

Minutes
Aveley & Kenningtons Community Forum
Public Meeting 17th September 2019
7.30pm – 9.30pm

The meeting was held at Parkside, Aveley Football Club, Aveley, Essex RM15 4PX

Apologies: None Recorded

Attendees: Kim Towlson Chair of Thurrock Association of Forums (KT), John Rowles Chair Purfleet Forum (JR) Teresa Webster Secretary (TW), Joy Harman Committee Member (JH), Michelle Pike Committee Member (MP), Maureen Pearce Committee Member (MP1), Kevin Field Committee Member (KF), Sue Hewer Committee Member (SH) Cllr Colin Churchman (CC), PC Neil Brand (NB), Dean Watkins DW Transportation, Julian Sutton JMS Planning, Duncan Flynn Cratus (DF), Osman Dervish Cratus, Angus Maclean, Joanne Hogger, Debbie Sullivan, Melissa Walker, Victor Smith, Linda Sayer, David Sayer, Sylvia Smith, John Cox, Lynn Wiffen, Derek Wiffen, Chris Croucher, Bob Croucher, Pat Eager, David Gregory, John Hawkins, Stephen Hawkins, Derek Piper, Mark Rider, Seamus Purrel, Kenneth Wyatt, Mr L. Arnold, Jenny Copeland, P. M. Carroll, Jean Pike, Fred Pike, Gary Baker, Karen Baker, William Armstrong, J Cook, D Levett, K. Levett, Janet Faucheux, Anne Copeland, John Copeland, Jean P Smith, Tony Starns, Peter Watson, L. Blast, L. Bryant, S. Dunn, A. Ayers, D. Sibley, S. Sayers, A. Day, Robert Bowles, David Hurrell, A. Hurrell, M. Hurrell, K. Pulham, G. Eaglestone, Aminul Hoque, Emmanuel Osunsanya,

Meeting Opened / Welcome

JR Chair of The Purfleet Forum opened the meeting advising he had been asked to stand in as Chair this evening. JR welcomed attendees advising that it is going to be an interesting evening with a lot to discuss.

Code of Conduct

JR advised the Code of Conduct and further advised if you would like to speak please put your hand up. JR proceeded to hand over to tonight's guest speakers.

Councillor Churchman

It is recorded that Councillor Churchman left the room before any discussions took place with regards to The Thurrock Football Club Public Consultation.

Guest Speakers Thurrock Football Club Public Consultation

Dean Watkins DW Transportation, Julian Sutton JMS Planning, Duncan Flynn Cratus, Osman Dervish Cratus, Angus Maclean.

DF advised thank you for the inviting us and just for clarity we are the applicants and not the owners of the land.

DF advised that the application was for a Pre-Delivery Inspection site and provided details regarding the operation of the site, how vehicles including car transporters would enter and leave the site i.e. car transporters would enter turning right into the site and would leave

turning left. The car transporters would not be allowed to travel through Aveley Village via Ship Lane.

DF also advised that they had spent sometime listening to the Public's concerns.

DF advised that they wanted to speak about a precondition of how this can work for us. If left without any development, the traffic will be much worse, not better. We can implement now, part of the application would be to gift land for a turnaround area for HGV's. This will make it easier for HGV's to turn around and not go through Aveley Village. The Delivery Management Plan which would be part of the application would state left turn only out of the site for HGV's. Your community is growing over the last year I've met many Aveley people.

We are gifting the pitch 3g pitch 62 hours of play a week where grass pitch is only 8 hours.

Please think about this site. What will happen to the site in the next few years.

We would also gift part of the land at the back of the site for further sports facilities.

The view will be improved along the Mardyke. You will not be able to see the site, you will see the trees.

There will be refurbishment of the football pitch, gift of land at the rear for additional sports facilities, HGV turn around area and an introduction of an international company with 15-30 jobs.

It's rare in my experience to be able to offer so much with an application.

JS You may have attended the public consultation you had two dates at Thurrock Football Club.

Questions, Answers Concerns Raised from the Public

DF advised Hours of Operation, not 24 hours run from 7.30 to 6.00pm

Resident, Locally and in Thurrock, Residents struggle to get to where they need to be on the roads, have people mentioned to you what it is like in the Winter, your business will operate about 4 days a week due to the traffic being so bad.

Response We are aware the network is congested just not how much.

Resident, Have you spoken to local people, who is this to benefit. You won't get out of Ship Lane, this is not to the benefit to the people of Aveley. You will be using contract drivers they only get paid when they deliver and they will have to come through Aveley to do so. Your business is there to make money and you have been badly advised to set up a business in Aveley go somewhere else.

Mr Copeland, I understand its cars you will be parking.

Response Yes.

Resident, The pollution is going to be so much worse. Are all cars going to be delivered on transporters.

Response Cars will be delivered on transporters but will be mixed exporting to Dealerships.

Resident, We don't want you in Aveley these cars will be coming through Aveley we don't want you through Aveley.

Resident, I was a transporter for 17 years and lorries will park where ever they like.

Response Not with this site. If the drivers do park where they like they will lose their contract.

Resident, 75 cars per day are going to be tested from your site on a public highway, which part of the road system will they be tested. Your adding pollution and individual traffic in Thurrock.

Response Specifically the trips in and out will involve 75 car movements on the highway. Perhaps dealing with the HGV turn around we have voluntarily offered this but in terms of the Highways and the concern of HGV movements was raised as part of the consultation. We went away and as a result of comments, we thought we could develop some improvements. It is a balance exercise. This proposal and the level of traffic it generates is minimal it doesn't have to register for a traffic assessment. The value to the community of facilities is about 3.5million. This development is providing a 3G pitch for all different teams to play.

JR What are you going to do about the cars on the highway.

Mr Gregory When the bridge is closed in high winds the roundabout is blocked. Earlier today an Eddie Stobart lorry came down the village so if they can do this so can you. They are a big company going to a company in Stifford Road they do it.

Answer They will turn left out of the site. There are 75 cars coming in and out testing outside the peak hours. The question is will they go through Aveley Village. We have a Vehicle Management Plan. The cars have to be tested and go on the Highway reaching speed up to 50 mph. We could look at the Vehicle Management Plan to see if it can be extended to cars too to stop them coming through Aveley Village.

Resident Employment is this 15-30 employees.

Answer Yes.

Resident Have you consulted Essex Police, the Fire and Ambulance Services. Your extending the amount of cars on the highway every day.

Response There are statutory organisations that will be contacted.

Question, can I ask do any of you live in Aveley.

Response No.

Question So you don't know what the traffic is like. You don't know that often you have to find an alternative route to get out of Aveley. If there is an accident on the bridge the roundabout where you will be operating is at a standstill. We have horrendous days every week.

Response This site has been vacant for some time. You have to ask yourself, this site will be developed if it's not this development it will be something else.

Resident How many car transporter lorries will be bringing the cars to the site in a day.

Response two loads from the South and one from the North but could be up to five.

Jenny Copeland, I live in Ship lane and it is bad every day of the week the speed limit is 50 mph. How are you going to get out of your site.

Response The junction will be designed to cope with this.

Jenny Copeland How are you going to turn right into the site with the speed limit at mph.

Response We have no objections to lowering the speed limit. if the application gets to planning, we will have no objections lowering the speed. The Council have been very much involved in the discussion.

Rob Groves You state that the site will be built on. Making a sweeping statement that the site will be built on that's not true. How about the residents start enjoying this site. Who are you serving. The government is spending money on the Lower Thames Crossing because of how congested this area is. Thurrock Borough Council have one of the worse pollution levels in the country. There are so many questions.

Response Private land, private owners. What I was driving at is there will be planning applications for the site but I can't say what Thurrock Borough Council will do.

MP You keep going on about sport and leisure. I don't have children. I wouldn't be happy for children to play with cars and lorries coming in and out of the site. The fact is planning applications have been submitted to Thurrock Borough Council on the greenbelt and have been refused.

Response In terms of the football, yes there will be children's teams but adults as well.

SH You say there will be sports facilities, this centre has been built (Aveley Football Club). Why would people track all the way up to the Thurrock Football site when we already have this new stadium we are currently sitting in.

Response Thurrock Borough Council have identified a need for 3G football pitches.

Question We already have lorry park (Howard Tenens in South Ockendon. We have the Distribution Centre coming at the end of Purfleet Road. This site you speak about will completely block the Aveley Village.

Question How many car movements will there be. How many per lorry. How many of the cars will be started up.

Response This is not a lorry park. It is a PDI centre with 75 car movements in and out. The cars need to be tested. The site by its nature, it has been a football site for many years. Generally speaking, the amount of trips is very low. Can I also say those who say lorry park there are images on the boards to see what the site looks like.

Peter Watson Who will be employed i.e. the jobs being created. Will it be people from Aveley. All these cars our roads being tested when you could build a big shed and have a

rolling road on site. No need to have extra cars on the Highway. You can get up to 100mph you don't need a road if you need a speed bump the technology is there. A PDI (Pre-Delivery Inspection) does not take too long.

Response Good point.

Question Have you spoken to many other people. I don't like football at all and this facility here (Aveley Football Club) is wonderful. Have you thought about other facilities.

Response We have spoken to Thurrock Borough Council and there is a need for a 3g pitches. Officers and Councillors tell us so.

Question The Council don't always listen to what we want. I think you are in the wrong place. There is loads of land in Dagenham but don't think you want to pay cost of the land which is much cheaper here.

Response It's very hard to satisfy for PDI centres.

Mark Webster Your saying the cars have to do 50 mph on the Highway. All cars are pre run in. None of the cars need to have a test on the Highway.

Response When you work for a PDI Centre you are told what you need to do.

Anne Copeland My main concern is the environment. It worries me the flood plain in particular. How are you going to recover the flood plain. If you are going to cover the greenbelt land. We are losing our green space. Every time we build, we are losing more green land which is our lungs to breath.

Response The run off levels remain the same as green fill levels. This is private land, its supported by other reports with extensive landscaping and wildlife corridors too.

TW, I understand that East Thurrock Football have expressed an interest in the football stadium. Therefore, there is nothing in this for Aveley Residents only the increase in traffic and HGV's. What is there for our Residents.

Response With regards to which football club takes the ground, we are in talks but we have no say in this matter. The decision would be for Thurrock Borough Council.

The benefits are the refurbishment of the club, potential of land behind the ground for other sports facilities, jobs to the local area. The HGV turnaround which is a mechanism for HGV's to turn around, these are the benefits on the site.

At this point, the time allocated to the consultants for the Thurrock Football site expired. There was a further discussion about the consultants returning for a further public meeting in October. An invitation was made to the consultants which they accepted. It was decided a date would be advised for an October special general meeting.

The meeting continued with a change of Chair for the evening to TW.

Urgent Matter

TW advised we are now going to raise with you this evening an urgent matter.

The Forum Committee Members are keen to ensure we have a Forum which is transparent. In view of this we have to advise you we have sadly experienced issues since April 2019 with regards to the Forum Chair.

Forum Committee Members have repeatably spent considerable time to address the issues including two emergency meetings which the Chair was invited, but sadly this has been to no avail.

In view of this, we had two choices, either a Vote of No Confidence or to dissolve the Forum. Therefore, we took the decision to have a Vote of No Confidence with regards to the Chair. Earlier today the Forum emailed its members to advise you of this vote.

The vote took place at an emergency Committee meeting, the Chair declined to attend. The Vice Chair, the Chair's Sister did not attend.

Six Committee Members supported the Vote of No Confidence.

Six Committee Members which is the majority of the Forum Committee, are no longer willing to work with the Chair.

We really did not want to dissolve the Forum and the majority of the Forum Committee Members are committed to work hard in our Community and provide you with a Forum that you feel comfortable coming to with friendly meetings, where you can raise issues and we can share important information with you about our area.

In the future as we develop, we would also like to apply for funding for community projects and provide events for you and further engage with the community.

We would now like to ask our Forum Members here tonight if they would like to vote or support the decision.

It was noted at this point that JR advised TW that the Chair had sent an email after this evenings meeting had started advising he had resigned. This was advised by Alex Day a member of the public to JR.

TW advised the attendees of the above.

Melissa Walker proceeded with a brief speech with regards to her positive experience with TW and advised of her living conditions over the past four years. Melissa advised that if it wasn't for TW, she would still be living in terrible conditions being anti-social behaviour. Melissa also advised she had collected the keys to her new home today.

Attendees applaud

Adopt Constitution

TW advised We have provided all of our members recently with a copy of the Aveley and Kenningtons Community Forum Constitution for your approval.

May I ask our members are you happy with the contents of the Constitution and may we have our Members permission to adopt the Constitution here this evening. Are there any objections and if there are could you please advise the reason.

It was noted there were no objections.

TW advised I would like to propose that we move forward and adopt the Aveley and Kenningtons Community Forum Constitution. May I ask somebody here this evening to second please.

Dave Gregory I will second.

TW Thank you if there are no objections, we would now like to adopt the Constitution.

Noted the Aveley and Kenningtons Community Forum Constitution was adopted.

Passed Planning Application 19/00795/FUL Tesco Distribution Centre, Dolphin Park, Dolphin Way, Purfleet.

TW advised this application was brought to the attention of the Forum at the last public meeting. The application was for a Biofuel Generator and Associated Infrastructure. The application was passed by Thurrock Council on 31st July 2019.

License Application Kebab Outlet in the Car Park next to J&R Newsagent

TW advised that JH and herself attended Thurrock Council License and Councillor Churchman and Councillor David Van Day also attended the meeting on 21st August 2019. TW spoke on behalf of Residents. There was a total of 18 recorded objections and an excellent case to reject was put forward. However, the License Application was passed by Thurrock Council. The license granted is for a period of three months from this date. After this time the applicant will have to re-apply for a further license from Thurrock Council. The original application was noted trading midday until midnight, the applicant later amended the application until 11 pm but the application was granted trading amended by Thurrock Council to 10.30 pm. On the decision notice it is noted that the trailer will be removed each night. However, it was mentioned at the hearing that planning permission may be sought to leave it in situ. But until such time an application is submitted, the trailer is to be removed each night and taken off site.

Local Area Policing Update PC Neil Brand

NB advised an update on local policing matters:

1. OP Caesar – On going Operation to tackle Nuisance bikes incidents. Had some more funding. Still proving successful with a number of section 59s issued and incident numbers declining.
2. OP Kakapo – Operation in September on Kenningtons estate at the start and end of the school day to tackle ASB, been present at Ormiston Park Academy, seems to be working, driving issues around the one-way system. Request put in to Thurrock Council for better signage which includes the exit of Ormiston Park Academy.
3. OP Canister - Partnership patrols with Local Authority environment enforcement team around the misuse of Nitrous Oxide canisters, resulting in a number of canisters collected which are recycled and monies donated to charity, a number of Community Protection Warnings issued for various offences, a number of vehicles and persons stopped and searched, a number of Community Resolutions issued for drugs offences.

4. Crime prevention advice given around lights and timers as the evenings get darker to help prevent dwelling burglaries.

5. Local figures – Storm incidents For the Aveley & Uplands ward –

August	2018	2019
Total incidents	204	163
ASB	23	26
Crime	37	29
Traffic/road related	34	26
Other incidents are made up of Alarms, Concerns, ANPR, Admin etc.		

NB also engaged with attendees being local residents on their concerns and answered any questions they had, questions raised:

1. Parking - everywhere.
2. Speeding – Romford road, High street and Ship lane.
3. Possible Kebab van being sited in village and related issues.

Answers provided by NB

1. Clarified the role of each agency when it came to Parking matters – Police for Obstructions, Local Authority for Yellow lines etc. Cllr Churchman confirmed there was a District wide consultation on the issue.
2. Spoke about Community Speed watch and the Forum asked for those members wishing to set up one to let them know and they would apply.
3. I spoke about licence visits and partnership work with the Thurrock Council should the kebab van go ahead. Will be interested to see if the crime figures increase.

NB also advised to check Essex Police Thurrock Facebook page which shows what the Police are doing locally.

Resident asked is the kebab van open for 7 days a week, and how long is the kebab trailer TW advised the license allows trading 7 days a week and the trailer was detailed as 14ft on the application.

TW also advised that the kebab trailer will also take up valuable parking spaces in the car park when we are currently down to 16 spaces.

TW also advised she raised with Thurrock Council over a year ago regarding the Taxi Rank spaces on the approach to the Recreation ground and has now been advised by Thurrock Council that the spaces will no longer be used as a taxi rank and will revert to general parking in October when Enforcement will be removed.

Peter Watson, Romford Road is like a speedway for a lot of vehicles only had the Police down there once with a speed Gun

NB suggested Community Speed Watch Scheme but you need to have ten volunteers. Traffic Officers are very busy so I would recommend the Forum pursue the Speed Watch training course.

Resident, What is the speed limit through Aveley Village.

NB advised the speed limit is 20mph in the Village.

Resident advised One of the signs down Ship Lane has been turned around again by the church, church side of road. Councillor Churchman added to the list.

Peter Watson, asked if Speed Watch is just a warning, or is the 2nd one a fine. KT advised 3rd time you get fined. KT also advised regarding Speed Watch training and thought that you didn't need ten volunteers, five should be fine.

TW asked if anyone would like to volunteer for the Speed Aware to speak to the Forum Committee afterwards.

TW also asked Councillor Churchman for a solar panelled controlled "smiley face" speed monitor.

Councillor Churchman advised he will do his best.

Councillor Update

Councillor Churchman advised with regards to Kennington Park, there was a meeting with the Thurrock Council Legal Team on 26th September, hopefully going forward the issues with the park will be resolved moving the park forward. Councillor Churchman advised with regards to Landfill three still not open.

Councillor Churchman advised he would be meeting with Peter Wright Thurrock Council Head of Highways, if anyone had any questions which are Highways related to let him know. Councillor Churchman advised he had asked for a number of roads to be resurfaced, Hall Road, Shannon Way included.

Resident advised that Usk Road road surface was very poor.

Councillor Churchman advised he will look into this.

Still chasing regarding the underpass in Mill Road which needs painting but has recently been cleaned. I'm looking for funding to smarten up the underpass proposing new lighting. Caravans and fly tipping in Sandy Lane have been removed. I will try and get covert cameras in this area as a priority.

East London Waste Authority will be carrying out maintenance on their land at the rear of Blenheim Gardens, Toplands Avenue. Grass cutting and brambles to be cut back by the end of the month.

Councillor Churchman advised he had been very busy with constituent work.

TW advised Thurrock Council Highways came to a Forum public meeting in May and promised to come back with updates. I understand they have had a restructure but there has been no progression with regards to Ship Lane and it was mentioned they would look at improving the signage at the entrance to Ship Lane off of the roundabout A1306.

Councillor Churchman advised he will chase this.

Dave Gregory thanked Councillor Churchman for sorting out Blenheim Ave and Toplands Ave and asked if there were any monthly Councillor surgeries.

Councillor Churchman advised that he and Councillor Van Day hold monthly surgeries at the Library every second Saturday of the month between the hours 11am – Midday,

TW suggested the Forum put something on the noticeboards detailing Councillor surgeries and advised she would contact Councillor Spillman for his details too.

Resident, Camera at the top of Usk Road going onto Romford Road, does anyone look at it. Councillor Churchman advised yes, it's working.

NB advised the camera is not to manage traffic, but more to crime related and the personnel monitoring the camera do liaise with the Police. NB advised it is producing some good results.

Resident asked about parking on the pavement and the fact that it is stopping traffic flow. Resident advised this needs to be looked at.

NB advised If vehicles are on yellow lines it is a Thurrock Council matter, if parking on the pavement is causing an obstruction, this would be a Police matter. However, this would be a low priority.

Resident advised two years ago there was going to be yellow lines put down on the corners of roads.

Councillor Churchman advised he will raise this with Peter Wright and see if verges can be opened up to parking.

Councillor Churchman also advised there is going to be a borough wide consultation on parking, yellow lines etc.,

Notice Boards

TW advised It was raised last night at a meeting where Thurrock Council's Officer Lynn Gittins attended about the Community Notice Boards. Currently we are unable to access the board by the Recreation Ground as the builders of the Hub have put fencing to the side of the board. The notice board in the High Street is still waiting to be replaced and a Forum sign to be installed on the board too.

Resignations

TW advised we have had two Committee Member resignations, our Treasurer Debbie Hannah has moved out of the area and consequently resigned.

Alex Day who was a Committee Member has also resigned due to a change in circumstances.

We would like to thank both Committee Members for their input into the Forum.

Co-Opt Committee Members

TW advised we would now like to Co-Opt a couple of new Committee Members.

Firstly, Debbie Sullivan who has expressed an interest in becoming a Committee Member. Debbie is a regular volunteer at the litter picks that the volunteer group Friends of Aveley and Kenningtons Parks organise and has shown quite an interest in getting involved in the community. Debbie is currently a member of the forum.

Can I please ask for a Committee Member to propose Debbie as a Committee Member and a seconder too please. Noted MP proposed and SH second.

Are there any objections from our Forum Members.

None Recorded.

TW advised we would now like to welcome Debbie as a Committee Member.

TW advised Secondly Joanne Hogger who has expressed an interest in becoming our new Treasurer. Joanne has lived in Aveley for in excess of 30 years, currently a Beaver Leader and also part of the PTA at Aveley Primary School. She is also a key player in Friends of Aveley and Kenningtons Parks where she organises and takes part in litter picks around our area. Joanne would like to apologise for not being present this evening but she has a District Beavers meeting. In Joanne's absence may I ask for a proposer and somebody to second.

MP1 proposed and TW second.

Are there any objections from our Forum Members.

None recorded.

I would now like to welcome Joanne as our new Treasurer.

AOB

TW advised, Friends of Aveley and Kenningtons Parks has teamed up with a local company Smurfit Kapa to organise a litter pick in Kennington Park, Romford Road Aveley on World Tidy Up Day which is this Saturday 21st September between 11am and 2pm.

We would like to invite residents to come and join us and take part. Everyone is welcome.

Mark Rider advised for the last 16 years he has looked after wildlife and has been feeding the swans on the lake in Kennington Park. Recently the swans were killed which is very sad. Could Kennington Park be taken over by an organisation like the Wildlife Trust.

Councillor Churchman advised he would speak with the Bailiff and advise.

Mark Rider can the Forum approach the RSPB about the animals being killed in Kennington park.

TW we can try.

Resident asked for an update on the Hub.

TW advised we have not been very involved with the Hub and asked if the attendees would like a presentation at a meeting about the Hub.

Confirmed.

TW asked Councillor Churchman if he could assist and speak with Thurrock Council with regards to a presentation about the hub being provided at a Forum public meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

TW advised the planned next Forum public meeting is Tuesday 19th November 2019.

In the interim, if we can arrange a date in October for the Consultants of the Thurrock Football to return, we will advise the date of a special general meeting. Also we will advise via the Information Loop, notice boards, local newspapers and social media including our Facebook page.

Meeting Closed

TW thanked attendees for coming and closed the meeting.