

Sevenoaks Town Partnership

Minutes of the Friends of Bat & Ball Station held at the Town Council Chamber at 7.00 pm Wednesday 8th February 2017

Present:

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| Cllr Tony Clayton – Vice Chairman | Sevenoaks Town Council/SRTA | Present |
| Linda Larter, Town Clerk | Sevenoaks Town Council | Present |
| Cllr Marilyn Canet | Sevenoaks Town Council | Present |
| Byron Brown | Bradbourne Residents Association | Present |
| Cllr Rachel Parry | Sevenoaks Town Council | Present |
| Cllr Richard Parry | Sevenoaks Town Council | Present |

Due to the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman Cllr Tony Clayton chaired the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Paul Towell, Alastair Boobyer and Adrian Cheeseman.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Friends of Bat & Ball Station held on 26th October 2017

The minutes were received and agreed.

3. Station Matters

It was noted that the Wayfinding sign had now been repaired and was in full working order.

Cllr Canet confirmed that talks had taken place with Matthew Dickins at SDC regarding signage to the station with no resolution to date.

The following comments were received by email from Alastair Boobyer:

1. Signage – Nearly every station that I know has a prominent road sign as well as the finger post, and this really should be up on Otford Road where there is a very out of date sign to “St Johns HQ”.
2. Surroundings – the hanging baskets are good and the garden is as good as it can be in mid-winter. Litter has previously been cleared on the approach road but is getting unsightly again, including yet another supermarket trolley down the bank. Unfortunately the rubbish behind Platform 1 still has not been touched and is much more visible in winter.

An update was received from the Town Clerk. Still on going issues with litter at the station, noting that STC clear the litter that is within their boundary. It was noted that STC had been having issues getting hold of Peter Stapleton regarding day to day issues at the station. Cllr Clayton suggested contacting Dan Morrison for help. Byron Brown confirmed he will provide contact details for the group that deals with the mainline station clear up.

It was noted that the new ticket machine had been installed and was in working order.

4. Bat & Ball Station Building Lease

I. Lease:

The Town Council had agreed the Heads of Terms for the 25 year peppercorn lease. Documents relating to the full lease were expected soon.

Southeastern had not confirmed a completion date for their works to the building.

Sevenoaks Town Council had also commissioned its own structural survey which highlighted more extensive work needed to the roof. The Town Council would liaise with Southeastern regarding this.

II. Planning Application

The planning application was submitted at the end of January 2017. The Town Council was awaiting approval from Southeastern to also use land at entrance for cycle racks and wooden compound for wheelie bin.

III. Heritage Lottery Fund Application update

The first round bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund was submitted in November 2016. The Town Clerk had been liaising with the Grants Officer. A decision was expected in March 2017.

The Heritage Lottery Fund Grants Officer had stated that if the Town Council was successful in March 2017, due to the amount of work undertaken to date the second round of development which would normally be timetabled for one year would be reduced to six months, enabling work to start on site from October 2017.

The railway Heritage Trust had expressed an interest in providing funding for repair/replacement sash windows.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30 p.m.