

Town council questionnaire to go out with next newsletter

Residents will be asked how to spend Tent1 cash

by Tricia Jamieson

tjamieson@thekmggroup.co.uk
@triciajamieson1

A questionnaire on how public money should be spent in Tenterden is to go out to residents.

The town council is consulting on where the cash expected from the Tent1 housing development should go.

Questions the public will be asked include should there be a cinema in town, the future use of the town hall and what facilities should there be on the recreation ground and at St Michael's.

The council is expecting to get money from the Tent1 developers under a section 106 agreement – where money is given for community projects – and from the sale of land it owns for the homes.

Town clerk Phil Burgess suggested to councillors at a meeting on Monday that the questionnaire should be included in the next council newsletter.

But Cllr Mike Carter urged waiting until after the elections on May 7.

"We are rushing into this," he said. "I wonder if we should not



Cllr Sue Ferguson and Cllr Mike Carter joined the debate on the Tent1 proposals

do it as a new project as this council is coming to an end. Do we have to do it right now?

"I believe we are rushing into it and we should delay it until the new council."

Cllr Sue Ferguson said the questionnaire had been talked about for too long.

"It is important that we get it out soon," she said. "There is a lot of support for a cinema and we need to take this forward and find out what people want.

"We need to know the level of support for a cinema and I think it will be high."

But Cllr Paul Clokie said: "If you ask, do you want a cinema, the answer will be, yes. If there is any possibility of delivering one, the answer is, no."

Cllr Roger Finniss said that asking people if they wanted a cinema did not mean the council would provide one.

Cllr Justin Nelson said the questionnaire was a way of find-

ing out what people thought. If members of the public had specific points, they could raise them with councillors.

Mr Burgess said the results would be a good starting point for the new council. Councillors agreed to distribute the questionnaire in the next newsletter.

■ What do you think? Email kentisexpress@thekmggroup.co.uk or write to Express House, 34-36 North Street, Ashford, TN24 8JR.