

**TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL  
EXTERNAL COMMITTEE**

**Covid 19 Sub-Committee**

Notes of a meeting conducted by Zoom on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

<i>No</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	<b>Present:</b> Cllrs. M. Carter, Mrs. J. Curteis, Mrs. S. Ferguson, H. Hickmott, C. Knowles, Dr. L. Lovelidge, K. Mulholland, Mrs. P. Smith, A. Sugden. Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and Mrs. K. Nolan-Lyons.	
2	<b>Apologies.</b> Cllrs. J. Crawford and J. Nelson.	
3	<b>Declarations of Interest.</b> Cllr. Mrs. Smith declared an interest in the parking bays near her High Street shop and also the West end of the high street. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson declared an interest in Amy's Pantry, Potters and This Ancient Boro' due to them being members of MyTenterden.	
4	<b>Chairman.</b> Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson.	
5	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting.</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 were approved.	
6	<b>Matters arising.</b> None.	
7	<b>Important dates to note.</b> (a) 12 <sup>th</sup> April - retail, outdoor hospitality, self-catering accommodation etc. (b) 17 <sup>th</sup> May - indoor hospitality, Hotels, all entertainment. (c) 21 <sup>st</sup> June - removal of most restrictions.	
8	<b>Parking and suspended bays.</b> (a) ABC has agreed to extend the free parking until 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021 at both the Leisure Centre and Station Road Coach Park as are currently in place. (b) Bay suspensions – ABC has requested a gradual reduction in closed off bays. Phil reported that the request has been received from ABC to re-open East cross Layby and remove the Costa barriers. Mike would prefer them all to stay closed off and could see no reason to remove them until we are further out of the pandemic. The idea of closing the layby completely for the businesses outside Amy's Pantry & This Ancient Boro' was discussed. (c) Potential for Flower planters in bays to replace the barriers were discussed. ABC are against this proposal but KCC would have final say. KCC officers are to visit Tenterden this week to make a final ruling on this as well as the suggestion of table licences for within the barriered areas below. <u>East Cross</u> – it was suggested to consider closing this area completely. Sue had spoken to Potters and they are happy for ¾ of the layby to close as long as their delivery lorries have space to offload. Phil reported that we did try to close the layby before but it was refused by KCC and was even escalated to MP Damian Green. Sue reported that the Government have put out a letter about removing red tape for local councils. Phil reported that unfortunately there is no legislation to back this up. Claire reported that we need to agree on a timeframe for closing the layby to present to	

	<p>KCC; it was agreed to ask for <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> of the bay to be closed for a five-week period from 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The existing barriers would be moved to the entrance and exit areas to protect the layby. If KCC refuse to close the layby, it was agreed that we would need to keep the barriers in place for safe passage of pedestrians. Keli reported that Amy's Pantry will not be opening in April unless there is more available outside seating. This Ancient Boro' are keen to open up in April.</p> <p><u>Costa barriers</u> – Mike reported that it is one of the busiest areas so the barriers should be kept as well as the others. Keli commented that they keep people safe so all should stay as are for now and not spend extra money replacing them with something different. Pam wanted to keep the barriers but agreed that the aesthetics of them looked unwelcoming. Mike reported that we are only talking about a five-week period so stick with barriers and put concrete posts in the East Cross layby if the closure is approved. Claire suggested putting up some visually appealing banners on the barriers and Mike suggested some bunting. It was agreed to keep all the barriers and review again before 17<sup>th</sup> May once we know the latest guidance. Sue suggested just going for bunting rather than banners as this can be done quickly; this was agreed.</p>	<b>PB</b>
9	<p><b>Requirements from canvassed businesses.</b> Phil had circulated Keli's feedback from the businesses that had responded. Overall feedback was yes to picnic benches on the Recreation Ground with no requirement for benches on the East side of the high street.</p> <p>Keli has now also spoken to the Lemon Tree and they are not going to open until May and cannot see much changing than before.</p>	
10	<p><b>Tables and Chairs.</b> Sue asked how we are going to protect the picnic benches from being stolen or vandalised. Phil reported that the Maintenance Team can put them in the ground safely and anchor them. It was agreed that five are installed on the Recreation Ground and five on the greens between Montalbano and the War Memorial (at a cost of approximately £2,000 in total). Keli reminded the Committee that more litter bins need to be purchased and the emptying increased by the Maintenance Team. It was agreed that the Maintenance Team would keep an eye on the litter situation.</p>	<b>CG</b>
11	<p><b>Banners.</b> Banners only on railings, etc. and not to be put on barriers themselves. A4 notices for businesses to advertise the seating areas – it was agreed to report this to businesses rather than issue posters. Sue kindly agreed to update the parking banners ready for the extension period.</p>	<b>SF/CG</b>
12	<p><b>Town Hall.</b> Phil and Claire had their first vaccinations more than three weeks ago and attend the office regularly. When in together they wear masks in each other's presence. An appointment system is being run for those who need to call in person (foreign pensions etc) and this will be reviewed once the other staff are past their vaccination plus three weeks.</p>	
13	<p><b>Any Other Business.</b> Mike raised the issue with Brexit and the hike in costs for businesses who are importing and exporting. This is also causing time delays in obtaining goods. It is starting to</p>	

	cripple local businesses and we need to try and lobby Government about it. Sue reported that the Invicta Chamber are running a seminar tomorrow (16 <sup>th</sup> March) and encouraged people to sign up for this. People need to be signposted to this information. Keli has spoken to several businesses and people are being directed to Invicta Chamber on both our website and all social media platforms.	
14	<b>Date of next meeting.</b> It was agreed to call a meeting when required.	<b>ALL</b>