

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KIG JOINT PARISHES GROUP

Held on 17th January 2008 at 7.30pm.

Present: Representatives from the following Parish Councils:
Bearsted
Broomfield & Kingswood
Chart Sutton
Detling
Downswood
Harrietsham
Hollingbourne
Langley
Leeds
Lenham
Otham
Sutton Valence
Thurnham

The meeting was chaired by Richard Jacques - TPC

Also in attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington and Dr Will Mangar.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Boxley and Ulcombe Parish Councils.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted by all present.

3. Presentation by Dr Will Mangar.

Councillor Jacques introduced Dr Will Mangar to the meeting.

Dr Mangar spoke regarding his involvement in KIG and he campaign to stop this.

He spoke of the health issues and changes in the environment associated with the proposed industrialisation of the area.

He stated that he had spoken regarding this matter at the recent KCC Local Board meeting and he did a synopsis of his speech for all present.

Dr Mangar spoke of his concerns regarding air pollutants, noise pollutants and the affects on walkers, horse-riders, cyclists and other users of the North Downs.

He stated that his personal view was that the application for KIG had discrepancies and it could be a front for housing which the area could not sustain as there was not the infrastructure to support it.

Following his presentation Dr Mangar took questions from members present.

A discussion took place regarding the atmospheric conditions around Maidstone and how the development would affect the current poor air quality.

The meeting debated whether the area would be able to cope should a major incident occur at the development, and whether the Department of Health had a view on the proposals.

The Chairman thanked Dr Mangar for his time in attending the meeting.

Richard Jacques spoke regarding the meeting that he had attended at the Port of London Authority. He stated that it was very much becoming the view that this was a speculative application and that there was something else in the background.

John Horne reported on a letter that had been received from Alison Broom and the implications of the Article 14 being served on the applicant by the Highways Agency.

He also spoke regarding the air quality issues and the work that had been undertaken over the last ten years by the authorities to clean up the air quality.

A discussion took place regarding the Secretary of States decision to approve the Bexley/Crayford application and the bearing that this may have on the application for KIG.

It was suggested that the JPG may wish to consider hiring consultants to look at the health issues associated with the planning application, this suggestion was noted. Dr Mangar offered to assist with these areas.

The Chairman reported that KCC Councillor Paul Carter was due to attend a JPG meeting on 21st November 2008.

4. KIG.

Richard Jacques reported that He, Jim Thompson, Patrick Walton, Peter Cooper and Peter Titchner had met with Richard Everett from the Port of London Authority as agreed at the previous meeting. He stated that they had attended the meeting with the idea of the Port of London doing some work as to an alternative location; however it was clear from discussions that this would not be the case. He stated that the Port of London Authority did not think that KIG would be a transmodel link; it would be a regional distribution centre. He stated that there were concerns about the location and its proximity to Dover and the Continent.

In terms of the Parish Councils submission against the proposals, he stated that the Port of London Authority considered this to be of a very high standard.

Jim Thompson reported further on the meeting.

A discussion took place regarding how KCC could assist the group and where they would fit in with the actions being taken by the JPG.

The Chairman reported that he had received an offer from Terry Rimes who was involved with transport to attend the next meeting to speak to the group. He confirmed with members that he should take up this offer and invite Mr Rimes to the next meeting.

Peter Waite reported on the environmental work undertaken by the Environment Group to date.

MBC's process of determination of the planning application was discussed and the representation by Parish Councils at the planning committee hearing.

It was agreed that all Parish Councils should be given the opportunity to address the committee regarding this application. John Horne stated that at present there were no definite arrangements for the hearing, however it was likely that this would take place at Mote Hall and be conducted as a normal planning meeting.

He stated that all PC's should have the right to make representations, however this had not been confirmed.

A question was raised as to whether all Parish Council would have the right to address the committee; this was debated by all present.

The Chairman referred to an email circulated to all representative of the JPG regarding the appointment of Mark Watts of The Waterfront for a period of three months. This was discussed and agreed by all present.

Action: Chairman/Clerk to confirm the appointment of Mark Watts.

5. Other Items.

No matters were raised.

6. Date of Next Meeting

6th February and 21st February 2008.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.