The Proclamation of King Charles III

We, the people of the Civil Parish of Southborough and High Brooms are united during this period of National Mourning following the passing of our late Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022. Our sadness at this time is shared by people across the globe, as we remember with affection and gratitude, the lifetime of service given by our longest reigning Monarch.

However, the basis on which our monarchy is built, has ensured that through the centuries, the Crown has passed in an unbroken line of succession. The Accession Council met in the State Apartments of St. James's Palace, London, to proclaim our new Sovereign in London on 10^{th} September 2022. This marks the formal Proclamation to the people of the United Kingdom, of the beginning of our new King's reign. The Proclamation was read by Garter King of Arms, accompanied by the Earl Marshal, other Officers of Arms, and the Sergeant's at Arms.

The flags which had flown at half-mast since The Queen's death were raised briefly to their full height to mark the start of His Majesty King Charles III's reign.

The Accession Council also made an Order requiring High Sheriffs to cause the Proclamation to be read in the areas of their jurisdiction. The proclamation of the new Sovereign is a very old tradition which can be traced back over many centuries. The ceremony does not create a new King. It is simply an announcement of the accession which took place immediately on the death of the reigning monarch.

In an age where modern methods of communication convey news around the globe in an instant, the proclamation is no longer how people learn for the first time that they have a new Monarch.

This is one of the first occasions when communities have an opportunity to come together and reflect on this moment in our nation's history, when the reign of our longest-serving Monarch came to an end and our new Sovereign succeeded.

The Chairmen of the Districts and Boroughs within each County are presented with copies of the proclamation, so that they may read the Proclamation to the people. In Tunbridge Wells Borough this was undertaken in Tunbridge Wells on Sunday 11th September 2022.

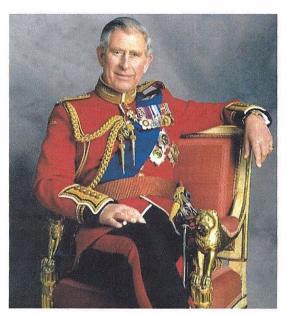
At Civil Parish level, a copy of the proclamation is displayed on noticeboards and websites with a copy placed within the minute book of the Parish Council.

The Proclamation of the Accession:

"Whereas it has pleased almighty God to call to his mercy our late Sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth II of blessed and glorious memory, by whose decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to the Prince Charles Philip Arthur George.

We, therefore, the lords spiritual and temporal of this realm, and members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty's Privy Council, and representatives of the realms and territories, aldermen, and citizens of London and others, do now hereby, with one voice and consent of tongue and heart, publish and proclaim that the Prince Charles Philip Arthur George, is now, by the death of our late Sovereign of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful liege lord, Charles III, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and of his other realms and territories, King, head of the Commonwealth, defender of the faith, to whom we do acknowledge all faith and obedience with humble affection, beseeching God, by whom kings and queens do reign, to bless His Majesty with long and happy years to reign over us."

God Save The King



SOUTHBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Southborough Town Council held on Thursday 28 July 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in the Unity Hall, Southborough Civic Centre, 137 London Road, Southborough Kent TN4 0NA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Ms Hill (Chair) Blackwell, Bullion, Elliott, Francis, Harris, Lane, Lewis- Grey, Munn, Prance, and Poile.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Tracy Kelly (Town Clerk) Paul Gosling (Finance Officer)

- APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE Councillors Backhouse, Clay, Lewis, and Wharton (Family Commitments) Kinghorn, Mrs Kinghorn (ill health)
- DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS none declared.
- **3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION** There were five members of Public in attendance and no Press present. Two members of the public spoke on item 7 of the agenda.

The Chair requested to move item 7 forward to enable it to be discussed straight after the Public open session.

Two members of public left straight after the Public Open session.

- 7. YEW TREE ROAD CAR PARK CHARGES TWBC Council Members discussed the recent proposal by TWBC to introduce charges during the free period of parking at the Yew Tree Road Car Park. It was NOTED that no formal approach to the Town Council had been made by TWBC. A consultation had now been arranged by the Borough Council to consult with all residents, but this was being conducted during August and only for a four-week period. Members AGREED for the Chair to write to the Borough on behalf of the Town Council expressing its concerns of the effects the proposal will have on both residents and businesses particularly at a time when many residents and business are already struggling financially. It was further NOTED that two Council Members had called a Town Meeting for the 3 August 2022 to enable its residents to express their views which would be passed onto the Borough Council.
- 4. MINUTES The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 30 June 2022 were APPROVED.
- COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes from the following meetings.

Planning and Transportation 04 July 2022
Open Spaces and Environment 05 July 2022

Finance and General Purposes 21 July 2022 – With the amendment of the addition of Cllr Munns name to the attendance.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – Members **NOTED** the Mayoral engagements verbally reported.

Councillor Lewis- Grey left the meeting at 8pm.

8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

It was proposed that during the consideration of the following items, the public and press shall be temporarily excluded (Standing Order 3 (c)): -

These items are considered confidential for the following reason(s) Information relating to the financial and personnel affairs of the Council.

a) Confidential Council and Committee Proceedings – Members APPROVED the following confidential minutes: -

Full Council Meeting 30 June 2022
Open Spaces and Environment 5 July 2022
Finance and General Purposes 21 July 2022

- b) Lease Report Members discussed the information and NOTED the report of the Town Clerk.
- c) Insurance report on Ridgewaye Fields Members NOTED the previously supplied report. It was AGREED the matter would be placed on the September Full Council agenda for final determination.
- d) Civic Centre Pavilion Members AGREED to explore the alternative option as a solution for the ongoing vandalism but asked to seek the views of the 'Designing out crime' Police officer and discussing the matter with the Football Club.
- e) Southborough Civic Buildings Confidential Matters There were no matters to be discussed surrounding the Civic Buildings.

The Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.32pm

CHAIR

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE Held at 7:00pm on 1st August 2022 at The Civic Centre, 137 London Road, Southborough, TN4 0NA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Ian Kinghorn (Deputy Chair), Elliott, Prance and Wharton

OFFICERS PRESENT: Edmund Thorley (Office Administrator)

P1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Lewis (Family Commitments), Cllr Bullion (Family Commitments), Cllr Olwyn Kinghorn (Ill Health) and Cllr Lane (Family Commitments)

P2. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS - None

P3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION - None

P4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2022 were APPROVED at Full Council held on 27th July 2022.

P5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PLANNING APPLICATION:

22/01743/FULL

PROPOSAL:

Proposed wraparound rear and side extension, pitch roof over existing first floor rear extension and new flat roof dormer, together with removal of front garden wall and external alterations. (Alternative to planning permission 21/02464/FULL)

LOCATION:

4 St Andrews Park Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells TN4

ONL

STC COMMENTS:

The council **APPROVED** this application

PLANNING APPLICATION:

22/01756/FULL

PROPOSAL:

Demolition of single storey side extension, erection of single

storey side extension

LOCATION:

93C Yew Tree Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

OBJ

STC COMMENTS:

The council **APPROVED** this application

PLANNING APPLICATION:

21/02557/FULL

PROPOSAL:

Two-year temporary use of rear yard as part covered storage

for business (Retrospective)

LOCATION:

Ability (South UK) Ltd 80 London Road Southborough

Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0PP

STC COMMENTS:

The council **REFUSED** this application

PLANNING APPLICATION:

22/01827/FULL

PROPOSAL:

Proposed part first floor and two storey extensions to front and

side, Single storey rear extension.

LOCATION:

20 Bounds Oak Way Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

0TX

STC COMMENTS:

The council **APPROVED** this application

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01588/FULL

PROPOSAL: Application for retention of 3 storage containers, originally

granted under 18/00094/FULL,

LOCATION: Sports Pavilion 131 London Road Southborough Tunbridge

Wells Kent TN4 0NA

STC COMMENTS: The council **NOTED** this application

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01911/TPO

PROPOSAL: T1, T2, T3 (3 x Sycamores - cut back overhang by 3-4 metres

and crown raise by 3-4 metres

LOCATION: 33 Crendon Park Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0BE

STC COMMENTS: The council **REFERRED** this application to the Tree Officer.

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01969/TPO

PROPOSAL: T1 - Large Ash Tree - Fell To ground Level/ Safe Height,

LOCATION: 20A The Ridgewaye Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

0AD

STC COMMENTS: The council **REFUSED** this application

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02019/FULL

PROPOSAL: Proposed single-storey rear extension with a parapet wall, and

large bi-folding doors. works to include window removal to the

main house & roof light additions to the main house.

LOCATION: 72 High Brooms Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

9BN

STC COMMENTS: The council **APPROVED** this application

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02021/FULL

PROPOSAL: Single storey rear and side extensions.

LOCATION: 2 Aspen Way Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9YB

STC COMMENTS: The council **APPROVED** this application

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02103/FULL

PROPOSAL: Alterations to permission 15/503293/FULL (Alterations to design

and layout of Block A and B houses, alternative landscaping

scheme)

LOCATION: Southbank House Victoria Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells

Kent TN4 0LT

STC COMMENTS: The council **NOTED** this application

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02065/FULL

PROPOSAL: Erection of single storey side extension

LOCATION: 24 Vale Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0QH

STC COMMENTS: The council **APPROVED** this application

P6. GRANTS AND REFUSALS – The following documents have been received from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council:

9

a): GRANTS

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01353/FULL

PROPOSAL: Variation of Condition 2 of 22/00176/FULL - Extension to

building to provide utility room and refuse store

LOCATION: David Salomons Estate, Broomhill Road, Royal Tunbridge

Wells, Kent, TN3 0TG

STC COMMENT: (NOTED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01669/LBC

PROPOSAL: Listed Building Consent: Variation of Condition 2 of

22/00177/LBC - Extension to building to provide utility room

and refuse store

LOCATION: David Salomons Estate Broomhill Road Royal Tunbridge Wells

Kent TN3 0TG

STC COMMENT: (REFUSED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01398/FULL

PROPOSAL: Proposed demolition of shed, erection of annex

LOCATION: 59 Powder Mill Lane Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

9EE

STC COMMENT: (APPROVED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01493/FULL

PROPOSAL: Proposed front extension; First floor side extension; removal

of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear

extension & external raised decking area

LOCATION: 23 Pennington Place Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

0AQ

STC COMMENT: (APPROVED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01467/FULL

PROPOSAL: Replace gate to Broomhill Road entrance

LOCATION: David Salomons Estate Broomhill Road Royal Tunbridge Wells

Kent TN3 0TG

STC COMMENT: (REFUSED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01520/FULL

PROPOSAL: Erect 2 no. timber sheds and gates in existing service yard

LOCATION: David Salomons Estate Broomhill Road Royal Tunbridge Wells

Kent TN3 0TG

STC COMMENT: (REFUSED) Permission should be GRANTED

b): REFUSALS

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01782/TPO

PROPOSAL: Pruning back of two Oaks by 2 metres (T17 &18)

LOCATION: Land Between Blackthorn Avenue And Aspen Way

Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent

STC COMMENT: (REFUSED) Permission should be REFUSED

There being no further business the Deputy Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

DEPUTY CHAIR

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE Held at 7:00pm on 5th September 2022 at The Civic Centre, 137 London Road, Southborough, TN4 0NA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Lewis (Chairman), Ian Kinghorn, Elliott, Lane, and Wharton

OFFICERS PRESENT: Edmund Thorley (Office Administrator)

P1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Bullion (Work Commitments), Cllr Olwyn Kinghorn (III Health) and Cllr Prance (Family Commitments)

P2. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS - None declared

P3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – No Members of the Public or press attended.

P4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2022 are to be APPROVED at Full Council held on 29th September 2022.

P5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02170/FULL

PROPOSAL: Repair and replace windows; overhaul existing roof; addition of

3 roof lights; removal of chimney

LOCATION: 1 Victoria Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0SA

STC COMMENTS: The council **NOTED** this application.

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01632/LBC

PROPOSAL: Listed Building Consent: New opening and window inside

elevation; Replace timber double doors with part glazed double

doors on rear elevation

LOCATION: Woodcote the Common Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent

TN4 ORY

STC COMMENTS: The council **NOTED** this application.

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02294/FULL

PROPOSAL: Erection of single storey extension to rear of property

LOCATION: 27 Charles Street Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

0DR

STC COMMENTS: The council **APPROVED** this application.

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02394/FULL

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing garage and conservatory, Erection of two

storey side and rear extension, Single storey rear extension, Alterations to fenestration and materiality, Extension of front

facing roof to great gable, Porch extension.

LOCATION: 29 Bounds Oak Way Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

OTW

STC COMMENTS: The council **NOTED** this application.

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02403/FULL

PROPOSAL: 12 Darnley Drive Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0TL LOCATION: Minor Material Amendment to approved application

21/04123/FULL (Including alterations to positioning of extension, changes to ground floor fenestration, internal layout

alterations and removal of canopy over front door)

STC COMMENTS: The council **APPROVED** this application.

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02434/FULL

PROPOSAL: Removal of conservatory; erection of single storey extensions

and loft conversion.

LOCATION: 53 Powder Mill Lane Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

9EE

STC COMMENTS: The council **APPROVED** this application.

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02280/FULL PROPOSAL: New window

LOCATION: Cats Castle Church Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent

TN4 ORT

STC COMMENTS: The council **REFERRED** this application to the conservation

officer.

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02281/LBC

PROPOSAL: Listed Building Consent: Internal changes and new window in

old opening

LOCATION: Cats Castle Church Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent

TN4 ORT

STC COMMENTS: The council **REFERRED** this application to the conservation

officer.

P6. GRANTS AND REFUSALS – The following documents have been received from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council:

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01578/FULL

PROPOSAL: Erection of single storey side extension,

LOCATION: 9 Prospect Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0EL

STC COMMENT: (APPROVED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 21/03237/FULL

PROPOSAL: Proposed two storey and single storey side and rear

extensions complete with new pitched roof entrance porch

LOCATION: 154 Powder Mill Lane Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

9DT

STC COMMENT: (REFUSED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01686/FULL

PROPOSAL: Addition of 3 storey side extension from upper ground to

second floor & single storey rear extension to lower ground

level.

LOCATION: 23 Holden Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0QG

STC COMMENT: (REFUSED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01756/FULL

PROPOSAL: Demolition of single storey side extension, erection of single

storey side extension

LOCATION: 93C Yew Tree Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

0BJ

STC COMMENT: (APPROVED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01743/FULL

PROPOSAL: Proposed wraparound rear and side extension, pitch roof

over existing first floor rear extension and new flat roof dormer, together with removal of front garden wall and external alterations. (Alternative to planning permission

21/02464/FULL)

LOCATION: 4 St Andrews Park Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent

TN4 ONL

STC COMMENT: (APPROVED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01969/TPO

PROPOSAL: TREES: T1 - Large Ash Tree - Fell to ground Level/ safe

height

LOCATION: 20A The Ridgewaye Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

OAD

STC COMMENT: (REFUSED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02019/FULL

PROPOSAL: Proposed single-storey rear extension with a parapet wall,

and large bi-folding doors. works to include window removal to the main house & roof light additions to the main house

LOCATION: 72 High Brooms Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

9BN

STC COMMENT: (APPROVED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02021/FULL

PROPOSAL: Single storey rear and side extensions

LOCATION: 2 Aspen Way Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9YB

STC COMMENT: (APPROVED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01588/FULL

PROPOSAL: Application for retention of 3 storage containers, originally

granted under 18/00094/FULL

LOCATION: Sports Pavilion 131 London Road Southborough Tunbridge

Wells Kent TN4 0NA

STC COMMENT: (NOTED) Permission should be **GRANTED**

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/02065/FULL

PROPOSAL: Erection of single storey side extension

LOCATION: 24 Vale Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0QH

STC COMMENT: (APPROVED) Permission should be GRANTED

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01911/TPO

PROPOSAL: T1, T2, T3 (3X Sycamores - Part A - crown raise by 3-4

metres and Part B - cut back overhang by 3-4 metres).

LOCATION: 33 Crendon Park Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0BE

STC COMMENT: (REFERRED) Permission should be PART APPROVED and PART

REFUSED

b): REFUSALS

PLANNING APPLICATION: 22/01543/FULL

PROPOSAL: Demolition of garage, Replacement with new two storey

garage,

LOCATION: 21 Salisbury Road Southborough Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4

9DJ

STC COMMENT: (REFUSED) Permission should be REFUSED

There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7.00 p.m. at the Southborough Civic Centre, 137 London Road Southborough TN4 0NA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Hill (Chair), Lewis (Deputy Chair), Elliott, Kinghorn, Prance and Wharton.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Carolyn Ripley (Deputy Town Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs O Kinghorn – ill health. Cllr Lane – work commitment.

2. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

None declared.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Two members of the public were present in reference to items 6 and 9. Matt Glazier of the LTA was present in reference to item 12A. No members of the press were present.

4. MINUTES

Council Members **NOTED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2022 were **APPROVED** at Full Council on 28th July 2022.

5. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Council Members **APPROVED** the previously supplied income and expenditure reports relating to Open Spaces for the period 1st – 30th June 1st – 31st July 2022 and 1st – 31st August 2022.

6. MAY DAY FESTIVAL 2023 - CRICKET PITCH, SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON

Council Members **APPROVED** the application from Nell Price on behalf of Southborough Street in conjunction with Southborough Cricket Club, requesting Town Council permission as landowner to have a May Day Festival on **Monday 1**st **May 2023 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.** on the Cricket Pitch at Southborough Common, including stalls selling food and alcohol.

7. SOUTHBOROUGH IN BLOOM

Council Members **AGREED** to re-establish the Southborough in Bloom Competition and the associated Town Council Working Group. Councillors Elliott, Hill, Kinghorn and Wharton **AGREED** to be members of the new working group.

8. PLAYING FIELDS - ADDITIONAL PATHS REQUEST

Council Members **REJECTED** the current request for more tarmac pathways on the playing fields, though further discussion could take place after the playing fields drainage issue has been addressed.

9. TUNBRIDGE WELLS OLDER PEOPLE'S FORUM – PLANTING REQUEST

Council Members **POSTPONED** any discussion of commemorative Jubilee planting on the playing fields as requested, until after the playing fields drainage issue has been addressed.

10. KENT'S PLAN BEE - NO MOW MAY 2023 CAMPAIGN

Council Members **AGREED** to formal adoption of Kent's Plan Bee "No Mow May 2023" Campaign by the Town Council.

11. TREE SURVEY SOFTWARE

Council Members **NOTED** that the Deputy Town Clerk has overseen the installation of tree survey software via OTISS/Intrinsica in conjunction with the Town Council's Tree Contractor. This software allows for more efficient and detailed mapping and management of the Town Council's large expanse of land and trees. This will assist with various core responsibilities such as health and safety, environmental issues, and future tree planting. Council Members **NOTED** that large-scale tree surveys of the Town Council's land will commence shortly.

12. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

It was proposed that during the consideration of the following items, the public and press were temporarily excluded (Standing Order 3 (c)): -

These items are considered confidential for the following reason(s)

Information relating to the financial and personnel affairs of the Council.

a) PENNINGTON RECREATION GROUND - TENNIS COURTS

Council Members **AGREED** to formally accept the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) criteria necessary to allow formal application by the Town Council for LTA funding to improve the tennis courts in Pennington Recreation Ground and promote park tennis at the facility. Council Members **AGREED** that they want tennis to remain free and that all operational control should remain in-house with the Town Council.

b) HOLDEN POND - LONG-TERM PLANS - UPDATE

Council Members **NOTED** the previously supplied update report from the Deputy Town Clerk, in conjunction with the previously supplied email and report from The Water Doctors, emails from KCC Kent Highways regarding Holden Road, and email comments from a member of the public, prior to further discussion at Full Council on 29th September 2022.

c) SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON - UPDATE

Council Members NOTED the previously supplied letter regarding Southborough Common.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.15 p.m.

CHAIR

Miss Carolyn Ripley Deputy Town Clerk 7th September 2022

Southborough Town Council

FULL COUNCIL

29 September 2022

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AND LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Summary

This report relates to the upcoming Christmas Fayre and Christmas lights switch on at the Civic Centre on Saturday 3 December 2022

FOR INFORMATION

Members will know that it was previously agreed to hold a Christmas Fayre and have an official switch on of the Christmas lights this year in the Town square.

Members to note that the Council traditionally also supplies Christmas trees to various locations around its parish. During discussion with the working group, it had been suggested that a larger tree could be provided at the Town Square. This could present problems both in how the tree is safety installed so close to the building and how it could be decorated. Costs will also be needed for the hire of a cherry picker as this would need to be hired to decorate a larger tree and additional risk assessments before obtaining the Councils insurers advice or costs.

Christmas lights have now been supplied for the Town Square and these are all LED based and will be on a timer to ensure there is little energy wastage or cost.

RECOMMENDED – It is recommended that Members to discuss and decide how they wish to proceed. More investigations are required to be carried out on costs to provide a larger tree and research the safety implications surrounding this.

Tracy Kelly
TOWN CLERK.

The Local Government Boundary Commission

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England August 2022 Summary Report

The full report and detailed maps: www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk www.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say

We are now consulting local people on a new pattern of wards for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. We have an open mind about our final recommendations, and we will consider every piece of evidence we receive from local groups and people, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole council area or just a part of it.

If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Tunbridge Wells we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements

We aim to propose a pattern of wards for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- · Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

Electoral equality

 Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in the council area?

Community identity

- Transport links: are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?
- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?
- Facilities: does your pattern of wards reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc?

Write to:

Review Officer (Tunbridge Wells)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

Effective local government

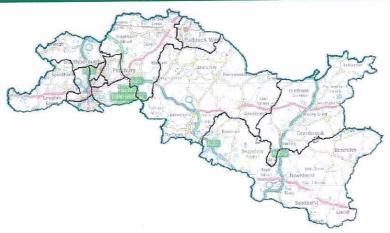
- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- · Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?

Useful tips

- Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at consultation.labce.org.uk.
- We publish all submissions we receive on our website. Go to: www.lgbce.org.uk

Our consultation area:

consultation.lgbce.org.uk Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk Twitter: @LGBCE



Who we are

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.
- We are not part of government or any political party.
- We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.
- Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Flectoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority, including:

- The total number of councillors representing the council's electors ('council size').
- The names, number and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
- The number of councillors for each ward or division.

Why Tunbridge Wells?

- The Commission has a legal duty to carry out an electoral review of each council in England 'from time to time'.
- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has not been reviewed since 2001 and the Commission has therefore decided that it should review Tunbridge Wells in advance of the elections in 2024.

Our proposals

 We propose that the council should have 39 councillors in future, representing 13 threecouncillor wards across the council area.

You have until 10 October 2022 to have your say on the recommendations

Summary of our recommendations

Our draft recommendations propose that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council should have 39 councillors, a decrease of nine from the existing arrangements.

Those councillors should represent 13 three-councillor wards across the council area.

The boundaries of all the existing wards will change; none will stay the same.

Before drawing up the draft recommendations, the Commission carried out a public consultation inviting proposals for a new pattern of wards for Tunbridge Wells.

We have considered all of the submissions we received during that phase of consultation.

An outline of the proposals is shown in the map to the right. A detailed report on the recommendations and interactive mapping is available on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk.

We welcome comments on our draft recommendations, whether you support the proposals or wish to put forward alternative arrangements.

Have your say at consultation.lgbce.org.uk:

- · view the map of our recommendations down to street level.
- zoom into the areas that interest you most.
- find more guidance on how to have your say.
- · read the full report of our recommendations.

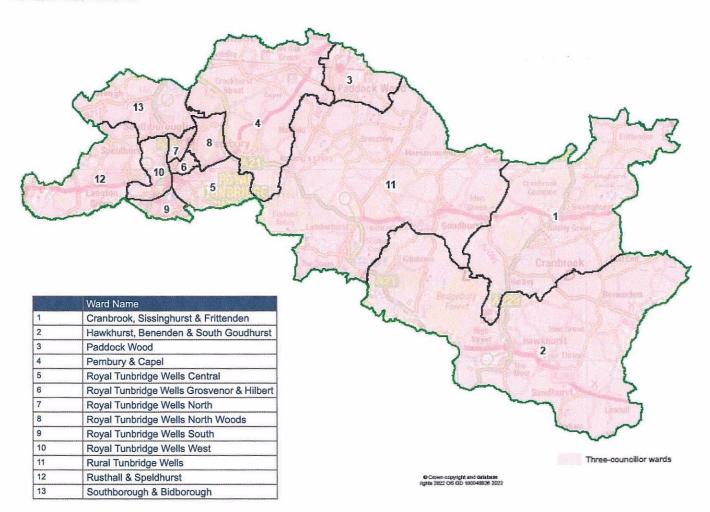
Stage of Review	Description
11 January 2022 - 21 March 2022	Public consultation on warding arrangments
2 August 2022 - 10 October 2022	Public consultation on draft recommendations
10 January 2023	Publication of final recommendations
May 2024	Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at local elections

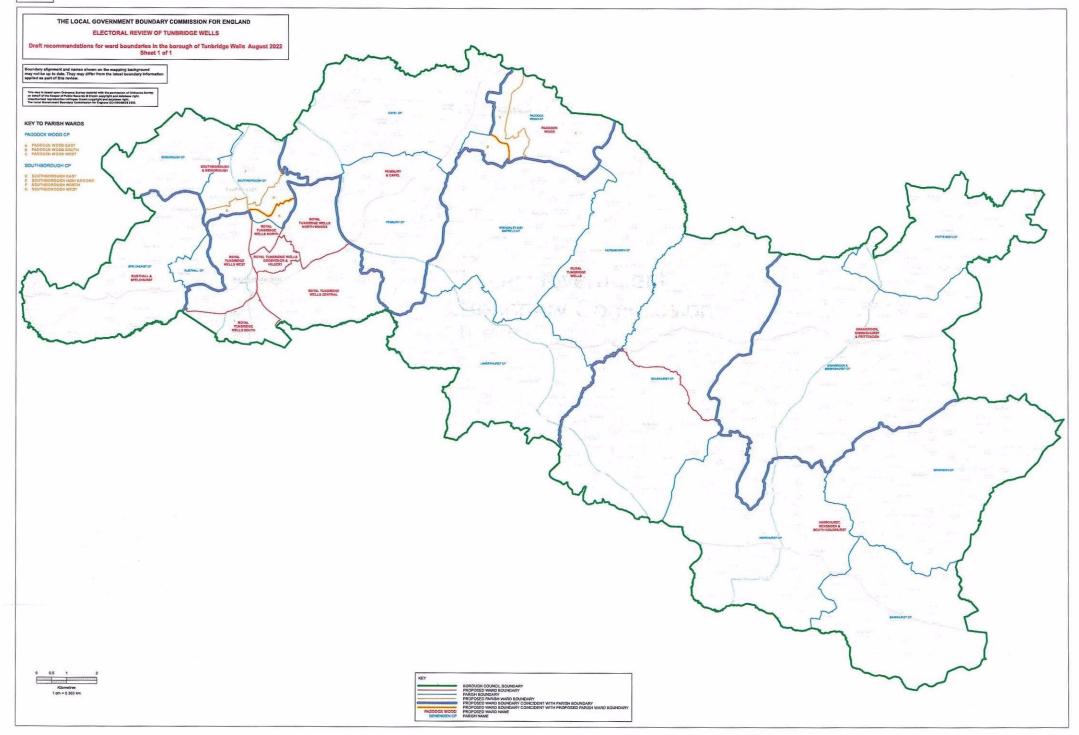
Overview of draft recommendations for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

View this map online: consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Follow the review on Twitter: @LGBCE

If you are viewing this page online, click on the map to go straight to our interactive consultation area.





Remembrance Day Notes - Cllr in charge/ Councillor attending/ assisting

Cllr in charge to collect Hi Viz Waistcoats at the Civic Centre prior to the event

(Councillor in Charge to nominate a Cllr from the list to do this) to collect the service sheets to hand out to everyone at the memorial on the day. Collection to be prior to the event from the Civic Centre.

There are 11 points where road closures will be put in place. See below. Road closures will be dealt with by SKF Contractors. (Kevin on 07979 520862)

Each of these should have a Councillor standing at the road closed point.

All Councillors involved must wear a Hi Viz waistcoat.

- Pennington Road just past the entrance to the Grounds (closed for the parade only)
- 2. Draper Street junction with Pennington Road (closed for the parade only)
- 3. London Road just past the junction with Holden Road (closed for the parade only)
- 4. Still Lane junction with London Road (closed for the parade only)
- 5. Victoria Road junction with London Road (closed for the parade only)
- 6. Lower slip road junction with London Road (closed for the parade only)
- Slip Road, Memorial Road junction with London Road (closed for the duration of the service)
- 7A. London Road by junction with Church Road (closed for the parade only)
- 8. Church Road junction with London Road (closed for the duration of the service)
- 9. Constitutional Hill junction with Victoria Road (closed for the parade only)
- 10. Church Road the war memorial side of St Peters Church (so that people can still attend church but not drive up further)

When the parade has passed by the road closures highlighted in black above they can be re-opened and the marshal can join the service. Those that are on the red highlighted closures above need to remain in place until the service is over and everyone has started to go.

Councillor in charge is Marshal in charge - to control all closed points and be available to instruct all other volunteers and to ensure health and safety requirements are adhered to.

8.15 a.m. Cllr in charge to meet with Councillor volunteers to explain what they need to do. Councillors are at these points to explain to the public why the road is closed, and to support the company in charge of the road closures.

8.20 a.m. Hand out Hi Viz jackets

8.30 a.m. Each Councillor to be in position at their designated road closure.

8.45 a.m. Roads to be closed by SKF

8.55 a.m. As soon as the parade has passed and is at the memorial, the roads can be reopened and the Cllrs may join the service. Please return the Hi VIz jacket to Cllr in charge

9.00 a.m. All roads opened except numbers 7, 8 and 10. These remain closed for the whole of the service.

Councillors who have agreed to help (it could be worth speaking to fellow Cllrs again in case those who weren't at Full Council would also be prepared to help)

Volunteer Councillors?

If we are short of volunteers on the day. Please be aware that we are <u>not</u> insured for members of the public to do this.

It is suggested that if you are unable to get enough Councillors to assist that we man those you have on the most dangerous points. I.e. suggest 7A and 8 combined, 3, 5 and 10.

Terrorism - As a matter of course all bins on the route need to be discreetly checked.

Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

We acknowledge as the members of:

Southborough town Council

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022, that:

	Agreed			
	Yes	No*	'Yes' m	eans that this authority:
 We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements. 	1			ed its accounting statements in accordance e Accounts and Audit Regulations.
We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	1			proper arrangements and accepted responsibility aguarding the public money and resources in arge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	1		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.	
We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.		1	during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.	
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	1		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.	
We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	1		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.	
We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.		1	responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.	
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	1		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.	
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including	Yes	No	N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.			1	

^{*}Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

07 June 2022

and recorded as minute reference:

M 4.

www.southborough-tc.gov.uk

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman

Clerk

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

Southborough town Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance		
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.		
Balances brought forward	300,321	296,105	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.		
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	530,016	541,429	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
3. (+) Total other receipts	168,624	1,898,734	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.		
4. (-) Staff costs	309,601	408,998	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.		
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	8,027	7,410	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).		
6. (-) All other payments	385,227	815,114	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
7. (=) Balances carried forward	296,105	1,504,746	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).		
Total value of cash and short term investments	289,541	1,492,740	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.		
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	2,593,389	14,296,768	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.		
10. Total borrowings	10,245	3,556	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).		
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust fund	Yes s	No N/A	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.		
(including charitable)		✓	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.		

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2022 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Date

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

June 2022

as recorded in minute reference:

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting

Statements were approved

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2021/22

In respect of

Southborough Town Council - KE0251

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/.

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with Proper Practices which:

- · summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2022; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor report 2021/22

2 External additor report 2021/22
Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.
The smaller authority has disclosed that it did not make proper provision during the year 2021/22 for the exercise of public rights, by answering
'No' to Section 1, Assertion 4. However, we are aware that it did make proper provision during the year 2021/22 for the exercise of public rights,
and therefore should have answered 'Yes' to this assertion. It has also disclosed that it did not take appropriate action on all matters raised in
reports from internal and external audit, by answering 'No' to Section 1, Assertion 7, which, on the basis of the above, should have been
answered 'Yes'.
Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:
None.
Notic.

3 External auditor certificate 2021/22

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

External Auditor Name			
	PKF LITTLEJOHN LL	P	
External Auditor Signature	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Date	12/09/2022

^{*} Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

Anneau de la mémoire (the Ring of Memory)



The Ring of Memory is a huge monument completed only 5 years ago which can be seen for miles around. It takes the form of a 345 metre ellipse (about the length of 3.75 football pitches) constructed out of stainless steel panels and concrete The panels are inscribed with the names in alphabetical order of the 579,606 soldiers who died in the region. No regiment, no ranks, just alphabetical. 241,214 British soldiers are named on the monument, the highest number for any

country together with a further 52,786 from Canada, South Africa, India, Australia and New Zealand. There are 106,012 French soldiers including those from North Africa, Senegal and the Foreign Legion. There are 173,876 Germans, 2.326 Belgians, 2.266 Portuguese and 1160 Russians. Truly an international conflict so it is extremely likely that you will find the names of soldiers with your surname and of those of some of your friends.

In addition to this amazing structure there is a Visitor Centre and the Necropolis. The former has an exhibition of iconic objects, unique high-quality photos, period video footage and animated maps which provide an insight into the magnitude of the conflict in northern France during the First World War. Nearby is the Necropolis at the top of the Notre-Dame-de-Lorette hill. Here over 42,000 French soldiers are laid to rest, victims of the First World War on the front lines in the Artois region and French and Belgian Flanders. This site is watched over by former soldiers (anciens combatants) in a most respectful manner.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme

This is an Anglo French war memorial designed by Edwin Lutyens and managed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It commemorates the 72,337 missing British and South African servicemen who died in the Battles of the Somme during the First World War and who have no known graves. It is over 45 metres high and dominates the landscape for miles around. It



is the largest Commonwealth memorial to the missing in the world. Most of the missing were engaged in the horrendous battles around Thiepval which commenced on the 1st July 1916.

tThiepval itself was not taken until the following September. The site also includes a museum which is linked to the Museum at Péronne, a 25 minute drive away. They both operate under the name of the "Historical de la Grande Guerre - Musée de la Première



Guerre Mondiale". The Thiepval museum and visitor centre was opened by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry in June 2016. It deals with the history and memories of the battles of the Somme and brings together the British, German and French stories of the war years iggn the region. In one room there is a fresco by Joe Sacco depicting the terrible 1st July

1916 battle.

Museum of the Great War Péronne

This museum is housed within the Château de Péronne, a castle in the town. Péronne was under German occupation during the war, and its inhabitants suffered enormously because their town was almost completely destroyed. The museum looks mostly at the Great War, and the years just before and just after. Its theme is to place war in a social context, stressing "the common suffering of the combatants" and "the civilians, who were equally mobilised by the war effort".

Péronne is the biggest museum in Europe about the First World War and represents the everyday life of the soldiers at the front during that harsh time as well as the life of the civilians and the huge social changes it caused.



The museum is known for its efforts to present the battles at the Somme from the viewpoints of all nations that fought there.

Arras

Today Arras is a popular tourist city due to its rich architectural heritage and its role in the middle of the WW1 battlefields. The City will be our evening stopover at the Hotel Moderne, not far from La Place des Héros.

Arras was about 10 kilometres away from the Western Front line, and a series of battles were fought around the city and nearby. These included the Second Battle of the Somme, which was part of the Hundred Days Offensive in 1914 and the Battles of Arras in 1914 and 1917. Vimy Ridge is also not far away.



The writer, Siegfried Sassoon, was stationed here and took part in the famous April 1917 Battle of Arras when literally thousands of Allied troops swarmed from a maze



of medieval underground tunnels which had been greatly expanded over many months by New Zealand sappers.

The city is famous for its two magnificent, paved squares, La Grand' Place (main square) and La Place des Héros, surrounded by 155 houses of Flemish Baroque style listed or classified as Historic.

For more information please visit:

https://memorial1418.com/en/memorial-en/ Memory ring with drop down menus https://www.historial.fr/en/ Thiepval Memorial / Museum and Péronne Museum https://www.france-voyage.com/tourism/arras-629.htm Arras



SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER



It's been a while since our last Newsletter but that doesn't mean that nothing's been happening. During the various lockdowns the committee continued to meet on Zoom. On one occasion we were even able to participate in one of Amitiés Internationales' Zoom meetings. The committee continued meeting virtually for a while after the lockdown relaxations since the prospect of jumping straight into meetings face to face in an enclosed environment still felt a little daunting. However, we are now back to normal at The Ark and there has been a lot of activity and planning going on behind the scenes which we hope will become apparent.

Trip to the Somme

At the end of March and after several failed attempts due to the pandemic, we were at long last able to proceed with our trip to the Somme. Full details and the itinerary have been sent out several times

in the past few years so they are not repeated here. However, the visit notes are the attached to the email together with this Newsletter. Suffice it so say it was amazing to get across to France after repeated lockdowns and to meet many of our French friends who we hadn't seen since our 2020 AGM. Having checked into our hotel in Arras we were joined for lunch by a number of past and present members of Amitiés Internationales who then accompanied us for our afternoon visits.





In the evening we were met by members of the Amitiés Internationales committee for dinner in a very atmospheric, busy underground cellar. We hadn't met all of them before since there have been quite a few changes to the committee and to the Council so everyone introduced

themselves in turn before an excellent meal served by probably the most energetic waiter on the planet. We were able to

exchange a few thoughts and ideas about future activities and how we could get round some of the Brexit after effects.



The trip took place over the weekend when the clocks moved forward.

So, having already lost an hour on Saturday morning as a result of the French time difference we lost another hour on Sunday morning with the move to summer time. Nevertheless, despite a late night, we were up and running in the morning albeit bleary eyed in time for the second part of our visit. We were extremely lucky with the weather and since no other meetings had been arranged, we were able to spend a very pleasant lunchtime in the Spring sunshine in the pretty village of Péronne, a town which, together with its château, had been almost completely destroyed during the WW1 German occupation.

Other Events

Also in March we held another successful Quiz Night at St Dunstan's. An enjoyable evening ensued with the catering expertly undertaken by our secretary Alison. As usual, Alex compiled the questions and was the quizmaster reminiscent of John Humphrys of Mastermind fame. There will be another one later in the year (see below)

Our Annual General Meeting took place on the 15th May and we were delighted to welcome our President and Town Mayor Diane Hill who presided over the formal proceedings. There is no change in the composition of the committee which is made up as follows: Cllr Dianne Hill (President), Cllr Alain Lewis (Chair), Alex Page (Vice Chair), David Forbes (Treasurer), Alison Page (Secretary), Mireille Marchant, Ken Poonoosamy, Cllr David Elliott, Cllr Trevor Poile, Cllr Dariel Francis, (Council



Representative) and Cllr Jackie Prance (Council Representative). Bob Prance acts as ex officio Liaison Officer.

The meeting was well attended and we were delighted with the opportunity to meet other members and friends who we hadn't seen for some time. We enjoyed an excellent meal prepared once again by Alison, aided on the day by an amazing army of helpers. Sadly, Jean-Michel Pannecoucke (President of Amitiés Internationales) was the only representative from France. There is a real problem for many of our French friends when it comes to visiting the UK nowadays. This relates to the need for passports which most French residents don't have since they can move freely around the EU without one. We are examining ways in which we can manage this difficulty in the future.

A few of our dedicated pétanque players have continued to use the *terrain* in Yew Tree Road on Wednesday afternoons and everyone is welcome to come along too whether beginners or experienced players. In the meantime, Howard Sandom, who runs the Seal Pétanque Club at the White Rock in Underriver, has offered to provide us with some training at all levels on Thursday evenings ahead of this event. If you are interested in learning the game, brushing up your technique or more advanced strategy, please let us know so we can set up the sessions. This could come in handy because the Sevenoaks' twinning association (Friends of Pontoise) has challenged us and the Otford Twinning Association to their annual competition at the White Rock which until recently we used to win

In June we were approached by Joan Hamilton-Smith who writes the Community News section of 'The Courier'. She had heard of SHDOFA through our AGM reports and other pieces we had sent in over time. However, she didn't know much about us so she suggested that we write a small piece for her column. The article appeared on the 24th June, the weekend of the Lions Gala Day where as usual we were represented to increase local awareness of our activities. A copy is attached to the e-mail accompanying this Newsletter in case you missed it at the time. Joan is very keen, helpful and successful in promoting local organisations and we are hopeful that an increasing amount of publicity will help us recruit new members from the local community.

New Developments

We have been working together with the Jean-Michel in Lambersart and John Francis, President of the Tunbridge Wells Youth Football Club to see if we could organise another football match between the football playing boys and girls teams on either side of the Channel. It is a long time since our young players from the Ridgewaye Club took part in an international competition in Lambersart and brought back the 'Europa Cup'! The Ridgewaye Club has now been absorbed by TWYFC. John





Francis is very keen on the project as is the Chairman of the Lambersart football club, which is called 'Lambersart Union'. Hopefully, it could happen next year subject to all the logistics but it will probably have to take place in Lambersart because of the passport issue. There is an historic link going back around 20 years between SHDOFA and the Ridgewaye Club which in fact used to be a corporate member in its own right. They frequently attended our AGM lunches in large numbers. The merged TWYFC youth operation is based in the new pavilion at the Civic Centre and SHDOFA has purchased two bricks for their fundraising wall, one with an English inscription and one in French.

We have also recently approached St Matthew's School to see if it may be possible to re-establish their relationship with *École Primaire Louis Pasteur*, a primary school in Lambersart. The link was established with the help of the Lambersart Council about 10 years ago at the request of St Matthew's since a number of their children took part in the school's after-hours French Club. A lot of changes have taken place since then and the link appears to have fizzled out. It would be good to get this going again especially as it is the youngsters who hold the future of our association in their hands even if they don't know it yet!

Ukraine



We still have an indirect connection with the town of Kaniv in Ukraine via the now defunct Southborough and Kaniv Association but a number of individual friendships still exist. Lambersart is also twinned with Kaniv as well as Viersen in Germany who have long-established links in Ukraine. SHDOFA has sent a strong message of support to Kaniv. We have also made a donation to our local 'Refugease' organisation https://www.refugease.org who are providing humanitarian aid and

conducting emergency evacuations etc.

The Lambersart Éclaireurs de France (Scouts and Guides) are organising collections of clothes, food and medicines etc. locally and members of the Lambersart twinning organisation "Lambersart-Kaniv-Ukraine" is in charge of sorting these items and finding homes for refugees, etc. Four Ukrainian families have settled in Lambersart. *LKU* is working together with Viersen to distribute clothes, food, medicines and financial donations to Poland for onward transmission. Donations of all sorts are also being collected by the Lambersart Town Hall. Our last update is a few months old now but at the time the situation in Kaniv, which is about a 2.5 hour drive from Kiev, was reasonably quiet but the town was full of refugees fleeing the areas being shelled.

Other news from Lambersart

Lambersart's programme of events for the coming year is not yet fully settled. However, there will be a number of short talks on various subjects, the first one will be on the monarchy in Britain. This should have taken place in June, but they had a talk on the Ukraine instead.

La Fête de l'Eau was held over the weekend of the 4th and 5th June organised by the communes along the river. It used be called la Fête de la Deûle but has been scaled back recently. Sadly, it was not possible for us to attend this time although there were representatives from Viersen.

A great deal of work is taking place on upgrading and updating the *Amitiés Internationales*' website. We have sent in a few paragraphs about Southborough and High Brooms and Viersen have done the same. It is still not fully operational but a visit to the site is highly recommended where amongst other things you will see our contributions. The address is **amities-lambersart.fr**

It is with sadness that we have to report that in June Marc-Philippe Daubresse and his wife were involved in a serious car crash on the motorway near Dijon on their way back from holiday. He was badly injured but is now recovering at home although it will take time. His wife was less seriously injured but she still suffered a broken leg. Marc-Philippe is the former mayor of Lambersart, passionate about Europe and town twinning. He was involved with our relationship with Lambersart from the very start.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Southborough & District Wheelers Cycling Club. As part of the club's celebrations Simon Miller, a member of the club's committee, cycled to Lambersart where he met the Mayor, Nicolas Bouche, together with his Deputy and Jean-Michel Pannecoucke. The council officials were presented with a 90th Anniversary plaque and a cycling cap. Simon also met the secretary of the *Cyclo-Club de Lambersart* to discuss the possibility of future events and joint rides. This is not the first time our cyclists have visited Lambersart. In the early days of our town twinning both clubs met at Calais for an 80 mile mass ride to Lambersart.

Upcoming Events (in course of organisation)

- 21st August: Summer Barbecue. 17 Harland Way TN40TQ. I.30pm (ish) onwards.
- 25th September: Pétanque competition against the Sevenoaks and Otford twinning Associations. White Rock Underriver 11.30 onwards
- 21st/22nd October: 30th Anniversary Weekend

30th Anniversary of signing the Twinning Charters

A sub-committee began working earlier in the year on ways of celebrating this historic occasion which will take place over the weekend of the 22nd/23rd October. Of necessity the weekend cannot be as lavish as we had become used to when these events were held at Salomons and we may not have as many French guests this time for reasons already mentioned. Nevertheless, it will be still be a great weekend and a once in only 5 years occasion. Alison has recently brought members up to date with the current state of play. Although there is a great deal still to do, arrangements for this important event in the history of the Association are progressing well.

To repeat the information in Alison's earlier e-mail, there will be a locally orientated buffet lunch preceded by welcome drinks and a tour of Southborough's new Civic Centre on Saturday 22 October and a gala dinner with entertainment in the evening at the Masonic Centre, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells. On Sunday morning there will drinks and speeches followed by a carvery lunch with entertainment at the Masonic Centre before our guests leave for home.

We do not have the final costings for each function at this point, but Alison would like to have an idea of those who may be interested in attending any of the events. If you haven't done so already and you would like to express an interest perhaps you could give her a ring on 01892 537007. Also, although we don't know yet how many French guests we will be hosting overnight, we will need hosts to provide accommodation. If you think you are able to offer bed & breakfast for one night, could you also please let Alison know as soon as possible.

Future Events (in the pipe line)

A number of outstanding ideas are still being carried forward from pre-pandemic times. These include:

- A possible luxury afternoon tea at St Dunstan's perhaps in September.
- Another Quiz Night in November
- Trip to Lille for the Christmas Market (Marché de Noël) in December
- Trip to the Weald & Downland Living Museum near Chichester in May 2023

Un cri de Coeur from our Treasurer

Unfortunately, SHDOFA and other similar organisations are no longer entitled to free banking. Since each cheque now costs us 40 pence to pay in to our account, over the course of a year this could easily build up to a new, large and unwelcome expense. Wherever possible, therefore, could you please make any payments to SHDOFA electronically since electronic payments are still free. Annual subscriptions can be made by standing order. The Treasurer has plenty of forms available and will be bringing some to the Barbecue on the 21st August. He will be happy to sign you up if you have not already done so. Our bank details are as follows:

Name of account: Southborough High Brooms & District Overseas Friendship Association. Sort code 40-44-37. A/c 61884166.