

Notes on KALC Meeting on October 12th 2022 at Ryarsh Village Hall including Regulation 18 consultation and Climate Change issues

Matt Boughton was present at the start of the meeting in order to answer questions

I brought up the difficulty of using the software in the Regulation 18 consultation and how it was necessary to download a PDF of what the server recorded as having been submitted and then go back and fill in the gaps and repeat the process until complete. Matt seemed surprised by this. (I have since been told that the problem has since been addressed and put right)

I then said people should not leave filling in the consultation until the last minute so that they had sufficient time to make sure their comments were recorded and also because there was a lot to read. Matt nodded agreement with this.

Several persons at the meeting complained that builders, at least round Ryarsh, were choosing to only build large homes for those who could afford them.

Matt's response was that some people needed large homes for large families.

Mike Taylor asked what guarantee there was that TMBC would take any notice of the views expressed in the consultation.

Matt's answer was that all opinions would be published.

Matt said, in answer to a question, that he did not think the government would drop the requirement for 'affordable' homes.

Somebody else brought up the need for infrastructure especially in the North of the borough.

Matt said he could not force developers to provide infrastructure.

Somebody asked about brownfield sites, empty homes and unused planning applications.

Somebody else asked if there were sufficient sites for home building outside the green belt, suggested that there weren't, and asked why question 1 in the relevant section even gave the option of retaining the green belt.

Matt said that the question was there to gauge people's opinions. He did not elaborate as to how the housing requirement was going to be met although he did make a muttered comment about sites along the A20.

I tried to ask a question about the Sustainability section of the consultation, but the chair said there was no time and Matt said, "Email me" as he left.

Then followed the KALC AGM.

Sarah Barker was elected chair, Chrys Short was elected deputy chair and Sarah Huseyin was elected secretary, all unopposed.

Neighbourhood plans came up, but there was no enthusiasm, especially as somebody commented that it is not possible to produce a neighbourhood plan that contradicts a local plan and that has yet to be written and agreed.

On climate change action plans, Sarah said she had sent out 26 questionnaires and six had been returned. She pointedly asked me why she had not received a response from Aylesford Parish Council. She then said that she would extend the deadline, since most councils would be involved in

responding to the local plan. She said that the responses so far asked for help in setting up an action plan except for Shipbourne, which already has one, which they are prepared to circulate when they have agreed it.

I was asked about progress with the Climate Change Forum and I responded that I had just been informed that since Henry Saunders, the TMBC climate change officer has taken another post elsewhere, the Climate Change Forum that was to have been held on October 20th has been postponed.

Sarah said she would ask the Parish Partnership Panel, which next meets on November 3rd, how TMBC is measuring progress on meeting their climate change targets and request an update.

The KALC working group on climate change is myself, Sarah, Jenny Bate and Tim Shaw.

Somebody said that the Regulation 18 consultation contained very little about climate change. I suggested that people responding should bring up climate change issues in their responses and comments.

The question was posed as to whether caps should be left on plastic bottles for recycling. Somebody suggested that the caps should be left on or they got into machinery but somebody else said they should be taken off. I explained that the tops are a different kind of plastic from the bottles. The TMBC advice is to leave them on.

Somebody else added that the rubbish collectors are not now collecting batteries, small electrical items or clothing (Confirmed by referring to the TMBC website) despite what Piers Montague said at the last Parish Partnership Panel.

The Next meeting of TM KALC will be by Zoom on December 15th

Tom Shelley October 15th 2022