

# MINUTES

Barden Residents Association Meeting

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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## In Attendance

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Mark Hood (Chair), Lucy Athey (secretary), Fran Long (treasurer), Felix Wenzel, Megan LeGoubin, Jo Young, Claire O'Shea, Matt Sargent, Gill Sargent, John Cackett, Colin Clark, Angela Clark, Maureen Coulstock, Martin Coulstock, Glynn Rees, Robert Cronin, Cathy Chadwick, Frankie Brady

## Approval of Minutes & Apologies

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Mark Hood (chair) called the meeting to order and the previously circulated minutes from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 were agreed. Apologies from Rebecca Cobby, Jo Murphy, Averil Langridge, Julie Lane

## 20mph Campaign/High St & Station Works

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Mark has been in touch with Cllrs Long and Payne, as requested we have forwarded to them a PDF version of the 500+ signature petition asking for Barden to be a 20mph zone. We will now have to wait for this to be added to the agenda of the Joint Transport meeting. A discussion was had re democracy and our voices not being heard, unfortunately our local Cllrs were unable to come to this meeting.



At the last meeting it was agreed to have a survey on the FB group on the effect of the new bus stops and road layout, however it transpired (after consulting Cllr Long) that there would be no further consultation by KCC.

## Business Permits

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We had invited Cllr Bolt and Cllr Cure (and the officers responsible for the changes) to this meeting to explain their thinking behind the changes but they were unable to attend. They believe their latest decision (made without consultation) will be of benefit to our area; all the business permits that need to be renewed are to be moved from D2 to other roads beyond the bridge and also to "quieter" roads in western D1. BRA have suggested that TMBC offer Howard Cundy – who are moving to River Lawn road - season tickets to reduce business permits immediately (rather than giving them permits in Barden streets). We have submitted a Freedom of Information request to find out what criteria TMBC are using in issuing business permits and the numbers that are issued to other parking schemes in the area (as they have not responded to our previous written requests).

BRA have conducted a "Better Parking" survey in D1 and D2 (up to the bridge), overall 75% of residents who responded said they would not like to see **any** business permits in Barden. Many thanks to Martin Coulstock and his team of helpers (Maureen Coulstock, Megan LeGoubin, Greg Fox, Mark Hood, Fran Long and Claire O'Shea) who polled the area with the knock and drop survey. 482 houses were issued the survey, of which 163 or 33.8% responded. This is a higher return than when TMBC polled the area last year. Now we have this data we plan to go back to the council with residents' responses.

There are also concerns about the Medical Centre which we believe has inadequate parking for the staff employed and also the 14 flats being built on the old night club site which only have 11 spaces. It was suggested that we contact the local press to see if they would be interested in covering our problem and how we are not being listened to by councillors. We will also inform Cllr Long and Tom Tugendhat that we intend doing this.

There were concerns about illegal parking on the cobbles by the BT building and also parking on pavements.

## Assets of Community Value

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We are surprisingly the only organisation to recently nominate these in Tonbridge – The Nelson Arms and River Lawn. It was agreed we should nominate 1<sup>st</sup> Tonbridge Scouts and the Allotments to protect the land. The Civic Society has failed to nominate any assets in the last two years. We will write to Tonbridge Allotment Garden Association to suggest they do this, and offer to help them if needed. Lucy to contact them on behalf of BRA.

## Street Trees

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The street trees in the area are in the need of pollarding and also many are looking in very poor condition after being sprayed with weed killer by KCC. Several residents are known to have contact the council concerned about this. Locals residents can report overgrown trees, it is worth mentioning if they are below eye level. We will put the link on the fb page so people can report their own street and also write on behalf of BRA.

## New Signs

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We have asked the relevant departments at TMBC for permission to place signs at Barden Lake and the station pointing to Barden Stores and The Nelson Arms. MH has contacted Cllr Maria Heslop who has passed it on to the relevant people at the Country Park. He has also contacted David Lettington as he is responsible for Tonbridge Street Scene.

Two of our noticeboards have been damaged, many thanks to Angela Clark for cleaning up the board by the park. MH has bought new perspex for both, unfortunately the wrong size was delivered but he has asked them to re-send the correct sizing. The board on the station will also need to be moved when the cycle hub is built.

## AOB

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- The plants that we installed in the beds outside the station have sadly been strimmed flat before we could relocate them. The beds are scheduled to be removed when the station cycle hub is built.
- Jo asked the council what they are planning to do with the damaged bridge next to the swimming pool, Fran has also contacted local councillor Georgina Thomas. At present it is unclear whether they will be repairing it in the near future. Many Barden residents prefer to use this bridge when walking their children to Slade School. The alternate bridge is narrow and steep and inconvenient for the elderly and those with young children.
- We now have a privacy policy for Barden Residents Association which has been published on the FB group and website <https://www.bardenresidentsassociation.org/privacy-policy>
- The next meeting is our AGM; we urgently need a vice-chair to stand who could alternate chairing the meetings with the chair. As all officers have now stood for 3 years, which is the limit in our constitution, we are also looking for residents to stand for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Anyone interested in finding out more about what this entails should contact Mark, Lucy or Fran.
- The medical centre planning permission should be completed by August, it is possible that building will start then. Keep River Lawn Green – KRLG are still awaiting responses from TMBC to their requests and have taken legal advice regarding this.

## Next Meetings

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Meetings usually alternate on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to enable as many people as possible to attend and are held at the Scout Hut in Lambert's Yard (unless advertised being elsewhere).

The next meetings are;

**AGM - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018**