



TDRA NEWSLETTER

Update from the Committee

Since we sent the Spring Newsletter, we have continued to meet as normal; by Zoom for a few months, then face to face from June onwards. Planning issues in the town continue to be the most controversial topics in front of us, and the saga of Limes Land (see below) ploughs on.

In May we successfully completed the AGM with a virtual Zoom meeting attended by nearly 50 members, covering the two years from April 2019 to March 2021. Members will recall from the last newsletter that no trustee came forward to chair the Association, so we are continuing for the time being without a Chairman, but individual trustees stepping forward as needed.

We are pleased to welcome three new trustees to the Committee this summer, Colin Campbell, Roland Cooper, and Sally White, who we know will bring new ideas to help take us forward. (More on them below) We should also record our thanks to Carol Parkin and Caroline Salmon who did not stand for re-election but made a valuable contribution in their time on the Committee.

By the next newsletter we hope to have updated information on the Tenterden Regeneration Projects. The Recreation Ground plans are still, we believe, under discussion with Ashford Borough Council and the Town Hall refurbishment is not yet finalized. (For more information there is a video available on the Tenterden Town Council website setting out what is wrong with the Town Hall and what needs to be done.)

Regrettably we felt unable to put on our usual Coffee Morning in October, the prevailing view being that there is not yet enough confidence to gather members en masse. Hopefully this will not be the case for too long, and, if nothing before, we are optimistic that we will meet physically for next year's AGM in May.

New Trustees

Colin Campbell has lived in the town for eight years. An accountant with a big 4 firm pre retirement, he has been active in local government (including as a Planning Committee chairman) and various charities. He joined the Cinema Focus Group at its commencement.

Sally White is a new resident, living on The Three Fields development. On retirement she became a trustee of a charity based in Canterbury, working with them one day a week. She now volunteers at Smallhythe Place and Sissinghurst Castle and is

involved with the local u3a.

Roland Cooper is a Chartered Civil Engineer with long experience of local government and the private sector. He is a Director with a firm of Consulting Engineers serving Kent and the South East. He is also a Board Member of Kent and Medway Economic Partnership and Chairman of the Construction Guild of the Skills Commission for the region. Roland has lived in the area for over 20 years and been resident in Tenterden since February 2020.

Remembrance Sunday 2021

Sunday 14th November is Remembrance Day this year, and after the severely disrupted arrangements for 2020, there will be a short service at the War Memorial commencing at 10.45 a.m. Wreaths will be laid by local organisations. The traditional parade will not take place as the risk of large numbers congregating at the start is considered unacceptable.

There will also be a short service at the War Memorial on Armistice Day, Thursday 11th November at 11.00 a.m.

The Royal British Legion, in its centenary year, are hoping for a much improved Poppy Appeal after the restrictions last year. Poppies will be available from a range of shops, pubs, and cafes, as well as street sellers, from 30th October onwards. They have also organized for a military vehicle to support the campaign in the High Street for the two Saturdays of the appeal.

Developments at Ivy Court

Members attending the AGM were given a presentation by Dr. Neil Pillai on the Challenges and Innovations under way at Ivy Court.

Neil issued an update in October, which included significant steps forward including

- We have been as keen as you have to increase our face to face consultations and these have been expanded over recent weeks so that now over ½ of all GP appointments are face to face. Many of our patients also want the flexibility that telephone, or video consultations offer and so these will remain an option. We know you have wanted to be able to book appointments in advance with the GP of your choice and these are also being re-introduced, as are the booking of appointments online.
- With regard to the Covid Booster jabs we will be offering these to our patients at Ivy Court, but the process of procuring them has not been

straightforward and there are challenges to how they are transported from Charing surgery too. Once supplies are available we will be contacting patients for appointments, but if you do not wish to wait you can book your Booster jabs through the mass vaccination sites via 119 or the NHS website.

- We are delighted that in the last month we have had 4 new GPs join Ivy Court despite the national GP recruitment crisis. We were able to persuade 2 of our GP trainees, Dr Shankar Gupta and Dr Jolisha Singh, many of whom you will know, to stay on with us. Dr Toby Holland will be also be doing regular sessions with us, as will Dr Becca Stone. Dr Stone will be taking on her own list so if any patients would like to transfer to her list then please email the surgery at kmccg.patientliaison@nhs.net and we will be happy to arrange this.
- Ivy Court has a long history of training our future GPs and this will continue to be an important aspect of our work. Dr Davis has joined me as a GP Trainer, with Dr Watts completing his training accreditation next year. We currently have 5 GP Trainees at the Surgery and are very excited to be welcoming the first medical students from Kent's new medical school to Ivy Court in November. Ivy Court invests significant time in training these doctors as we hope some of them will choose to stay in the area and perhaps become your future GPs, and so securing healthcare provision in the Tenterden area, whatever the national climate may be.
- 18 years ago, there were just 2 telephone lines into the practice, now there are over 8, with up to 50 held in a virtual cloud based system. Back then, apart from surgeries and letters, all my extra calls for the day were able to be written into a few lines of a little red leather bound diary which sat beside the telephonist.

Well done Neil and all at Ivy Court.

The full text of Neil's report is available at the My Tenterden website and included in the My Tenterden News bulletin in October.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

After a huge effort by the Team to organise the Reg 14 Public Consultation, the public response has been strong and many constructive and positive comments have been submitted. The Team is now reviewing the data and intend to update the documents where necessary. We are extremely grateful for all the residents' support to get us to this point and will report back soon. The next stage will be to prepare the documents for the Reg 16 LPA consultation which will take a period of six weeks to determine.

Siggi Nepp – TNP Chairman

Councillor Kate Walder, Communications Group

Leader for the Neighbourhood Plan, said:

Covid 19 changed everything for everybody - all our plans, aims, ambitions were overturned and upended. What it also did was absolutely confirm the value and importance of our green spaces and our beautiful Town - how lucky we were to have access to these in the depths of the lockdowns and how critical these spaces were to our well-being, our equilibrium and mental health.

Covid 19 also placed a very significant spanner in the works of the Neighbourhood Plan, now in its 2nd year. Having done the really significant heavy lifting as a Committee of evidence gathering and policy writing, we were ready to take the really important next step of taking it out to consultation with the public. At this point the draft Plan becomes a 'material consideration' for planning applicants and decision makers and must be referred to. The regulations governing the process however stopped any 'in-person' consultations - the very thing that had got us launched and working.

Hence the decision to take the public consultation process on-line. This was not an easy decision but our only other option was to delay, potentially for months. The results have been surprising and widespread. I firmly believe that we reached parts of the community who would not have engaged with the traditional format of meetings in town halls. The Instagram and Facebook consultation campaigns brought in a far wider demographic and far greater numbers than we ever thought possible. What has emerged is a deep well of love for the Town, huge stores of local knowledge and profound concern about the future if decisions are made by others.

As we head into autumn, the Committee will be hard at work, combing through the responses and reviewing and assessing their impact for a rewrite, with our expert planner.

Limes Land Update

Earlier this year there was a revised planning application submitted for the development of Limes Land, following significant reaction and refusal of the application in 2019. The most significant variation was to seek approval for 145 new houses, as against the 250 specified in the earlier application.

The Association continues to have strong objections to these proposals, and submitted these to Ashford Borough Council in a detailed letter which can be viewed on our website:

<https://www.tdra.org.uk/planning/objection-to-application-21-00790-as-land-between-woodchurch-road-and-appledore-road-tenterden-kent/>

The latest application has been refused by the ABC Planning Committee and the developers have stated their intention to take their case to appeal.