



**MAIDSTONE TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT LTD**  
**HIGH STREET REGENERATION SUB GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON – 19 January 2012**

**Present:**

**Name:**

Ivan White  
Cllr Mike FitzGerald  
Charmane Waggett  
John Foster  
Olivia Davie  
Denise Joy  
Pat Edwards  
Neville Butteriss  
Jan Wood  
Laura Wood  
Barrie Terrie  
Lisa Welander  
Marie Stupple  
Ilsa Butler

**Company:**

Town Centre Management  
Maidstone Borough Council  
Eurovia  
Maidstone Borough Council  
Lush Limited  
Maidstone Borough Council  
  
Ahead Of Beauty  
Ahead Of Beauty  
Lunch Basket  
Eden  
Eden  
Town Centre Management

**Apologies:**

Were received from:

Paul Alcock, Town Centre Management  
Bill Moss, Town Centre Management  
Dennis Conyon, Maidstone Taxi Proprietors Association  
David Coleman, Police

**1) Introductions:**

Ivan White opened the meeting.

**2) Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising:**

The minutes were approved.

**Item 4 – Urban Blue**

The Urban Blue bus has been operating outside of Chicago Rock Cafe while the work is completed in its normal location outside the HSBC Bank.

**3) Progress of the scheme:**

Covered under item 4.

**4) Upcoming works:**

Charmane Waggett reported to the group.

The works in Bank Street are now well underway but have fallen one day behind the ten day schedule initially planned due to unexpected surfacing that has been discovered during excavation works. As soon as the concrete is dry in the area the fences will be removed and barriers installed around any hazardous

sections. Paving will be undertaken in small sections, with areas directly outside of doorways being completed outside of shop opening hours. Bank Street should be fully complete by the end of February.

The full closure in King Street will now take place from Friday 10 February 8pm to Wednesday 15 February 5am. The bus stops in King Street will remain closed for the remainder of that week and the road will be open to a single lane controlled with temporary traffic lights. Work will continue 24 hours a day during this period. Footpaths will not be affected.

The North side of the High Street to the Week Street junction is due for completion in the next week after which time works will move to King Street working from the entrance to The Mall heading towards Lush.

The final area will be the new Town Square outside of the Town Hall.

5) **Questions:**

Barrie Terry asked if there was any possibility that additional man power be assigned to the works in Bank Street as he felt that current resources are insufficient for the speedy completion of the works. Charmane Waggett responded that due to the width of the street there was only room for one digger and that the maximum number of workmen for the area had been allocated; Charmane did emphasise that once the concrete was dry the fencing would be removed allowing improved access for customers, opening the whole section up.

Lisa Welander from Eden requested that a larger 'Businesses Open as Usual' sign be installed as the current one is too small and keeps falling off.

Jan and Laura Wood from Ahead of Beauty expressed their concerns at the dramatic reduction in footfall that the works have caused; a problem that has also been experienced by the other Bank Street traders present at the meeting. Ahead of Beauty report that they have had no walk in customers at all on a Saturday and feel that the presence of workmen can be intimidating for some people. Eden estimate that their takings are down around £200 per day compared to the same period the previous year since the works commenced and this is resulting in reduced staffing levels.

Cllr Denise Joy asked if anyone from the council had been to speak to the businesses; they responded that no one has approached them. Cllr Joy went on to say that she feels that Town Centre Management could be speaking to the businesses about their concerns.

Neville Butteriss asked if the crossing point outside of the Town Hall would be controlled. John Foster responded that the crossing here would be a courtesy crossing point but would include tactile paving and a raised surface. Controlled crossing points will be in place at the lower end of the High Street and outside of the The Mall entrance. Speed limits in the area will remain at 20mph.

Maidstone Borough Council consulted with the Kent Association for the Blind and Guidedogs for the Blind when working on the design for the High Street particularly including the crossing points.

Cllr Mike FitzGerald emphasised the importance of communicating these changes to the groups concerned in an effort to minimise any nervousness they may feel when the changes are established.

Cllr Denise Joy pointed out that it would be possible to install further controlled crossing points and that any concerned party is free to lobby the council.

Mark Noble from Nat West wished to record his view that he has found the contractors to be very helpful and courteous.

6) **Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on 16 February at 3pm at the Town Hall.