



# Minutes

## Meeting of Kent and Medway Environmental Protection Group

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Commencing 10:15am

At: Shepway District Council Offices, Folkestone, CT16 3PJ

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### In attendance

Peter Thomason - T & M Borough Council  
(Chair)  
Malcolm Webb - Sevenoaks District Council  
(Vice Chair)  
Julie Oates - Canterbury City Council  
(Secretary)

Julie Short – Dartford Borough Council  
Mark Lees - Gravesham Borough Council  
Sarah Foster - Medway Council  
Sarah Hogben – Shepway District Council  
Sue Kennedy - Swale Borough Council  
David Ledger – Swale Borough Council  
Duncan Haynes - Tunbridge Wells BC

### Apologies

Richard Woodcock - Ashford Borough Council  
Paul Neagle - Dover District Council  
Allan Glasson – Gravesham Borough Council  
Steve Wilcock – Maidstone Borough Council  
John McCullough - Tunbridge Wells BC

Meeting commenced: 10.15am  
Meeting finished: 12.15pm

**CPD Awarded:**  
1.5 hours core CPD  
30mins supplementary CPD

**Total CPD Awarded:**  
(8 members)

12 hours core CPD  
4 hours supplementary CPD

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	<b>Action</b>  <b>None</b>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Richard Woodcock - Ashford Borough Council Paul Neagle - Dover District Council Allan Glasson – Gravesham Borough Council Steve Wilcock – Maidstone Borough Council John McCullough - Tunbridge Wells BC</p>	<b>None</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Minutes and matters arising</b></p> <p>The minutes for the last meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at Dover District Council agreed.</p> <p>SK – Speaker at CIEH Branch Meetings. SK explained the importance of ensuring good quality speakers for CPD. It is however, proving difficult to find speakers willing to attend the Branch meetings.</p> <p>SH – Item 7 (page 3) Shepway held a similar joint venture with the Police over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Most LA's now attending regular meetings with the Police.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Update on liaison with Kent Highways</b></p> <p>There was agreement that the Memorandum of Understanding was good. The liaison between KCC contractors is very useful. DH explained that there is a requirement by the contractor/KCC to do a publicity/letter drop containing contact numbers etc to affected properties.</p> <p>Some discussion followed on the use of Section 61 Notices and the 28 day notification period for major works. Although S. 61 Notices are used occasionally by some LA's, this is not very often. With regards to the 28 day notification period, this may need to be extended for larger projects. It was agreed that early liaison between parties is important.</p>	<b>None</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Car Alarms Procedure</b></p> <p>DH advised on the recent notification from Kent Police that they are withdrawing from the part of the agreement with LA's relating to provision of owner/registered keeper details in relation to mis-firing car alarms. This has come about from Kent Police's interpretation of recent guidance and advice from the DVLA. Police in some other areas are continuing to provide the information. DH will liaise further on this with Katherine Smith of Lacors and also John Smith (K&amp;M EHM Group)</p>	<b>DH</b>

<b>6</b>	<p><b>Use/abuse of WHO noise guidelines in planning conditions/</b></p> <p>DL explained that he has been involved recently in 2 planning appeals and the Inspector has been working to 1999 WHO guidelines which are obviously now quite old. There is some concern that these are not always appropriate and perhaps a more up to date standard should be used. MW was in agreement and had had experience of a similar situation where it was apparent that the Inspector did not really understand the various noise parameters. There was also general concern that the inspector always seems to go along with any Consultants view as the 'expert'. PT advised that it is important to ensure that we make as many details comments as possible at the objections stage so this can be provided as 'back up' in any appeal.</p>	<b>None</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Bed Bugs</b></p> <p>ML advised of a case in Gravesham involving bed bugs that has been on-going for some time. Contractors involved in the treatment had suggested that the source is from a vacant house and have requested Gravesham BC to gain entry so that the house can be investigated and treated. The owner of the vacant house can't be traced. Is there any possibility to deal with as a Filthy and Verminous premises? At present there is insufficient evidence to obtain a Warrant to enter. It was agreed that this was probably not the best route of action. SK suggested that help may be available from the Kent Empty Property website and that they may be able to assist in gaining entry. There seem to have been a few cases recently where there was evidence that bed bugs had travelled between properties.</p>	<b>None</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Future programme/speakers</b></p> <p>13/01/11 – General meeting (Gravesham BC)</p> <p>12/05/10 – Noise related topic (Dartford BC)</p> <p>09/09/11 – In vessel composting visit – New Earth Solutions (T &amp; M BC)</p>	<b>DL</b>

**9****AOB**

**Tunbridge Wells (DH)** – Query raised regarding any issues of flies relating to paper waste spread on agricultural land? Some members of the group had experienced problems in the past with odours but not flies.

**Swale (DL)** – Complaints have been received regarding the new Javelin HS trains at Faversham Station. Engines are left running in a cool down mode for up to 30 minutes after switch off. Dues to the proximity of houses to the station, this has caused problems. SE Trains are trying to resolve the issue.

Swale (SK) – A reminder that PPC update training is taking place on 30/9 (£45/person).

**Sevenoaks (MW)** – Has an issue with a Crusher based on a Waste Transfer Site permitted by the EA. Although the EA are happy to permit the Crusher they won't class it as mobile (even though it has wheels) and apply the usual 'mobile crusher' conditions. This may cause problem relating to lack of dust suppression. The EA want to use a standard permit without any conditions.

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

I certify that these minutes are a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ P Thomason \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. P. Thomason  
Chair, Kent and Medway Environmental Protection Group

Dated: **13<sup>th</sup> January 2011**