

MINUTES

Barden Residents Association Meeting

Wednesday 24th January 2018

In Attendance

Mark Hood (Chair), Gill Sargent, Matt Sargent, Martin Coulstock, Katharine & Tim Bond (Tonbridge Boatyard), John & Alison Cackett, Jo Murphy, Diane Morgan, Greg Fox, Andy Thistlewood, Harry Elliott, Felix Wenzel, Fran Long, Richard Long (KCC Councillor)

Approval of Minutes & Apologies

Mark Hood (chair) called the meeting to order and the previously circulated minutes from 28th November were approved. Apologies from Lucy Athey, Martin Latham, Jo Young, Claire O'Shea, Megan LeGoubin, Jade Langridge.

Bus Services/20mph Campaign

KCC Councillor Richard Long kindly attended the meeting and confirmed KCC's recent announcement that the list of bus cuts recently published in local press was an "at risk" list rather than a list of those definitely being cut, and that there is not an immediate threat to local services (including the 211 which covers the Barden area). MC asked if passengers could be polled as part of any future cuts/reductions and RL confirmed that there would be a public consultation. RL was unable to say how long services would be safe for prior to a new proposal but said a calendar year safe was a good guess.

We have written to the Joint Transportation Board asking for consideration to make Barden a 20mph zone. MH explained to RL why the Speed Watch survey was impractical in Barden area and emphasised that we are surrounded by 20mph zones in Slade, Meadow Lawn and the High St. RL thinks that the 20mph zone in the High St is advisory but said he is happy to back the Barden 20mph limit if it comes to table at the Joint Transportation Board.



Tonbridge Station Works

There is currently a public survey on improving pedestrian access to Tonbridge Station.

<https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/TonbridgeStationRevisedDesign> This includes a proposal to move the car drop off point to Priory Road, as TMBC are not keen to move the taxi rank (RL has concerns about this). MH asked if the second consultation on the High St layout is due, RL confirmed there will be a review but details are unknown.

Parking Scheme/Business Permits

MH updated all on the current status, TMBC are not displaying any urgency to review the use of business permits in D2, citing the extra work involved in amending the revised scheme as a factor in the delay (even though TMBC were responsible for the initial confusion). We will continue to push our TMBC Cllrs to support us and keep the pressure on officers. The group of residents leading this subject will now include D2 residents Martin Coulstock and Greg Fox. Martin Latham pointed out (via Facebook) that the new gym is advertising free parking, but we are unsure where (or if this a typo as the leaflet also says it is in Aberdeen!). MC wants to do a door knock to poll residents about D2 business permits, MH asked if he was willing and able to create a survey – MC kindly agreed to do this.

Barden Boatyard Returns

New leaseholder Tim Bond has taken on a long lease and wants to restore the boatyard to how it was and bring back a nice community. A message from Tim was recently posted on the Facebook group including his contact details, he is happy to take advice and also needs a commercial electrician to work on the boatyard if anyone can recommend one. We look forward to it opening in April and perhaps welcoming back some familiar faces.



Litter Blitz

Lucy has proposed we coordinate the next Litter Blitz to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean and have it on **Sunday 4th March**. All agreed to this date with a slightly later start time of 11am to encourage more to attend.

<http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>

Anti-Social Behaviour

The main issue is still the large group of teens on bikes. MC asked if we had a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Barden, there isn't currently a scheme but no-one present was able to set one up.

The Nelson Arms

Still no news of opening date, we will spread the word among local residents once it does.

River Lawn/Medical Centre

The Medical Centre planning application (which now acknowledges that it did flood in 2013) is due at the February Area 1 Planning Committee. The KRLG registration of footpaths is slowing the process. It was discussed how pollution is a possible risk. The KRLG application for Village Green status is still a work in process.

Flood Warden Briefing (Martin Coulstock)

MC called for residents in Barden's flood affected areas to help create a community flood plan and to suggest what was missing/what they needed last time. He also appealed for more flood wardens.

AOB

- Enterprise House will possibly be finished by February.
- Currently £417 in funds, it was agreed to donate £100 to 1st Tonbridge Scouts as they kindly let us use their hall for all our meetings.
- Lucy has put together a flyer to be hand delivered by volunteers to all local residences advertising the existence of BRA with information on our meetings and what we do. MC asked if Flood Warden information could be added to it.

Next Meetings

Meetings usually alternate on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to enable as many people as possible to attend.

The next meetings are;

Tuesday 27th March 2018

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

Tuesday 17th July 2018

Litter Blitz

Sunday 4th March – 11am

