

The Wincheap Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of The Wincheap Society at 7.30p.m. on Monday, 3rd October, 2016 at 53 Wincheap, Canterbury

Present: John Osborne (Chairman), Gillian Bull, Joe Passey, Pat Marsh, Sarah Walter

1. Apologies for absence: Ed Craven, Nick Eden-Green, Eddie Peake
2. The Minutes of the last Meeting 22nd August, 2016

The minutes were signed as a correct account.

3. Matters Arising
 - i. Cycle Lanes

No more has been heard from the Council on this.

- ii. Wincheap Playground

Nick told Ed to contact Suzi Wakeham at the Council and he has sent a letter to her about providing a new back entrance to the playground and about the state of one of the conifers. He has also asked what the Council's plans for the playground are and mentioned that he is willing to fundraise for improvements.

- iii. Quiz Night Report

This was a successful and enjoyable evening. We made £93 profit after subtracting expenses.

- iv. Quinn Estates Meeting.

This was cancelled and has now been rebooked for 24th October at 3pm at Thanington Resource Centre.

- v. Hollow Lane development

The application will be discussed at the Planning Committee meeting on 11th October at 6.30pm at the Guildhall. Sarah will attend and represent our views as represented by Gillian's response to the consultation (which she will resend in an email to the committee). The main objections are to the flat roofs (owing to future extreme weather events) and the size of garages, which appear to be too narrow – the same problem as at St Jacob's, where cars have to stay on the street.

Action: Gillian, Sarah

vi. Maiden's Head Music

The pub has agreed to reduce the number of live events to two per month and not allow outside drinking/smoking after 9.30pm, so the problem has been resolved.

4. Litter Campaign

John attended the meeting in January on grotspots. There is a new roundtable meeting on Tuesday, 11th October at 3pm at the Council Offices Boardroom. It will be chaired by Terry Westgate, who has replaced Oliver Fawcett as the Council's Litter Czar. John is attending and will provide the following list of grotspots in our area: Station Rd East, 88 Wincheap (rat problem), corner of Gordon Rd, disabled access path to Canterbury East off Gordon Rd, Maiden Lane, Cooper's Alley, bushes around the grassy area in front of Dunelm Mill. He will also point out that recycling boxes need lids because of rain and wind, and draw attention to the graffiti under the railway bridge and in the subway.

Action: John

5. Transport Consultation

WinSoc should make a response to this by 31st October. Sarah will email her letter on traffic on Wincheap to John for inclusion in the response. John will prepare something and circulate it to the committee.

We will point out yet again that the relief road must have a new tunnel under the railway because the bottleneck causing congestion on Wincheap is precisely in the section from Simmonds Rd under the railway bridge to the roundabout. We will also refer to the problems of HGVs and buses hitting the railway bridge. John will allude to Nick's submission on this as well. He will highlight the need for a proper network of cycle paths around Canterbury, including the fact that we could have a cycle lane on the pavement next to the road on Wincheap as cyclists ride on the pavement anyway.

Action: Sarah, John

6. Student (HE / FE) Review

The Council has produced an interim report from the Review and circulated it to participants for comment. Pat has responded positively on behalf of WinSoc. A summary of points of interest to us are provided in the Appendix to these minutes.

7. Merger of East Kent District Councils

There will be a meeting about this organised by the Campaign for Democracy in Canterbury District and the Canterbury Society on Wednesday, 9th November at 7.30pm in St Peter's Methodist Church Hall.

Pat mentioned that, in spite of all the negatives involved in such a merger, she foresaw one advantage – the fact that the amount of housing required in East Kent could mainly be concentrated at Manston, where a new garden city could be built on the old airfield, served by a Thanet Parkway station.

8. Obituaries - Deaths Recorded Since Our Last Meeting

Anthony Jay, co-author of BBC sitcom *Yes Minister*; **Lord Brian Rix**, English actor-manager and campaigner for the disabled; **Gene Wilder**, American comic actor in film and theatre (Willy Wonka in the 1971 film of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*); **Joe Sutter**, American engineer, designer of Boeing 747; **Arnold Palmer**, American professional golfer; **Charmian Carr**, American actress and singer (Liesl in *The Sound of Music*); **Edward Albee**, American playwright (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*); **Shimon Peres**, Israeli statesman, president and twice prime minister, winner of the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize with Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat; **Sir Neville Marriner**, founder of The Academy of St Martin's in the Field (his partnership with them is the

9. Any other business.

i. Letter to Council from local resident

We have been copied into this letter which lists the neglect of the Wincheap area in terms of street cleaning, cracked pavements, bins on pavements, overflowing bins, graffiti and litter. These are all points we have previously raised with the Council. We await a response.

ii. A.G.M. Report

John has now written this up.

iii. Roger Britton building

The owners have decided to sell it again.

iv. Dave Wilson has resigned from the Committee.

v. Council enforcement officers are visiting houses to explain that bins must not be kept on pavements. They have visited Martyrs Field Rd residents and will be going to houses on York Rd as well.

10. Date of next Meeting

Monday, 14th November at 7.30pm at Wincheap Guest House.

Appendix – Summary of HE/FE Impact Review statistics and action

The Canterbury district covers an area of 30,885 hectares, split into 21 electoral wards represented by 39 councillors. The district has three main residential centres, Canterbury city (where the three universities and Canterbury College campuses are located along with the majority of student residents), Whitstable and Herne Bay, as well a large rural area consisting of 41 villages.

The Canterbury district has a population of 157,600. The population is forecast to reach 182,000 by 2033. Canterbury has a significantly higher number of 20-24 year olds reflecting its large student population consisting of 31,0597 students studying in the city. The demographic profile also shows the district has a higher number of older people. In 2014 one in five people was over 65; this is estimated to increase to one in four residents by 2031.

The higher education sector and its institutions employed just under 6,000 people in 2009 but this grew to 7,800 people in 2014. More than 12% (one in every eight) of the district's employees work in this sector. Only the district's retail and health sectors employ more people than higher education. It is forecast to continue growing up to 2031.

Higher education is an important provider of full-time jobs, supplying 3,300 of these to the district in 2014. Many of these will be higher-skilled occupations, such as professional and technical posts. Neighbouring districts (Thanet and Dover) to some extent rely on Canterbury's universities to provide jobs for a proportion of their residents. The higher education institutions are among only 20 employers in the district that employ over 250 people. 90% of all local businesses employ less than 10 people.

The universities are also among only 70 organisations out of the 5,000 local enterprises in the district that turn over £5m + annually. This represents 1.5% of all businesses - which is lower than county, regional and national levels.

Higher education institutions are also an important source of 'knowledge workers' - those industries whose main purpose centres on knowledge or information, from highly technical industries and knowledge intensive services to creative industries. This includes industries such as publishing, scientific research and R&D. Higher education is also an important source of 'knowledge' workers.

There were 96,700 'knowledge' workers in Kent in 2014. 17% (16,000) of all Kent's 'knowledge' workers were located in the Canterbury district. Only Tunbridge Wells has more knowledge workers overall.

25.2% of all Canterbury district's employees are 'knowledge workers' (higher than county - 16.5% and national - 19.7% averages). Between 2008 and 2014 the number of local 'knowledge' workers grew by 48%.

The private rented sector in Canterbury is comparatively large and growing, fuelled by the growth of higher education. Student demand for private rented accommodation reduces the

number of family-sized homes available for families and alters the character of neighbourhoods.

Competition in the housing market contributes to inflationary pressures on rents and house prices. Canterbury property prices are on average £40,000 higher and rents are £40 per week more expensive than the East Kent average, affecting the affordability of homes for the whole population.

To supply this demand, about 28% of homes in the city are in the private rented sector, compared to 18% for the district as a whole, and a much lower rate of owner occupation.

NB The large student population has a positive impact on funding for locally commissioned health services but a negative impact on the funding of other public services.

The following plans, policies, frameworks and strategies have helped to shape the HE/FE Impact Review:

Canterbury City Council

A Local Plan is a policy which sets out the future land use in an area. The Canterbury City Council CCC draft Local Plan 2016-2031 is currently going through the examination process at which a Planning Inspector will determine whether it is deliverable and capable of adoption. Summarised policies which are relevant to the HE/FE Impact review are listed below:

Policy HD7: Requires all future increases of floor space resulting in an increase in student numbers to be matched by a corresponding increase in purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA).

Policy EMP7 – University of Kent: The Council will support (and expects a masterplan to be prepared) for the (on campus) development of educational buildings, office space, student accommodation, business accommodation, sports facilities and other facilities directly related to the university core business. Significant development proposals at the university will also be subject to updating of the university's Transport Impact Assessment, and a review of the University Travel Plan.

Policy EMP8 – Canterbury Christ Church University: The council will support the development of new facilities, managed student accommodation and teaching and general office accommodation within the urban area of the city. Any new proposals should be accompanied by a development strategy to support the proposals and a Transport Plan to demonstrate how any additional activity can be catered for in transport terms.

The 2016 – 2020 Corporate Plan sets out the council's aims and ambitions over the medium term. Aims which are relevant to the HE/FE Impact review are listed below:

Working to achieve enough high quality housing to meet everyone's needs;

- Encourage purpose built student accommodation;
- Implement council responsibilities in relation to the outcomes to the “Higher and Further Education in Canterbury: An Impact Review”;
- Work with residents, universities and businesses to keep the district clean;
- In Canterbury, build on business opportunities offered by higher education’s impact on the city;
- Encourage the retention of graduates by creating a welcoming place with suitable jobs for them;
- Work with education providers to develop relevant local skills to enable job growth.

We will also monitor the following measures:

- Economic impact of the universities
- Graduate retention
- Perception of high value jobs.

The Residents' Survey helps us to identify priorities for the district and improve services and communication with our residents.

Each year, we send the survey to a representative sample of local people to complete. In 2016, we received over 2,300 responses.

This survey is referenced throughout the theme chapters.

Steps taken by the Universities:

Student Community Champions - Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent are currently planning another joint community based pilot. The proposal is that students who are keen to be involved in their community will become a point of contact for both students and permanent residents, attending Residents’ Association and Neighbourhood Watch meetings, and feeding information into these meetings and back to the universities. The Champions will provide a point of contact within the local community, promoting the initiatives of the universities and Students’ Unions, and involving themselves in community schemes. The student’s role is to facilitate information between residents in their local area, and act as a focal point for student feedback. The students will not be used for community complaints and the reporting of anti-social behaviour, which should continue to be referred to the relevant university’s Community Liaison Managers, police or council enforcement officers. The UoK will trial this initiative within the St Michaels area. CCCU will identify a suitable pilot area to trial in the 2016/17 academic year.

The Student Protocol has been developed between the council, the universities and colleges, and Kent Police who work together to help solve any problems between residents and students. It is recognised that most problems around anti-social behaviour can be avoided by being considerate. For example:

- leave and return home quietly;
- don't slam car doors;
- don't shout in the street;
- do contain noise by keeping doors and windows shut; and
- don't play amplified music in the garden, day or night.