

**SERP Meeting with The Leader of Shepway District Council  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009, held at the Burlington Hotel, Folkestone**

**Present: Philip Carter (Chair): Peter Hobbs: Peter Fawcett: John Barber:  
Ann Berry: Daniel Sangiuseppe: Dave Shore**

**Minutes:**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were given by Vic Peake and Chris Kirkham. The Chairman expressed his surprise and disappointment that Robert Bliss and Alistair Stewart had decided not to attend and that no apologies had been offered. Fortunately, Dave Shore had agreed to attend less than one hour before the start of this meeting but there had been no time to forewarn any of the other attendees. The Chairman asked for an urgent explanation since these meetings had been expressly organised to address key local issues during the current recessions and the dates had been agreed by everyone earlier in the year.

2. Minutes of meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> March were approved

**3. Matters arising**

The Chairman reported that SERP communications, generally, will now be developed via the new SERP Blog <http://regenerateshepway.wordpress.com/> and through various social networking sites. This will ensure that an even broader section of the local community will be made aware of our activities, especially enabling younger people to contribute actively to our economic agenda. The SERP web site will also continue to be developed.

Updates were provided on the following subjects:

**Folkestone Town Centre Constable**

There are still real concerns over this issue and it was agreed that the Crime Reduction Partnership be approached (Hugh Barker – Chair) to put pressure on the Kent Police for reinstatement of Town Centre Constable.

In the meantime, The Chairman also confirmed that he and Peter would be meeting soon with the Area Commander (Chris Hogben) and would raise the subject with him.

**Lighting.**

AB is still chasing her contact at KCC to ensure the lights are repaired on the Road of Remembrance.

**Empty Shops.**

JB reported that he is now working with Keith Grimley to identify opportunities.

JB has agreed to carry out a retail survey shortly and will also compile a list of organisations who want to take part in this initiative

### **Derelict Properties**

It was agreed that SERP would also support SDC's efforts to resolve this issue in Folkestone since it fulfils our ambitions to create a smarter, quality town.

AB/PH will lobby the East Folkestone Community Partnership (Folkestone Together) to ensure their support.

AB stated that Go Folkestone (GF) had created a comprehensive list of problem properties some years ago and had been very effective in getting action taken against problem property owners. She offered to make this, continually update list available to DS

A priority list of properties needing urgent attention/action will be created.

### **Litter Bins at back of Waterstones in Market Place.**

These are now being maintained and the situation is being regularly monitored.

### **Banners, events and roundabouts.**

DS agreed to circulate copies of SDC's current policy on banners, and event signs. SERP will consider if a review of this policy should be requested.

News still awaited from AS regarding the possibility of a "cover all" insurance policy, making event organising much easier as main risks would be covered by SDC .

### **Signage Audit:**

It was agreed that DS would arrange a formal presentation of this audit and relevant recommendations to the Leader of the Council and the appropriate Cabinet member and report back.

### **Car Park Signs (Bouverie Place).**

JB reported on progress but the problem had still not been resolved. it was agreed that both SERP and SDC should write to Warners and remind them of their Section 106 obligations.

### **Town Trail Historic Signs**

AB reported that Go Folkestone is leading on this and a meeting is taking place tomorrow

### **Parking outside RVH and Walk in Centre.**

AB still chasing the Management at Kent and Canterbury Hospital to resolve this parking problem.

### **Shops at Folkestone Central station.**

AB reported that she had contacted South Eastern and discovered that the rental agents were not aware that these two premises existed. These agents had agreed to visit these premises in June and it is hoped that they will be actively promoted thereafter.

### **Step Short**

AB has met Roger de Haan recently who will be looking at the possibility of reinstating the first World War café on the harbour wall.

In the meantime, DS agreed to provide AB with links to Lynn Docker (BOSCO) in the hope that an Interreg funding application can be developed.

#### **4. Funding Bids**

It was agreed that DS will seek a review of the Seachange Bid application to find out why this was unsuccessful.

DS also suggested that a meeting be arranged by SERP to discuss and develop a selection of project themes that could be used within any future funding bids.

DS agreed to report on the Coastal Communities fund and whether SDC and other local partners are developing a bid before June.

#### **5. Folkestone West Parking Proposals**

The Chairman reported on the Stakeholder meeting attended at the Civic Centre on 24 April.

DS agreed to establish who else had been invited to this meeting.

It was also agreed that SERP write to Robert Bliss with a request that the Rail for Folkestone campaign be resurrected and that a development brief be prepared for the proposed Folkestone Parkway Station (plans from 2004).

It was noted that Cllr Rory Love had already registered his support for this at the 24 April Stakeholder meeting.

#### **6. MOD Land**

DS reported that a consultation report was expected within the next 2 months if this land was being selected as a preferred option under the Planning Development Framework.

#### **7. SDC Constitutional Changes**

DS agreed to check on whether the order of speakers addressing the Planning Committee meetings had now been changed (allowing applicant to speak last) as part of the recent constitutional changes.

#### **8. Local Business Support Plans**

DS was asked to provide an update on the ten-point action plan provided by SDC in January.

#### **9. Warren Slipway**

AB has received a request from a local organisation who wants to use this facility. DS suggested she contact Steve Holly (SDC Property Services)

#### **10. Consultations with SERP**

Members of SERP expressed their concerns surrounding the apparent lack of effective partnership working with SDC and the issue over consultations in particular.

For example, news has reached SERP of the following issues – all of which have an effect on business but none have been the subject of any discussion with SDC in recent months:

- Redundancies amongst Environmental Community Officers
- Hardship Relief Fund
- Expansion of the Conservation area in Folkestone

- Closing Leas lift
- Huge increases of season ticket for car parking

**Date of next meeting (already agreed): Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July: 10am at the Civic Centre**