

BY HAND - RBBC

Pine Court  
Mill Road  
Tadworth  
Surrey  
KT20 7TE  
14<sup>th</sup> March. 2015

Dear Ms Rose,

**TADWORTH FORUM**

I include or attach the information requested yesterday.

1. I formally confirm, in writing, my agreement to the use of the contact details I have already made available namely my name and address and the Email at Chapman & Son. Chris Chapman confirms his agreement to the latter being used and has signed this letter.
2. I enclose a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting held today confirming the details already supplied, the adoption of the Forum and other matters.
3. I am grateful for the new map provided and have completed it. The proposed area does not impinge on any area governed by a Parish Council or a locality doing a Neighbourhood Plan.  
  
It has been extended onto Banstead Heath and round Tadworth from a mere fringe to ensure any village creep between Tadworth and Walton will be the subject of its proposals. The Council is the Lord of the Manor at Tadworth (which carries rights) and there is uncertainty over the impact of these rights. In addition, the Forum has concerns following certain instances where controls at law appear to have been inadequate in practice.  
  
Should the Council wish to use its software to insert the detail onto a similar map, the Forum would be grateful but not if it is going to delay the public consultation process.
4. In order to be as co-operative as possible, I attach a statement in support of the Application although the Forum is not convinced that this is a legal requirement. As you know, the principles have been incorporated in its constitution and/or made clear earlier.
5. The Surrey Mirror has already published articles about the Forum (please see Mike Fox's column regarding Tadworth).

The Forum should be grateful if you would confirm the start of public consultation by the Council.

Yours sincerely



CARL CHAPMAN



M. CD WALKING (MOORE)

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (“EGM”) OF THE TADWORTH FORUM (the “Forum”) (held on short notice) ON SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2015 IN THE PARADE, TADWORTH STREET, TADWORTH AT 9.30 a.m ON.**

**ATTENDEES**

Mr Chris Chapman, Mr Peter Bowden, Mr Andy Ffoulkes, Mrs Diane Ffoulkes, Mrs Deirdre Walkling, and Mr Kim Walkling and those people whose signatures and names are set out in the Attendance Sheets below.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Mike Hopkins

**1 PURPOSE OF THE FORUM’S EGM**

1.1 The Forum is anxious to ensure that Reigate & Banstead Borough Council (the “Council”) do not delay the start of the six week public consultation period. The Forum lodged draft documents and, over a week ago, final documents with the Council. This followed three meetings with the Council, two meetings in the Church Hall, the circulation of letters to The Tadworth Business Forum Members and local schools and the posting of three notices in the village as well as canvassing many local residents.

1.2 The Constitution of the Forum had already been made available to members of the Forum and approved as had the appointment of the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson.

1.3 Despite the fact that there is no legal requirement to do so and we have contacted forums in other boroughs which have not had to do so, we have been requested by the Council after a week on 13<sup>th</sup> March to provide formal minutes regarding these decisions.

1.4 The purpose of this EGM is to do so in order to try and prevent any further delay by the Council in relation to the public consultation process.

1.5 The Forum has decided to use this opportunity to issue a brief update to members and others on the progress on local issues so that they are aware of them as soon as practical.

**2. RESOLUTIONS**

2.1 It is **HEREBY RESOLVED** that the following actions and documents already approved are formally approved and ratified by the Forum namely:-

(i) The signed Constitution of the Forum dated 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015;

(ii) The name of the Forum being the Tadworth Forum (including the Tadworth Business Forum and people living, working and/or representing Tadworth); and

(iii) The appointment of the initial Chairperson, Mr Peter Bowden, acting in the absence of Mr Chris Chapman; the Chairperson as of 9<sup>th</sup> March onwards, Mr Chris Chapman ("CC") and the Vice Chairperson Mrs Deirdre Walkling ("DW").

2.2 The Council has provided a larger map of the area in its letter of 13<sup>th</sup> March and it is hereby **HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED** that DW should provide an outline of the area already discussed and posted in the village and any other information she thinks fit to expedite the process with the Council or that the Council legitimately requests including a statement in favour of the application - the basis of which has already been discussed with it, by the members and in meetings.

**These Resolutions were duly put to the Meeting by the Chairman and passed unanimously on a show of hands.**

### **3. BRIEF UPDATE ON VILLAGE ISSUES**

#### **3.1 Sainsbury's**

As we expected, Sainsbury's has appealed the refusal of a convenience store on part of the former Mini Garage to the Secretary of State.

CC and DW are having a conference with Council, Dr Ashley Bowes, on 16<sup>th</sup> March at 2 pm in Guildford to do a Rule 6 application so that the Forum can present its own case as opposed to the limited grounds the Council's decision letter is based on. Anyone interested is welcome to join them.

For those people who have signed the Petition done earlier, please be aware that if they want their views to be taken into account by the Inspector they will need to Email or write to the Inspectorate before 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2015 - Good Friday (CC has the details) as signature alone of a petition does not count. Councillor Broad is conflicted out and Councillor Vivona has actively supported Sainsbury's

#### **3.2 Significant Re-organisation of and Cuts in The Council and Surrey**

It appears that the Council's staff has dropped by at least 50% in about two years and the Town Hall is now occupied to a significant level by Surrey County Council ("SCC") and the Police. This is reflected in the rates bill as

only about £380 of DW's goes to the Council with £300 odd going to the Police and £2,000 to SCC.

It has been reported in the Local Newspaper that SCC is now sharing services with East Surrey which presumably means more cuts and outsourcing.

It seems the Council has expanded its Help Desk but made large cuts elsewhere. The Head of Legal is shared with another Local Authority, there is one officer on Building Conservation across the Borough, two officers in Enforcement and planning is referred to a Duty Planning Officer (n.b there are other planning officers). Last Friday week around 3pm no one in Planning was available nor was Kelvin Hinton, the Head of Department or the Deputy CEO to discuss Sainsburys. The CEO's secretary has failed to revert with information about the cut backs, the level of full time and part time staffing and the amount and cost of out-sourcing. Consequently, the Forum will need to follow this up with a request under The Freedom of Information Act ("FOI").

n.b The Council has not yet complied with a previous FOI by DW several months ago regarding the former Leader, Mrs Joan Spiers. She appears on a Google entry to be calling herself a "Property Consultant". The request was for information about her connection, if any, with Chinthurst's sale and 25 year lease back (with 5/10 year buy back options) of its Upper School buildings and half its playing fields and its development proposals (not yet applied for) and other local projects for instance Gemini.

Incidentally it is understood Epsom Council outsourced its Planning Department to a firm in Reigate several years ago.

### **3.3 Weekly Planning Update and Planning Notices**

Sometimes the date on the yellow Planning Notices posted outside proposed sites is handwritten and illegible. The Council is not obliged to post them. We think they should be posted (particularly in light of problems with the weekly lists) and the dates must be typed in or legible as they trigger the 21 day consultation period.

There have been a lot of problems in getting the weekly planning list which should be available on the Council's website normally on a Thursday. A member of the Forum has been chasing the Council on this and apparently the system is getting back to normal now but it did adversely affect the application in 3.4 below for a while.

### **3.4 The New Mobile Phone Mast at The Church of the Good Shepherd**

The current mast has two antennae and is just below the tree line (silver birch). Time was very short on this in the light of point 3.3. DW on behalf of the Forum has objected to the replacement mast which is about 16.4 feet higher than the present one and so will rise for many years well above the tree line (which of course is deciduous). The replacement would have a larger frame at the top to take four extra antennae. This is not thought to be appropriate when there are other sites which are not beside a locally listed 1916 Church; the replacement mast would dominate the hill down to the village and harm the character of the village.

### **3.5 Gemini**

The Development Department has confirmed that Mr Trevor Cripps is discussing with it a significant development of flats and a smaller retail unit at Gemini. The Forum has informally expressed reservations about the lack of parking (or the lease should prohibit car ownership as it can in some London Boroughs) and the potential loss of a restaurant (or retail space).

### **3.6 Banstead Commons Conservators ("BCC")**

BCC were initially set up in the late 1800s as an independent body with the likes of Sir Francis Baring on the Board to manage Banstead Common.

BCC are now appointed by the CEO of the Council and are predominantly made up of Local Councillors (Mr Broad etc and some from Sutton). BCC are suffering from reduced funding. A notice of re-election of BCC was posted on the notice boards on the Heath by the Council with an application date ending on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. DW and her husband have applied but hold out little prospect of success despite the fact they have both worked in finance and have lived on the Heath for over 17 years.

### **3.7 General**

Anyone is clearly entitled to express any additional or contrary views on any of the matters summarised in these Minutes as the Forum is intended to encourage a reasoned debate on issues as early as possible in the planning process.

Any comment can be directed to the Council or CC and the Forum will ensure comments to it are passed on.

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed. The content of these MINUTES were duly recorded as an accurate record of the EGM held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2015

Chairman - Mr Chris Chapman



Attendance Sheet

Name	Signature	Resident/worker or other
JOHN PARTRIDGE		RESIDENT.
SARAH NICHOLS		RESIDENT
PETER BOWEN		WORKER
GEORGIE CLARK		Resident.
SUZI WOOD		RESIDENT.
MICHELLE MCGHEE		RESIDENT / PARENT.
C. SANDER		RESIDENT.

## **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION BY THE TADWORTH FORUM**

1. The name of the local forum is the Tadworth Forum.
2. A copy of the written constitution of the Tadworth Forum (the "Constitution") was lodged with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council (the "Council") on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 after local consultation.

The Tadworth Forum has consulted widely within the local community including residents, shoppers and workers in Tadworth and has already summarised the process it has followed to the Council and Councillor Turner. The formation of the Tadworth Forum has been covered in Articles in The Surrey Mirror.

3. The Neighbourhood Area is Tadworth and surrounding heath as shown on the Map lodged with the Council on 6<sup>th</sup> March and in a wider format delivered on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 and as referred to in the Constitution.

4. Contact details have been lodged with the Council to be made public by it.

### **5. Tadworth Forum Statement**

- 5.1 The Tadworth Forum has been established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Neighbourhood Area.

It has done so already in many respects by involving the community in meetings and instituting the creation of a Tadworth Business Forum. The Tadworth Forum has started a process and a debate about all these issues in particular planning, parking and rat running and the threat to the community and the livelihood of the local shops posed by present applications and the impact on Tadworth of the Preston Regeneration Project.

The Tadworth Forum has already shown its determination to protect the character of Tadworth and the integrity of the heath surrounding it and to investigate ways of ensuring its upkeep and protection.

- 5.2 The Forum has made its membership open to individuals who live in the Neighbourhood Area, work there, shop there and local Councillors by arranging two public meetings, posting notices on the local notice boards and in the parade in Cross Road, Articles in the Surrey Mirror and by letters



to the schools and retailers, Emails and word of mouth. The Forum is setting up a website to facilitate communication but want to involve the community in debates in person as much as possible in order to strengthen a feeling of community and improve links between the different sections of it.

5.3 The Tadworth Forum has already had significant support from the residents, workers and shoppers in the Neighbourhood Area and the Tadworth Business Forum. As the Council knows there was a petition in respect of Sainsbury's initial planning application signed by a significant number of local people which was organised by some of the members of the Tadworth Forum.

The Tadworth Forum is still growing and has over 30 members in different areas within the Neighbourhood Area.

5.4 The Tadworth Forum has a written constitution (see above)

5.5 The steps that the Tadworth Forum has followed have already been summarised to the Council and are included in outline above.

5.6 A full list of the Tadworth Forum members as at 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 was provided to the Council then.