

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR SANDWICH
WEDNESDAY 23rd MARCH 2011 AT 7PM, GUILDHALL

Present: The Mayor- Councillor Terence Clifford-Amos (CA)
 Councillors John Bragg (JB), Mrs Delia Creedy (DC), Mrs Jaqueline
 Dunay (JD), Paul Graeme(PG), Mark Moorhouse (MM),
 Richard Perry (RP), John Scollard (JS), Brian Scott (BS), Jeff
 Sneller (JSN),
 County Councillor L Ridings (LR)
 PC Ian Woodland (IW)
 PCSO Ian Norton (IN)
 Chief Inspector Kenneth Elmes (KE)
 Gillian Gayton-DDC Open Golf Project Officer (GG)
 Steve Whitlock-Southern Gas Networks (SW)
 Shaun Chalk-Southern Gas Networks (SC)
 44 Members of the Public

1. The Mayor welcomed all those present, thanked them for attending the meeting and informed them that a selection of relevant paperwork was available from the table at the rear of the hall.
2. Apologies were given for the following-
 Laura Sandys MP
 Councillor Paul Carter, Leader of KCC
 The Environment Agency
 Kent Highway Services
 DDC Property Services, Planning, Parking Services, Waste Services, Parks and Open Spaces
 District Councillor David Mayes
 District and Town Councillor Bernard Butcher
 District and Town Councillor Simon Leith (who entered the meeting at 7.55pm)
 Town Councillors Joe Trussler, Richard Daw, Jeremy Watts and Paul Carter
3. The Mayor presented a report on the Town Council's activities over the past year.
4. The notes of the Annual Town Meeting, held on 17th March 2010 were read, approved and signed
5. No matters arising were reported or raised.
6. Un-audited accounts for the period to 28th February 2011 were circulated and no questions were raised.
7. A question and answer session then took place, details of which are attached.
8. The Mayor thanked all those present for their input and pledged that the council would strive to make outside agencies accountable for matters in Sandwich.
9. The meeting ended at 9pm.

Annual Town Meeting
23 March 2011
Questions and Responses

Question	Response	Action
Can you explain the PACE Scheme further?	The PACE Scheme consists of display of a car window sticker and relies on consensual participation in adherence to the 20mph limit. The scheme needs to be further invigorated and publicised. The Traffic Forum will be looking at the installation of several informal ramped crossings within the town and consultation will take place on their installation. The bigger picture will look at reducing the amount of traffic in the town.	KHS/Sandwich Traffic Forum
Can traffic in King Street be eliminated or reduced?	This will be looked at by the Traffic Forum	KHS/Sandwich Traffic Forum
Can DDC justify the expenditure of £100,000 on the Open Golf Tournament and why are there no other DDC officers present at this meeting?	The expenditure has been on infrastructure improvements. There is a meeting at DDC tonight and this is the reason for councillors not attending.	
Will contractors for the Open Golf, using St Georges Road, be allowed to use the road during unsocial hours?	The movement of traffic in St Georges Rd during unsocial hours should be restricted to the dates of the tournament itself.	
How will Sandwich benefit from the Open Golf Tournament as in 2003 the town was dead during the day?	In 2003, the tournament attracted revenue of 17 million pounds. The ensuing months and years showed an increase in returning tourism. No accommodation for the Open Golf is remaining in East Kent. It is envisaged that the Open Golf will be responsible for a peak in visitors over the next 2-3 years. Golfing tourism in Kent is greatly encouraged.	
Will a police check-point be stationed at the junction of the Dover/ Deal Road as in 2003?	Yes	
Our property in Strand Street has been struck 3 times by vehicles. Inconsiderate parking and non-enforcement of parking restrictions are adding to the problems.	Illegal parking is the responsibility of DDC. The size of vehicles entering the town needs to be restricted, although the Stagecoach buses need access. The Traffic Forum will look at ways in which the situation can be improved and it	DDC Parking Services/KHS/ Sandwich Traffic Forum
	may be possible to introduce kerb markings which also	

Annual Town Meeting
23 March 2011
Questions and Responses

	restrict unloading and loading in certain areas. Permanent design solutions are required. Kent Police will enforce legislation where necessary. JB stated that pedestrians should be given priority in the town.	
What can be done about vehicles being parked in Delfside which exceed the 2-hour limit and receive no penalty for doing so?	DDC will be informed and requested to patrol and enforce on a more regular basis.	DDC Parking Services
What is the present situation regarding the gas works in the town?	SW gave a summary of future works and his report is attached to these notes. He offered to talk to individuals at the end of the meeting. He emphasised that KHS has stipulated stringent time frames for the work to be completed and failure to meet these time frames would result in penalties being imposed on SGN. Work throughout the town will commence after 7am. It may at times appear that works are not being carried out as quickly as they can but this is not the case and there will be reasons why workmen are at times not visible on site but work, such as testing, is still being carried out. SW emphasised that all businesses in the town had received compensation packs and only 1 business had claimed.	SGN/KHS
Will roads affected by gas works be re-surfaced?	The roads will not be re-surfaced but re-instated. However, any planned re-surfacing by KHS will be co-ordinated into the gas works.	
Drivers are escaping parking charges in the town by parking to the north of the Toll Bridge. This is causing dangerous overtaking.	There are no currently no parking restrictions in this area Parked cars are naturally slowing traffic down. The manner of driving is a hazard, not the parked cars themselves.	
Vehicles, particularly those displaying disabled badges are being parked in Strand Street at the Bell Hotel end where the road divides and this is causing problems with congestion.	The matter will be passed to Parking Services at DDC	DDC Parking Services

Annual Town Meeting
23 March 2011
Questions and Responses

<p>What is being done about the boats on the Quay which are in a bad state of repair and what is being done about the weeds and reeds?</p>	<p>The situation regarding the boats is being monitored by DDC, who own the Quay. Environmental Health action has been taken over noise pollution. Laura Sandys is involved in trying to resolve current issues. Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners are responsible for navigation on the river. It is envisaged that the landscape of the Quay will be greatly improved with installation of flood defences. Current legislation regarding wildlife prevents the reeds from being cut.</p>	<p>DDC/Environment Agency</p>
<p>Why does DDC not enforce the 28 day time restriction on boats on the Quay?</p>	<p>DDC is aware of the concerns of STC and is taking action.</p>	<p>DDC</p>
<p>Has the previous suggestions to change the sequence of lights on the traffic lights on the Toll Bridge advanced?</p>	<p>A break in the lights would mean that pedestrians could use the bridge safely. The Traffic Forum will be looking into this although KHS have previously stated that it would be difficult and not cost-effective. The Traffic Forum will look at ways this can be managed, possibly by the installation of bollards or a wider pavement on one side of the Toll Bridge.</p>	<p>KHS/Sandwich Traffic Forum</p>
<p>Can something be done about the speed of vehicles along Ash Road?</p>	<p>This will be looked at by the Traffic Forum.</p>	<p>Sandwich Traffic Forum/KHS</p>
<p>I recently spoke at a town council meeting regarding maintenance of rights of way but have had no reply?</p>	<p>The KCC rights of way officer was contacted after the meeting but has not yet replied.</p>	<p>KCC/STC</p>
<p>Why has the STC of council tax risen by 13.6%?</p>	<p>STC has agreed to take a number of functions over from DDC as they were considered important services to the town and residents. These include management and total funding of the Tourist Information Centre, Quay public conveniences and Bulwarks play area, and management of Poulders play area. The majority of the council's reserves have been expended on these services.</p>	
<p>What is the current situation regarding 57 New</p>	<p>Negotiations and planned enforcement are continuing.</p>	<p>DDC</p>

Annual Town Meeting
23 March 2011
Questions and Responses

Street?	Progress is being made.	
My property in Church Street St Marys has been sruck again. What can be done?	Various options, such as the installation of bollards or extended pavements, but all these have been rejected by KHS, despite the fact that LR offered funding. KHS will be visiting Sandwich in the near future to discuss informal ramped crossings and we will discuss this matter at the same time. Signs to limit vehicle size and weight are an additional possibility	KHS/ Sandwich Traffic Forum
The drains in the vicinity of The Red Cow are emitting an offensive odour.	KHS will be contacted	KHS
I share frustration over the Task Force which has been set up to deal with the Pfizer site.	Although the area was not included in the Enterprise Zones announced in the budget it is possible that it may be when further Enterprise Zones are announced later in the year. No Sandwich representatives are included on the Task Force. A report has recently been submitted by the Task Force and 10 companies have shown an initial interest in parts of the site.	
I own a shop in the town and I am concerned about the lack of people shopping in the town. The gas works and the Open Golf will affect foot-flow. What is STC doing to encourage tourism?	We are negotiating a day trip package with the market manager to encourage coach parties. A marketing strategy for the future will be organised with the Chamber of Commerce and we are contributing to the recently-formed Tourism Initiative Board. (Steve Laslett from the Chamber of Commerce and the Sandwich-Honfleur Twinning Association will be organising a series of events in the town on 2011 and 2012)	STC/Chamber of Commerce/Sandwich Tourism Initiative Board/
We need signposts from The Quay to indicate the way to the shops.	STC will request KHS to investigate.	KHS/STC