



Tonbridge Grammar School

Local Residents Meeting

Fri 8th December 2017 19:30 – 20:30hrs

Meeting Notes & Action Points

Attendees: Councillor Maria Heslop, Mrs Kay Topliss, Mr Nick Hebditch, Mr & Mrs Lawes, Mr Bill Seakins, Mrs Sarina Hateley, Mr Peter Ingrams, Mr. Chris Payne.

TGS: Mrs Rosemary Joyce, Head Teacher (**HT**), Mrs Sally Dyson, Chair of Governors (**CG**), Mrs Pippa Blackstone, Development Director (**DD**) and Mr. Jeremy Kenyon, Facilities & Estates Manager (**FEM**).

Apologies: Mr Adrian Pitts, Assistant Head Teacher (**AHT**), Mr Andrew Cowan, Mr Ian Paulson, Mr & Mrs Bragg and Mr Nathan Marshall

- 1) Welcome, introductions and apologies.
- 2) **Travel Action Group Update.** In the absence of the Assistant Head Teacher, the FEM gave an update on the continuing work of the TAG.

There was a scheduled meeting of the Travel Action Group (TAG) on Fri 13th Oct., where progress and priorities were discussed. (See website for full minutes from the October TAG meeting <https://www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/neighbours/>)

The changes to school egress implemented last year have had a positive impact on the safe flow of students from the School at the end of the day.

Parents are asked to arrange to pick up away from the immediate environs of the School. The town public car parks are only a 10 minutes' walk from the School and these are a safe location for collecting students who cannot travel home by public transport. Messages re-iterated in assemblies and form time.

Action plan to help us meet our targets in 2018 focus on locals walking and cycling:

- increase the percentage of students who walk to school
- To increase the percentage of students cycling to school
- To restrict the percentage of cars making single passenger, sole purpose trips to school
- To maintain the percentage of students using public transport. (AHT continuing to attend KCC/West Kent travel forum along with other schools to monitor performance of the Public Transport Networks and look at and share ideas on any other initiatives.)

Neighbour feedback was that there had been an improvement, but that pick-up times could still be congested on occasion

FEM updated meeting on planning for Open Events (Split into 2 x mornings and 1 x evening), continued use of minibuses and additional staff at gates and out on junctions to encourage one-way system. There were again incidents where local residents refused to comply with the temporary one-way system – initiated by the School to reduce congestion and thoughtless parking in the surrounding streets.

Despite being at key locations solely to attempt to manage the traffic flow, a number of staff were subjected to abusive language, which will have to be considered carefully when planning for next year.

The School staggered parental pick-ups this year, which had some impact, but needs further thought as to how this can be improved. The School will also review whether the timings for the Head Teacher presentations could be amended to regulate the flow of attendees better.

3) **Lettings Update** The FEM gave an overview of the current regular lettings, (Weekdays – Mon, Yoga / Tue & Wed, Netball & Tai Chi / currently no lettings Thu or Fridays). Open University & Little Kickers on Saturday), and reminded residents that the Christmas Fair was this coming Sunday.

4) **Building Development / Planned Maintenance.** The FEM gave a progress report on the All Weather Pitch - approx. 75% completed. Complete shutdown over Christmas, with no work resuming until 8th Jan. Deliveries / Access hours continued to be monitored and managed as best can be, but some incidents beyond the School's direct control.

Mr Ingrams asked whether the TAG meeting was the correct forum to communicate access times for the contractors, which had been included within the October meeting minutes. In response the FEM explained that while it had not been a specific agenda item, it had come up for discussion at that meeting when reviewing vehicular access to the School site. Mr Ingrams suggested that it may have been helpful to communicate this on the Neighbours Portal. The HT and FEM agreed that this was a helpful proposal, and committed to provide updates on build progress and commissioning of lights etc. on the Portal.

5) **External Site Lighting** New timers in place with a weekly rota programmed in to minimise usage.

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

Mr Nick Hebditch had tabled a question regarding access times for contractors, but this had been picked up during Item 4. No further items tabled.

Proposed Date of Next Meeting: **June 2018** – *date to be circulated in the New Year.*

Meeting Closed at 20:10 hrs.