

You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL



Date: Monday 10 November 2014

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Town Hall, High Street,
Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Richard Thick (The Mayor), Ash, Black, Mrs Blackmore, Burton, Butler, Chittenden, Collins, Cox, Cuming, Daley, Edwards-Daem, Ells, English, Fissenden, Garland, Mrs Gooch, Greer, Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harwood, Mrs Hinder, Hogg, Mrs Joy, Long, McKay, McLoughlin, Moriarty, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Paine, Parvin, Mrs Parvin, Paterson, Perry, Pickett, Powell, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, Ross, Round, Sams, Sargeant, Springett, Mrs Stockell, Vizzard, B Watson, P Watson, de Wiggondene, Willis, J.A. Wilson and Mrs Wilson

Continued Over/:

Issued on 31 October 2014

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEBBIE SNOOK on 01622 602030**. To find out more about the work of the Council, please visit www.maidstone.gov.uk

Alison Broom

**Alison Broom, Chief Executive, Maidstone Borough Council,
Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ**

AGENDA

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1. Apologies for Absence
2. Dispensations (if any)
3. Disclosures by Members and Officers
4. Disclosures of Lobbying
5. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information.
6. Minutes of the meeting of the Borough Council held on 17 September 2014 1 - 15
7. Mayor's Announcements
8. Petitions
9. Question and Answer Session for Members of the Public
10. Questions from Members of the Council to the
 - (a) Leader of the Council
 - (b) Cabinet Members
 - (c) Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees
 - (d) Chairmen of other Committees
11. Report of the General Purposes Group held on 24 October 2014 16 - 33
 - Broomfield and Kingswood and Sutton Valence Parish Councils
 - Increase in Number of Councillors
12. Report of the General Purposes Group held on 24 October 2014 34 - 48
 - Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations
13. Notice of the following Motion has been given by Councillor Harper:
Labour Concerned at Potential Loss of Jobs - Waterside Park - 14/501895 (J8) Decision

The local economy has been underperforming since 2008 compared to large parts of Kent and the South East. More and more residents have to look for work outside of the Borough. Now it looks like the Borough of Maidstone is shut for business. The shocking and damaging statement sent out to the business community by Members of this Council who refused permission for the Waterside Park J8 site (planning ref: 14/501895) put forward by ADL and Scarab two major local businesses.

These firms have out grown their current sites and need to relocate, either within the Borough or to authorities only too happy to take jobs from Maidstone.

The fact is that Maidstone is in deep need of a range of sites for business and employment, including non-centre locations with

good access to the rail, motorway and main road network for business zones. The entire town is ringed with green land, but it needs to go somewhere and this application was ascetically pleasing. To ensure our town and Borough have a future the Council must take responsibility for proactively identifying non-centre locations for business zones.

This Council resolves to:

1. Urgently identify alternative sites within the Borough of Maidstone.
2. Work closely with ADL and Scarab to help them relocate within Maidstone or improve infrastructure to their current sites if that is an alternative.
3. Ensure that the Local Plan is pro jobs and that the maximum number of sites in the Borough are identified for employment.
4. Adopt in the Local Plan policies to oppose the loss of employment land unless compensating space is locally available.
5. Speed up the development of the proposed Enterprise Hub.
6. Where the Council can help, financially support any person(s) and their dependents who have lost their job and are unable to find alternative employment as a result of the refusal of this application (14/501895).
7. Support any appeal of the updated application ref: 14/501895.
8. Report back to the next full Council meeting on all the points above.

14. Notice of the following Motion has been given by Councillor Harper:

Mansfield Walk, Maidstone

Mansfield Walk is situated off Lower Fant Road, Maidstone (Fant Ward). It consists of a row of houses off Lower Fant Road and a separate row accessed by a footpath lower down the hill towards Roseholme.

The path is very steep and does not have steps and therefore in bad weather it is a potential hazard for less mobile people. Also the land to the east of Mansfield Walk is an abandoned and very overgrown plot.

Over the years efforts have been made with both Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council to have the path improved to improve access to the houses. Also efforts have been made with both Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council to identify the ownership of the vacant land.

The Council resolves to:

1. Undertake a full review of the access to the houses in Mansfield Walk and to report back to the Council on potential options to improve access to the lower block of houses off

the current footpath.

2. Establish the ownership of the vacant land to the east of Mansfield Walk and to consider schemes to lay out the area as an amenity or community space.
3. Report back to the next Council meeting.