect in the present supply of housing and commercial property. Many existing properties are simply the wrong size; larger buildings are uneconomic to upgrade and difficult to convert to current environmental targets. Building sustainable units and maintaining that sustainability by preventing extension and alteration (without a special case being proved) would provide residential property suitable for the modern family or business without the need to seek new areas of building land

7. Sustainability is achievable by providing smaller, eco-friendly buildings more suitable to the modern family and offering financial help to those who wish to downsize; also smaller start-up type of units to small to medium businesses. The government would need to play a major role as financial incentives would be required to kick start this kind of strategy.

8. The historic environment should remain exactly that; cherished as part of our history, culture and national inheritance and not be subjected to inappropriate development.

Skills and design

9. Most local planning authorities have a good knowledge base of existing legislation but change should drive education while recognising the value of experience.

10. Again, while there is extensive knowledge at all levels, new strategies must be supported by education. This should include investigating existing skills and encouraging development of new approaches to achieve policy aims.

Community involvement and community impact

11. The developers and decision makers of the built environment are driven by different needs to those of the people who live and work in the results. It is these people who will form a viable community and they are the ones who must have a greater say in how and where their homes and workplaces are provided. Mental, physical and behavioural issues within a community are not a new problem but as has been proved in the past, tearing down buildings and providing what is considered "ideal" can make these issues worse. Better results

would be achieved by developers and local authorities working in partnership with the community to discover the existing needs before creating further problems with inappropriate decisions.

12. It can be difficult for a community to engage in decisions about its future. Most decisions are currently made by various committees at many levels of government and getting to the right place at the right time to take part in these discussions is not always possible. Increased use of social media and the internet must be investigated and better use made of local district, borough and parish authorities as conduits for information and discussion.

Financial measures

13. Developers should take on the financial burden of providing infrastructure not only within their proposal but also recognise the financial cost to the existing infrastructure e.g. roads, schools and community facilities. While this is already available to some degree through Section 106 contributions, the opportunity to strengthen and enforce this approach to development afforded by revising national policy for the built environment cannot be missed.

West Malling Parish Council
9 High Street
West Malling
ME19 6QH

carole.wmpc@btconnect.com

01732 870872

APPENDIX 4 (NOTES FROM MS MARLOR)

Chaired by Keith Bullard West Malling Parish Council

Attached Agenda order was not followed; T&MBC's Joint Transportation Board was meeting at the same time and several Councillors wished to attend both!

Star attraction: [Tom Tugendhat](#) who discussed local transport issues as well as explaining that he does not use set "surgery" dates but prefers to meet his constituents on an ad hoc basis. Please use link for contact details.

Major topic: Air Quality

Presentation from:

- Jane Heeley – Chief Environmental Health Officer @ T&MBC;
- Jacque Rands – Environmental Protection Team Manager and
- Mary-Anne Norton – Environmental Protection Officer.

Local Authorities use a multi-agency approachⁱ to tackle air quality and despite substandard air quality being recognised as a major contributing factor to poor health and premature death, they work within strict limitations imposed by [Defra](#).

Defra is hot on review and assessment but as with most government agencies, has very little funding to subsidize actual change or improvements. LA's continue to face stringent budget cuts and Air Quality is expensive to monitor let alone actively attempt to improve.

- The 2 most noxious substances in the air we breathe are NO₂ (Nitrogen dioxide)ⁱⁱ and PM 2.5 (Particulate Matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers)ⁱⁱⁱ which are the result of similar processes to those that produce NO₂.

The Local Air Quality Monitoring regime is under review (by Defra) and the European Commission *may* launch "[infraction proceedings](#)" for breach of EU law; any consequent fine could be passed down the governmental chain (and could include Parish Councils).

Local picture:

Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks and Swale districts show the highest levels of NO₂ pollution; Tonbridge & Malling is in the mid-range.

Kent has a prime problem from traffic congestion – not just local traffic but huge numbers of vehicles using the Channel crossings.

[T&MBC](#) has 7 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), none of which are in West Malling parish. T&M use diffusion tubes^{iv} across these areas to measure NO₂ pollution and has a single analyser^v in Tonbridge High Street.

T&MBC are part of [Kent Air Group](#) and further information can be browsed on their website.

The rest of the meeting in brief:

- **Update on Air Quality (Tim Shaw)** noted that [improving air quality in London](#) will be high priority in 2016;
- **Motorway slips** KCC to fund the shortfall for an assessment / feasibility study for slip roads to improve connectivity between A21 & M26;
- **Phase 3 Kings Hill** s106 signed with conditions;
- **M20 - Jct 4** widening programmed for 2015/16 start;
- **Amalgamation of Area Planning Committees** T&MBC are considering merging the existing 3 committees into a single committee of 13 members as a cost saving.

In view of the implications of decisions being made by such a small number of Borough Councillors, particularly the impending Local Plan considerations, JPCTCG members were asked to discuss this proposal with their own parish councillors and send in their views on the proposal as soon as possible.

Next Meeting:

Final date in January 2016 to be confirmed; guest speaker to be Shane Hymers, Public Transport Policy and Strategy Manager for Kent County Council.

¹ Usually includes Local authorities, KCC Highways, Highways England, Met Office, health and social care commissioners and 3rd sector partnerships such as Local Enterprise Partnerships.

¹ Nitrogen dioxide belongs to a family of highly reactive gases called nitrogen oxides (NO_x). These gases form when fuel is burned at high temperatures, and come principally from motor vehicle exhaust and stationary sources such as industrial boilers.

¹ 100 times thinner than a human hair and can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream.

¹ Type of passive sampler consisting of a tube, open at one end, with an absorbent at the other (closed) end for absorption of a specific pollutant from the surrounding air.

¹ A continuous NO_x analyser measures the levels of pollutants 24/7.

APPENDIX 5

West Malling Parish Council 5th October 2015

Councillors Report

KCC have been to the Farmers with Snow Ploughs to make sure they are ready for the winter

Looks as if the Lobster Pot is closingdown again

Cabinet Wednesday 7th October. Due to strong opposition from the Borough Councillors, good news, the Three Area Planning Committees are not going to be changed to a Single Planning Committee.

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APPENDIX 6 KCC REPORT FROM MRS DEAN

KCC has launched a Street Lighting Consultation. Once again it is primarily on line. Paper copies and posters are available on request or at libraries and children's centres. Alerts are on variable message signs on some main roads. It asks, for the first time, whether residents favour all night or part night lighting. Dimming of new LED lights is also offered. This consultation is a reversal of previous undertakings that once LED conversions were made locally, all night lighting would be restored. KCC suggests that additional spending of £400k is required for all night lighting. It also does imply that KCC wants part night lighting for the whole county, having previously suggested that the new central management system would allow different local choices as between for instance urban and rural areas. There is NO question which asks residents to identify dangerous areas where lights should stay on all night regardless of what system KCC adopts for the county. Mr Balfour said that it would be 'faintly ridiculous to consider the minutiae at this stage'. I think this is a missed opportunity and I am encouraging residents to use the comment sections to add these suggestions. I have requested restoration of lighting to the Redwing Close footbridge and alleyway between Kingfisher and Woodpecker.

EAST MALLING AND LARKFIELD

2. KCC Officers have confirmed that they placed Larkfield Library and Woodlands Children's Centre at St James Community Centre on the Call for Sites Map because they believe these sites have potential for development before 2031. This has been done without reference to councillors. I have pointed out that the entire St James Community Centre is in fact on the map. The map has caused great anger and distress amongst volunteers and staff who feel their contribution to these services is being ignored.

EAST MALLING

3. Gallagher Aggregates have agreed to fund ragstone blocks upon which the interpretive panels designed by pupils of The Malling School will be mounted at the Clare Lane end of the lake. The lake banks are establishing well and grass cutting is to take place now the wild flowers have shed their seed. PROW officers are meeting the contractor to discuss safe removal of the concrete fence.

4. The Wateringbury path section south of Huntleys cottage is due to be excavated during October.

5. TMBC is consulting residents on the placing of notices around Lunsford Green prohibiting parking on the Green and on the path at its southern end. Any offender can then be penalised in the same way as on street parking with the same penalties.

6. Cottenham Close has been micro-asphalted.

7. Temporary Road Closure – High Street, East Malling – from 23 October 2015 for up to 10 days To complete the gas mains laying. KCC requested additional workmen to complete the work.

LARKFIELD

8. I am arranging a site meeting at New Hythe Station to discuss the spending of £4,000 held by KCC for station improvements.

9. TMBC is consulting residents on the placing of notices around Lunsford Green prohibiting parking on the Green and on the path at its southern end. Any offender can then be penalised in the same way as on street parking, with the same penalties.

10. TMBC has confirmed that a much larger sum than the £300,000 reported is available for development of the Leybourne Lakes visitor centre. Some clarity is needed on the final total.

11. I have asked for Footway clearance of the paths adjacent to the country park at the Papyrus Way junction, and hedge clearance which is obstructing the footway at Marlowe Road

12. I have asked Mike Parry Waller chairman of the Area 3 Planning Committee for a site meeting for the Road Road application. There are issues surrounding PROW views, building design and access which cannot be appreciated from the road.

GENERAL

13 KCC progress towards a commissioning authority got a blow with the failure to be able to agree a contract for the delivery of back office services. There will be discussion about why this happened in a situation which KCC had been engaged in for over a year, and must have been one of the most lucrative local authority contracts available in the market,

14. Government has confirmed that free school meals for infants will continue, after having flagged up that the service would be stopped.

15. KCC has asked government to transfer receipt of the New Homes Bonus, (payment made on each new home built in a council area) to KCC instead of to the Borough Councils as at present. It argues that the heaviest costs of new homes is born by KCC in road and school building, and education and social service provision. Opponents to the change argue that there would be a loss of money flowing to the local area if this change were to happen.

16. My Dragons Den event is being held on November 21st at The Malling School. Please encourage any local groups to put in applications for their projects. Five successful projects can win up to £2,000 each. Contact Anne.Charman@kent.gov.uk for application forms.

17. The proposal to merge all TMBC three area planning committees into one will be discussed at today's TMBC Cabinet meeting. It is disappointing that the Parishes were not consulted, particularly through the Parish Partnership Panel which had held a recent meeting, or the area committee of KALC as the legislation allowing the creation of such committees requires prior consultation beforehand with Parish Councils. The Borough Council has argued such consultation is not required to abolish them. However it is clearly a negation of the Parish Charter. I am aware of letters of objection which have been sent from Parish councils from Watlingbury, Ightham, Borough Green, Kings Hill, and Ditton, and both the Conservation Groups and Parish Councils in East and West Malling. Parishes have raised issues of lack of local knowledge in a very diverse Borough, increased delegated decisions, restriction of speeches of councillors, applicants and objectors, and the possibility of decisions being made in the Malling area by a preponderance of Tonbridge councillors.