

## TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



### NOTES OF A NON-QUORATE MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE TOURISM & BUSINESS COMMITTEE HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017

**Councillor Members Present:** M. Carter (Chairman), and J. Nelson.

**Non-Councillor Members Present:** Mrs. S. Barber and Mr. J. Crawford.

**Officers Present:** Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess and Deputy Town Clerk Mr. R. Parham.

**Others Present:** Ms. S. Welch, Mr. S. Robinson (Tenterden & District Chamber of Commerce) and Mr. M. Yonge (Kent & East Sussex Railway).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Cllrs. Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Ferguson, Mulholland and Mrs. Smith, and Mr. R. Hardingham. As the meeting was not quorate (having less than half the voting members) it was closed.

Cllr. Carter reported that it was intended that the next meeting of the **HIGH STREET REVITALISATION SUB-COMMITTEE** would deal more with the High Street; previous meetings had focussed exclusively on the area around the Waitrose car park, as necessitated by plans to extend Ivy Court Surgery and redevelop the area to the rear of the old Embassy Cinema (M&Co).

Cllr. Carter reported that no further progress had been made by the **GREAT BRITISH HIGH STREET COMPETITION SUB-COMMITTEE**; it was waiting for the competition for 2017 to open before starting preparations.

Cllr. Carter reported that a debrief meeting regarding the **CHRISTMAS MARKET** had been held, with an encouraging turnout. Preliminary and secondary surveys had been circulated, and Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson was collating the returned surveys. He added that it was vital that any plan for a Christmas event in Tenterden addressed the wishes and concerns of residents, businesses and visitors. He was encouraged by the number of people who had expressed a willingness to volunteer to mount an event.

Ms. Welch gave a report outlining the advantage of a **CO-ORDINATED APPROACH TO TOURISM**. This centred on the creation of a Destination Management Plan which would be a collaboration between the Town Council and key local private-sector stakeholders such as the Kent & East Sussex Railway and Chapel Down Winery. Its scope should take in outlying villages as well as the town itself. If this were to be progressed, timing was of the essence; for this reason, Ms. Welch and Ms. Barber would meet to discuss it in greater detail, and a special meeting would be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April to consider their recommendations.

Mr. Yonge reported that the planning application regarding the possible extension of the **ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY** to Robertsbridge was due to be determined by Rother District Council on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, following a short delay which had been necessary for the legal team at RDC to investigate details pertaining to objections by local land owners. Mr. Yonge remained confident of a positive decision.

**End.**