Venue: The Council Chamber, Town Hall Buildings, 31 St Mildred’s Road, Westgate-on-Sea

Time: 6.30 pm

Date: Monday 19 September 2016

Present: Cllrs Charlton, Cornford, King, Morrish, Rickett, and Rolfe

Also present: Mrs C Wheeler and Mr G Orton (Co-optees), Jill Frankland (Town Clerk) and two members of the public.

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|  | Item |  | Action |
| 425 | Chairman’s Welcome | The Chairman welcomed those present and gave the ‘usual housekeeping’ notices. |  |
| 426 | Apologies for Absence | Cllr Scott sent in her apologies. |  |
| 427 | Members’ Interest | No interests were declared. |  |
| 428 | Planning Decisions | The Town Clerk read out details of application decisions made by TDC since the last meeting. |  |
| 429 | Planning Applications | The meeting noted the planning applications that had been received, reviewed and consultation period has elapsed. Applications considered:* TPO/TH/16/1111 – 1x Sycamore crown lift to 4m, 20% crown thin of 1 x Sycamore – 1 Ethelbert Square

Approve as work on both sides achieve a more balanced tree* FH/TH/16/1168 – Erection of single storey rear extension and raised patio – 8 Sea Road

No comments* F/TH/16/1179 – replacement windows at first floor level from UPVC to vertical sliding UPVC with external Georgian bars - Flat 3, 14 Domneva Road

We note the existing UPVC and whilst in a conservation area we encourage use of timber, we note that the UPVC has been in situ for some time. * F/TH/16/1180 – Replacement windows at second floor level from UPVC to vertical sliding UPVC with external Georgian bars - Flat 4, 14 Domneva Road

We note the existing UPVC and whilst in a conservation area we encourage use of timber, we note that the UPVC has been in situ for some time. No late applications were received |  |
| 430 | TDC Enforcement Issues | Proposal: Cllr King. Agreed.**Resolved: TC to write to Planning** 1. **endorsing CAAG’s requests on enforcement issues and adding concern that cupola may lean too far and be lost.**
2. **The Grove – Front boundary wall – concern that part removed.**
 | JF |
| 431 | Housing and Agricultural Land/Local Plan | This matter was deferred until the next meeting. | JF |
| 432 | Waste Disposal Strategy | Councillors were reminded that KCC was seeking views on their new strategy, Councillors to respond individually.  | All |
| 433 | Provision of defibrillators, West Bay Beach | TC to follow up. | JF |
| 434 | Painting of Toilets and Repairs to Shelters, West Bay | TC informed the meeting that TDC is currently undertaking a review of assets and until this work is completed, no actions will be taken. It was noted that these issues might be included in the Coastal Community Team work. |  |
| 435 | Local Transport Plan Consultation | Proposed: Cllr Charlton. Seconded: Cllr Rickett. Agreed.**Resolved: TC to write to KCC Highways requesting further information on priority of Thanet loop road on Shottenden Road before WoSTC can provide comment.** | TC |
| 436 | Neighbourhood Plans | Cllr Morrish informed the meeting that 1. Statutory form and map to be sent to TDC
2. Followed by consultation – 6-8 weeks
3. Work to be undertaken by Local Plan Working Party (Cllr Morrish, Rickett & Scott, Mrs Wheeler, Mr Orton and two co-optees from Garlinge.
4. Have precedent from Margate

TC to circulate Cllr Scott’s report.  | TC |
| 437 | Digital Mapping Tool | TC quoted report.Proposed: Cllr Cornford, seconded: Cllr Charlton.**Resolved: to look at free digital mapping tool/cartographers in the future.** |  |
| 438 | Westgate-on-Sea Library | Proposed: Cllr Charlton, seconded: Cllr Rickett. Agreed.**Resolved: propose Council put in an asset of community value application. Cllr Rickett to lead and Mrs Wheeler to provide some background information.** | GR/CW |
| 439 | Derelict Cafe, St Mildred’s Bay | It was noted that the building had recently been purchased and it was hoped that it will be a viable concern by Summer 2017.The matter is deferred for six months. |  |
| 440 | Pedestrian Crossing, West Bay Ave near Junction with St Mildred’s Road | Proposed: Cllr King, seconded: Cllr Rickett. Agreed.**Resolved: TC to write to KCC requesting sight of safety audit pre and post construction.**  | JF |
| 441 | Poor State of Repair of Pavements | TC reported a complaint had been received from a resident regarding the poor state of repair of pavements, particularly for people who have a disability and those who utilise mobility scooters. The TC has responded requesting more specifics and has forwarded complaint to KCC Highways.Reminder: Highways and Transportation survey, please forward comments to Cllr Morrish to collate and respond on behalf of WoSTC. | ALL |
| 442 | Siting of Refuse Bins | TC to write to Geoff Dunne requesting a response to previous email enquiry. | TC |
| 443 | Thanks | The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk for her work on this Committee. |  |
| 444 | Date of Next Meeting | The date of the next meeting is Monday 17 October 2016 commencing at 6.30pm |  |

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm

**Report from Cllr Scott**

**Promoting green infrastructure within developments in Westgate-on-Sea.**

The Neighbourhood Plan will give us a good opportunity to set down how the people of Westgate-on-Sea expect any new developments to be built, at what specification and how green areas and the environment will be preserved and enhanced.

With regards to the 1000 houses that may be built on grade 1 agricultural land, the consensus is that, preferably, the number of house built should be well below 300. However, if we are realistic, it seems as if more than this will be built as set out in the draft local plan, and local people’s views will be ignored.

The neighbourhood plan can set out policies that ensure the environment is protected and enhanced. It is well documented that green infrastructure not only increases biodiversity but also increases well-being of all living or visiting the area. It is therefore not only in the interest of existing residents but also in the interest of the developer as the pleasant environment will attract more buyers and those willing to pay a little bit more for open space.

There are four main aspects with regards to the environment that we need to consider when building on agricultural land.

1. Loss of food production
2. Loss of open space and green space
3. Increased a) air b) water and c) noise pollution during construction and after construction
4. Increased risk of flooding

We may like to add policies for each point 1-4 above. Those briefly explained below are separated into those which require money to enable mitigation elsewhere in Westgate and those that suggest enhancements of the development itself.

1. Loss of food production:

A) Money should be set aside by the developer for the production of forest gardens/ orchards/ nut orchards/ community food growing projects elsewhere in Westgate.

B) Green walls for food production and planters along the streets with edible food should be considered within the development. An allotment within the development could also be considered.

1. Loss of open space and green space

Green infrastructure should be considered within the development for example, trees along the residential streets. These could mimic those within Westgate – e.g. Blossom trees.

The plans must include soft edging around the development. This will enable residents in the adjacent roads to feel that they are not being over looked or cramped.

The houses must have proper gardens with grass, instead of concrete and include bee friendly plants.

Green roofs and green walls should be considered on a percentage of the development.

A large playing area should be included to keep some open play space – this is already in the plans and must be kept.

The footpath that transects the ST1 and 2 plots must be kept and could also be enhanced.

1. Increase pollution:

Considerate construction is necessary in order for the existing residents to not be disrupted. Again, building must take place at a distance from the existing housing to prevent this from happening.

The Town Council would like to know how air and noise pollution will be kept to a minimum during construction.

As the change of land use will cause some increase in pollution levels, procedures should be in place to mitigate these effects. For example, as well as good general green infrastructure, green roofs can decrease water run off pollution and air pollution.

1. Increased risk of flooding:

Areas around ST1 have been flooded in previous years when the farmer ploughed the field in the wrong direction. Resident must be sure that their properties will not be flooded again, as concreting over of the soil will change the surface water flow over the land to nearby roads and drains.

Ways in which the flooding risk can be reduced include the use of permeable pavements- these use materials that enable water to drain through the pavements. Another way to reduce the speed of way run off is by installing green roofs on a percentage of the properties.

Other things we might like to think about is the use of green energy. We could have a policy that stipulates that 50% of all new buildings in Westgate-on-sea have solar pv panels on their roofs. Why not?!

This list is by far exhaustive and any suggestions would be welcome.

Let’s organise a date to start working on the Neighbourhood plan and the design codes of future developments.

We may also like to arrange a meeting with Millwood Homes later this year to discuss our ideas.

***Cllr Hannah Scott***