



Tonbridge Grammar School

Local Residents Meeting

Fri 16th June 2017 19:30 – 20:30hrs

Meeting Notes & Action Points

Attendees: Councillor Maria Heslop, Councillor Sarah Spence, Mrs Kay Topliss, Mr Nick Hebditch, Ms. Deborah Willock, Mr & Mrs Lukes, Mrs. Edina Hellyer, Mr & Mrs Lawes, Mr John Flitton, Mr Bill Seakins, Mr & Mrs Bragg, Mr Michael Guttman-Kenney, Mr Ian Terry, Mrs & Mrs Paulson, Mrs Disbrey, Mrs & Mrs Hateley, Mr Peter Ingrams, Mrs Gooden.

TGS: Mrs Rosemary Joyce, Head Teacher (**HT**), Mr Adrian Pitts, Assistant Head Teacher, (**AHT**), Mrs Pippa Blackstone, Development Director (**DD**) and Mr. Jeremy Kenyon, Facilities & Estates Manager (**FEM**).

Apologies: Mrs Sally Dyson, Chair of Governors (CG), Mr Jonathan Yates (Pinnacle Property Mngt) Mrs Hoskins (DL), Mr & Mrs Clements (DL)

- 1) Welcome, introductions and apologies.
- 2) FEM opened the meeting by explaining that the primary objective for these Residents' Meetings is to provide a forum for communication between the School and our neighbours, and to listen to any concerns or suggestions from local residents.

The current planning application for the pitch was already underway, and the consultation period for that had now been closed. It was important that this subject did not dominate proceedings at the expense of other issues. The School would be happy to pick up any update on any actions from ourselves later in the agenda, and will be happy to answer any clarifying questions.

- 3) **Actions Arising from December's Residents meeting**
 - Traffic management (agenda item)
 - Lettings (agenda item)
 - Lights (agenda item)
 - Building Development (agenda item)
 - Planning application multi – use sports pitch

After comments raised at both the Exhibition, the Dec. Residents Meeting and on the TMBC Portal, the School has carefully reviewed the proposed developments and made the following changes:

- Created a landscaping plan
- Addition of acoustic fencing around the North and East sides of the pitch
- Removed community use. TGS feel it is appropriate to share with local community – however it is clear that this issue is a concern to some residents. Subsequently the decision has been made to remove the Community Use from the Planning Application. (meaning school use only Mon-Fri until 18:30hrs & 10:00 – 14:30hrs Saturday.)

In answer to clarifying questions concerning funding and on-going maintenance, the HT explained that the AWP is privately funded by donations. Any revenue generated by hiring out the facility would have gone towards upkeep, but that the School had sufficient funds to operate without this.

In response to a question asking for a guarantee that the School would not seek to apply for a Change in Conditions at a later date, the HT said that this was not something the School would be prepared to commit to. At some stage in the future there may well be a requirement to seek a change to the operating hours, but if that ever was the case, the School would have to apply through the formal Planning Application Route, which would give an opportunity for local residents to communicate their views.

In response to a question as to why the location of the proposed extra car parking was situated where it was, the FEM explained that this was not additional, but re-located parking spaces. Due to the design of the proposed pitch, a portion of the overflow car parking would have to be developed, hence the need to move to the proposed location.

In answer to a question concerning the use of the Pavilion and whether there would be additional external lighting to that structure, the FEM explained that there would be low level lighting to the car park area to allow people to return to their cars safely. The current application for hours of usage included the Pavilion.

4)

Travel Action Group Update.

The AHT gave an update on the continuing work from the TAG, which had met the previous month. There had been a slight recorded decrease in the use of Public Transport during this year's survey, which is thought to be a combination of the significant cost of a Freedom Pass for 16+ pupils, the unreliability of the bus services, and the ongoing strike action with Southern Rail. There had been a slight increase recorded in car sharing and staff walking to the School. (See website for full minutes from the May meeting

<https://www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/neighbours/>)

There were general comments from the meeting regarding inconsiderate parking, plus the issue of overcrowding on the pavements around the bus stops. There were also concerns raised about the state of the road surface at the bottom of Deakin Leas. Although this has been patch repaired a number of times, it is already in a poor state of repair.

5) **Lettings Update**

The FEM updated the meeting with a review of the latest lettings. Both Dyslexia Action (Sat am), and PQA on (Sat pm) were no longer continuing at the School. Baby Ballet and Open University remained as recurrent lettings. No Sunday Lettings policy remains in place. The FEM also informed residents that the Barracudas Activity Camp had booked from Fri 21st – Fri 18th Aug.

6) **Building Development / Planned Maintenance**

The FEM informed the meeting that the Condition Improvement Fund Bids mentioned at the last meeting were unsuccessful, so no major works were planned during the Summer break, other than general on-going repairs and maintenance. All of the outstanding tree maintenance had been completed during the Easter break and was now up to date.

7) **External Site Lighting**

3 x new digital timers installed. Set M-F until 21:10 with light sensors to override. The manual override switches had been removed. The FEM stated that the School was committed to monitor the external lighting, and ensure that it is reduced as far as practicable while maintaining safety standards.

8) **A.O.B. (to be notified in advance please)**

- **Grounds management of bank my football field.** In answer to a question about the ongoing maintenance of the bank, the FEM explained that the scheduled annual clearing with a tractor-towed flail had to be postponed due to exams. This had now been completed.
- **Sharing of emails – responding to all.** In response to a request to “cc” all when responding to neighbours email enquiries, the FEM explained that this was against School policy. It also attracted responses not directed to the School.

Proposed Date of Next Meeting: ***Fri 1st Dec. 2017***

Meeting Closed at 20:40hrs.