

Minutes
Aveley & Kenningtons Community Forum
Public Meeting 19th November 2019
7.30pm – 9.00pm

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

Apologies: Michelle Pike

Open the Meeting

Teresa Webster (TW) opened the meeting. We would like to welcome you all to the meeting this evening.

Firstly, we do have a code of conduct and please be polite, speak one at a time and if you would like to ask a question please feel free. If you would like to ask a second question, we will take a second question once everyone has spoken and if time permits.

Membership Forms and the Information Loop Form

TW advised Just to remind you we do have membership forms if you wish to join the Forum and you can also sign up to our information loop too on the same form and by doing so we will endeavour to keep you updated of meeting details and any information we receive.

Minutes for the last Forum public meeting

TW advised minutes for the last forum public meeting have been emailed to all forum members and can be viewed on the Thurrock Forums website.

If you should have any queries relating to the minutes please do let us know.

Also, again, if you sign up to the information link and provide your email address, we will send you a copy of the minutes after each meeting.

Agenda Items

Guest Speakers

TW advised the Aveley and Kenningtons Community Forum have arranged for a presentation for you this evening for the Aveley Hub which is currently under construction in the Aveley Recreation Ground and due to open in the New Year. There will be a Q&A session after the presentation.

I will now hand you over to our Guest Speakers.

Natalie Warren Thurrock Council (NW), Sasha Kuldizan(SK), Thurrock Council Kristina Jackson CVS (KJ), Jacqui Payne Ngage (JP) continued to provide a presentation starting with how the Aveley Hub evolved. It was detailed as a partnership approach with the Community. It was advised that the programme was rolled out across Thurrock starting in 2011 at South Ockendon. There was a collaboration with Pathfinder. It was advised that there was an expression for a Hub in Aveley back in 2013 from the old Forum (now known as Aveley Village Community Foundation) and in 2014 consultations started where

Residents and visitors were encouraged to complete surveys. It was advised that the information collated from the surveys some 77% completed agreed with the addition of a Hub. The Christmas Market and St Georges day celebrations were targeted for the surveys. It was emphasized that the Aveley Hub was not just a building. Work should promote Communities and other providers to work together and develop a working partnership. The Aveley Hub should be self-supporting and the local Community should be empowered to be involved in the success of the running of Aveley Hub. It was emphasised that Community engagement was key. Once the Hub is open which is expected in January 2020, it was key to find volunteers from the Community to assist in the delivery of social activities and to support the use of the Aveley Hub. Full training was a must for willing volunteers and training would be facilitated AM or PM to accommodate all Residents who express an interest in volunteering in the Aveley Hub.

With regards to the funding of the Aveley Hub build, Thurrock Council almost matched the funding along with the Section 106 contribution. In total it is said that the build would cost £1,200,000.

It was advised that the Aveley Village Community Foundation (previously known as Aveley Village Community Forum Ltd Charity), had decided they did not want the burden of running the Aveley Hub which previously was the said intention.

It is very important to identify what the needs are of the local Residents in Aveley.

There are 36 plus 2 spaces disabled spaces intended in the car park which will also be in the Aveley Recreation ground.

Resident John Copeland advised, last time we had a conversation (with NW), you mentioned that the car park could possibly be exclusive to the Aveley Hub users. I foresee this will be a problem for public parking as we are limited in the Village with regards to parking.

NW advised not initially but I'm not saying in the future this might change.

Alan Field advised perhaps in the future would it be an option for the car park to be extended into the Aveley Recreation Ground.

NW advised we would have to consult to see if this was what Residents wanted and also parking could be a consideration to think about as part of the Aveley Design Charette.

TW advised that as she was part of Friends of Aveley and Kenningtons Parks along with our Treasurer JH, we would do everything to protect the green space in the Aveley Recreation ground so that Children had a decent place to play. Other sites should be looked at for example the Aveley Library will be closing once the Aveley Hub is open and perhaps this site should be looked at for additional parking.

TW advised that once the License agreement currently in place with Mr Patel from J & R Newsagents expired end of January, Mr Patel can do what he wants with his car park. If he wanted to, he could close the car park. To make the car park in the Aveley Recreation

Ground exclusive to Aveley Hub users, would cause a massive problem for Residents and passing trade for the businesses in Aveley.

A Resident advised do you think that 36 spaces in the car park are appropriate for the Aveley Hub hall users.

SH advised everyone is worrying about people using the car park but if you live in Aveley and are volunteering in the Aveley Hub you will walk there so parking won't be an issue.

KJ advised that there are car parking spaces at the Beehive and people also walk and it works.

TW advised NW could you please confirm that there is a commercial element to the use of the Hub i.e. the hall in particular. The Aveley Hub has got to pay for itself and it will be encouraged for company use at a higher tariff than community use. If this is successful, we do not live by a train station or have a frequent public bus service therefore if this is to be successful commercially too these visitors will travel by car.

NW confirmed yes there is a commercial element.

NW advised that there would be consideration for all Community groups to use the flexible space in the Aveley Hub but there will be a cost element for the use of the space. The hall tariffs had just set in line with the existing Library tariffs. The Library will be accessible to users over a greater period of time as there will be a self-service element for users of the Library. There will still be Librarians on site at specific times.

NW Detailed that inside the Aveley Hub, there are two meeting rooms. One which accommodates 4 or 5 people and the other to a maximum of 12 people. The larger meeting room had a sink installed and could lend itself to perhaps services of a medical nature. Again, there would be a charge for using both rooms.

NW advised the Hall capacity would be for 80 people with a kitchen directly attached. There was no decision at this time whether tables for the Hall would be rectangular or round.

TW advised that the capacity of 80 people was spoken about at the Aveley Hub Steering Committee and it was agreed that this would more likely be a maximum capacity of 70 people.

Resident question, how does Thurrock Council intend to recoup the monies paid to this project.

NW There will be a business plan which will stipulate monies generated from the Aveley Hub will go back into the Aveley Hub to pay for itself. Hall tariffs will be advertised shortly and Community groups will not be charged a commercial rate. The rate will be cheaper for Community groups. There are no start-up funds.

Resident Beryl Davis advised we all should be embracing this building.

TW advised in response we must be mindful that this is not the only building in Aveley and we also need to protect our High Street shops. If Residents and passing trade are not able to park, they will go elsewhere to shop. This could have a negative effect on other businesses and I would not like to see Aveley High Street end up like Upminster just coffee shops.

Resident advised there are two disabled parking spaces in the car park in the Aveley Recreation Ground and two other disabled parking spaces (on the approach to Aveley Recreation Ground right hand side). We need more parking this new car park won't solve the parking issues.

TW advised although it's not much, the enforcement has now been removed on the two spaces on the approach to the Aveley Recreation Ground righthand side. The spaces are no longer a taxi rank and can be used for general parking. This had been requested over a year ago to remove the Taxi rank and enforcement was removed in October.

Resident question Is there funding for Youth engagement and provision in the Aveley Hub and what is the upper limit on age. Also, would the different ages be split into groups.
Response No not yet but it will have to be volunteer led. The Aveley Village Community Foundation started with the painting (street art) of the hoarding around the perimeter of the Aveley Hub build. We need to talk, try out and test new things.

Resident advised the kids think there will be a youth club not activities in a hall. They will soon get bored.

Response Nothing has been decided yet. We need to engage with the youth. Volunteers will need to undertake a training programme.

Resident Lisa Clancy advised as a mobility aid user, is anything going to be done about the path around the Aveley Hub build as it is quite up and down, uneven, muddy. There is also a large pot hole.

NW advised the paths were not part of the project but would look into.

TW advised that we had discussed the pot hole at the Hub Steering Committee meeting.

SK advised ask someone from Thurrock Council Parks to discuss at a later date.

TW also advised that she had raised the condition of the paths including the pot hole on April 2nd 2019 with Thurrock Council Officer Jahur Ali.

Jahur Ali's response was that the paths were accessible and wheelchair users had been observed using the paths without a problem.

TW advised that she disputes this knowing that there are wheelchair users on her estate that cannot use the path. She also advised that she would email NW a copy of the email and response from Jahur Ali.

Resident Peter Watson advised, This building is costing 2.2 Million and your arguing about the cost of sorting out the paths. Surly just sort them out.

TW asked would it be an option to cut back the railings around the Bowls Club to expose the path behind the railings which previously was part of the Aveley Recreation Ground so that Residents could use this path.

Resident responded I'm a member of the Bowls Club and this can not happen. We can not open up this space which is used for parking. If we did this would further create a parking issue.

TW thanked NW, KJ and JP and SK for the presentation and also thanked them for coming.

Vice Chair Resignation

TW advised we have to advise you that the Vice Chair Angela Brinklow resigned on 17th September, the date of the last public meeting. We were unable to advise you at the last meeting as we had not received any notification from her but we understand she has spoken with Kim Towlson the Chair of Taff.

Thurrock Football Club PDI Centre Application

TW advised Firstly, I need to ask Councillor Churchman (CC) to leave the venue whilst we talk about this application. The reason we need to ask this is so that we do not compromise him being a Planning Committee Member.

It was confirmed CC left the building before proceeding. No other Councillors were present.

TW advised you may recall at the last meeting in September, The Consultants for the Thurrock Football Stadium public consultation attended. They agreed at the meeting to return for a further meeting in October. We did make contact with them after the meeting and they advised that although they were not saying they wouldn't come back they felt that they had answered all the questions put to them and based on the fact that there had been no further developments, they would not return in October. We did point out to them that the reason they were asked back was to give the Residents more time to ask further questions.

However, things have moved on and a planning application has now been submitted to Thurrock Council.

We have emailed anyone who has signed up to our Information Loop the letter the Forum received from Thurrock Council Planning Dept. It was detailed in this letter that comments are to be received by Thurrock Council by 14th November but we understand this has now been extended to 21st November 2019.

It was quite clear from the Forum's public meeting in September that not one Resident who asked any questions were in support of the application.

Therefore, the Forum have responded to Thurrock Council objecting to this application. The Forum has also produced a letter for anyone here this evening who wishes to object. All you need to do is write your name, address, date and sign the letter. Pop it in the envelopes provided.

The Forum will arrange for the letters to be received by Thurrock Council for you.

If you would like to sign a letter we will have them available at the end of the meeting at a table at the back of the hall.

CC was invited back into the Hall.

Aveley War Memorial

TW advised you may have seen the recent articles published in the local newspapers and also comments made on social media with regards to the Aveley War Memorial Garden. Joy Harman (JH) a Forum Committee Member and myself attended a meeting where the Aveley War Memorial was a subject on the Agenda.

The Forum Contacted Thurrock Council to raise concerns as a result of the meeting attended.

A further meeting with Thurrock Council took place with the Forum two days before works started on the War Memorial Garden.

It was agreed at this meeting that the roses would remain until next year and until such time the Forum could confirm and make contact with whoever it was who donated the roses in the memorial garden.

Works were started by Thurrock Council the roses were removed.

There were various comments made on social media not in support of the roses being removed and as detailed this was contrary to the agreement the Forum had from Thurrock Council.

As soon as the Forum was aware that the roses had been removed contact was made with Thurrock Council.

The Forum also made contact with the Burma Star Association who originally donated the roses and sadly as they have now closed their Thurrock branch and branches across the country, they were unable to assist with replacements.

We understand from comments on social media that there were originally 24 Burma Star Roses in situ.

The role of this Forum is to keep you guys advised of what is happening in the local area, and a conduit for both the Forum and Thurrock Council to share information with you guys. We have a very strong community in Aveley and Kenningtons and the Forum had amazing support from Residents/Groups even a Councillor who advised they would donate a Burma Star Rose to put back what was taken out.

The support was so great that the Forum is pleased to advise that this would cover all 24 Burma Star Roses.

There were also comments on social media that people wouldn't mind tidying up and weeding in the garden.

In view of this we would like to have a tidy up morning or afternoon either before or after Christmas and an opportunity going forward for this to happen as an ongoing event.

If you would like to get involved please let us know.

The difficult bit was to source these specific roses and although there are many rose growers/nurseries, there is only one who grow the Burma Star Rose.

At this point, Thurrock Council were doing all they could to source these roses and so was this Forum.

Thurrock Council purchased a number of the Burma Star Roses and so did the Forum.

The Forum had a conversation with Thurrock Council and we are pleased to advise that Thurrock Council agreed to pick up the cost of all 24 Burma Star Roses which as most of you know have now been planted back in the flower beds in the Memorial Garden.

Thurrock Council also made other improvements to the garden by replacing the grass which was more weeds with stone chippings and also tidied and planted additional rose bushes and bedding plants.

Thurrock Council have also advised that the stone chippings will have resin put over them to keep them in place.

The Forum would like to reassure anyone who attended the service on Sunday that the roses replacing the ones taken out are like for like replacements.

We have assurance from Thurrock Council that the Forum will be consulted with regard to any future works in the War Memorial Garden so that we may consult with you.

The Forum would also like to thank Thurrock Council for the improvements made to the War Memorial Garden.

Local Area Policing Update PC Neil Brand

Aveley & Uplands Ward – Local Area Policing Update PC 71 Neil Brand

1. OP Caesar – On going Operation to tackle Nuisance bikes incidents. More funding secured as still proving successful with a number of section 59s issued, vehicles seized and reported incident numbers declining.

2. 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.

3. OP Pumpkin – Halloween night – The whole of CPT was on duty and HVP conducted across the district. There were some hotspots across the district but pleased to report that for the Aveley & Uplands ward there were no reported ASB incidents.

HGVs – In light of recent incident on Friday 1st November. Firstly it was not going to Howard Tenens, however I did have a positive hour long meeting with them. Their HQ is aware of issues and incident and wish to be involved in finding a solution. As I have said before there needs to be a long term solution. I know the development in Ship lane was not welcomed at the last meeting, however should it get the go ahead and the HGV turnaround be put in place, we need to ensure all parties come together to ensure measures are also put in place along Ship lane to deal with this issue.

Crime prevention advice for this time of year – lights and timers as the evenings get darker to help prevent dwelling burglaries.

Local figures – Storm incidents For the Aveley & Uplands ward

1st to 17th of November

Total incidents	89	86
ASB	4	15

Rise on Kenningtons – 9 incidents (fireworks mainly on the 5th)

Crime	18	17
Traffic/road related	13	9

Other incidents are made up of Alarms, Concerns, ANPR, Admin etc.

Advised to check Essex Police Thurrock Facebook page which shows what the Police are doing locally. Follow us: www.facebook.com/EPThurrock

You can report incidents to us in a variety of ways:

- Call Essex Police: 101 (in an emergency always dial 999)
- Report on line: www.essex.police.uk
- Contact Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111.

NB also advised to make sure now the nights were darker earlier to leave a light on and maybe a radio.

NB also advised that there is an additional 4 Police personnel working in the Thurrock Community which will free up some of his time as previously he had been called to other areas.

Resident question I recently found somebodys documents and thought I would post to the nearest Police Station. I visited South Ockendon Police Station which is closed to the public and used the phone outside and they advised me to post through the letter box. However, there was no letter box. I ended up putting the documents in the post back to DVLA. Could you please tell me where is the nearest operational Police Station.

NB advised Grays is the nearest Police station with counter services.

Resident advised that he had called 101 about a problem vehicle and the Police attended and sorted the problem.

Councillor Update

CC advised that after 3 1/2 years fighting to get back Kenningtons Park it's now ownership is being transferred from FCC to Thurrock Council. We should see more of the intended park opened in the near future. We need to look at looking after the park, locking the gates, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and thinning out the trees around the car park area which will help decrease ASB.

Resident advised she would be happy to get involved in making sure the paths are accessible for wheelchair users being a user herself.

TW asked with regards to Kennington Park, Is there anything we can do to protect the wildlife. I contacted the RSPB and they can't help.

CC advised that the path between Shannon Way and Belhus previously was agreed for repairs but has since been agreed to be completely resurfaced which will be completed shortly.

Resident enquired about lighting for this path.

CC to investigate.

CC continued, Subway, The Operations Team at Thurrock Council are keeping this much cleaner looking at new lighting. Did look in the past at back filling but this is too costly and we still need to look if we have mural.

TW advised could CC please chase Thurrock Council Highways regarding new signage at A1306 roundabout junction with Ship Lane in relation to HGV's. Highways spoke at a Forum public meeting in May 2019 and committed to looking at improved signage which has not materialised. Also, TBC Highways did advise they would return to a Forum Public meeting with an update.

CC also advised he had been involved with Thurrock Council Highways and Havering with regards to HGV's parking on the bridge over the A13 at Wennington.

TW advised she had also been involved with this for the past 4 years working with Councillor Tucker from Havering. She had written to the Government Minister and recently received a response detailing that Highways England and Havering Council need to address the issues.

CC advised with regards to Purfleet Road and the High Street a survey has been requested with regards to parking.

TW advised could he also address with Thurrock Council regarding the speed sign in solar powered Purfleet Road as per email to him on 8/11/19.

Resident also raised parking on the pavement in Mill Road and speed signage was also mentioned.

Resident raised speed sign in Mill Road.

Resident advised if you park on a kerb in Havering you are fine.

CC advised that it was being investigated with Thurrock Council if a carte blanche road closure approach could be agreed with regards to Remembrance Sunday Service.

TW advised further to CC's email to ELWA grass cutting and maintenance was completed at the end of October 2019 on their land.

TW asked could CC chase TBC with regards to the missing camera on the Stifford Road bus Lane as per email dated 2/11/19.

CC advised he would chase.

Resident raised poor condition of yellow road markings, position of Love Lane looking up from Purfleet Road towards the library.

CC to investigate.

Resident raised poor condition of some of the Belisha Beacons in Aveley. They appeared to be discoloured more green than the usual orange.

CC to investigate.

TW advised that the Forum had received an email dated 2/11/19 from a Resident Scott Nelson with regards to No safe place to cross from Kenningtons to the bus stop 372 route in Mill Road email 2/11/19 Scott Nelson content:

As discussed in the Aveley group on Facebook, lot of people on the Kenningtons Estate catch the 372 bus at the roundabout at the top of Sandy Lane including schoolchildren. There is no safe crossing at the bus stop and I think the council should install one. Far too many motorists speed past the bus stop making it treacherous and unsafe for people who need to cross the road. Can this be raised at the next Forum meeting? A crossing needs to be put in place before someone is seriously injured or event killed.

CC to Investigate

CC advised with regards to the kebab trailer in J & R Newsagent's car park, their license runs out on 21st November and they will need to go before the TBC Sub Licensing Committee for them to review. Due to purdah, the next licensing meeting is in December but it is more likely that the earliest meeting for review will be January 2020.

Notice Boards

There are now four notice boards two of which are Forum notice boards situated on the wall of the New Maltings SH the side of J & R Newsagents, the other on the side wall of the shops at Kenningtons opposite the bus stop. There are two other notice boards which are currently shared. One by the Aveley Recreation ground which will probably be re-sited closer to the Hub once open and the other on the external wall of the entrance to the Library. Once the Library closes, this board will be re-sited hopefully to the new estate. If any local groups want to advertise on the boards community activities (not commercial) please let us know.

Speed Watch

We currently have 10 volunteers who have expressed an interest in the Speed Reduction Scheme. We have been advised that due to popularity the scheme operators will hopefully be in a position to offer training for us around March 2020.

Co-Opt Honary Member PC Neil Brand

We are very thankful for the commitment from PC Neil Brand for attending the Forum meetings.

We are aware that he has changed his shift/days off to attend the Forum meetings which we thank you for.

The Forum would like to ask our attendees this evening if they are agreeable to asking PC Neil Brand to become an Honary Member of the Forum. Therefore I would like to propose and may I ask for somebody to second.

JH Second.

TW asked if there were any objections from attendees.

Recorded no objections.

TW welcomed PC Neil Brand as a new Honorary Member of the Forum.

AOB

TW advised she had received a scam notice from a Forum Member Peter Watson and thanked him for sending and advised attendees the information relating to the Scam.

Resident advised BT Phone users, you can stop cold calls. Put the phone down and contact number 1572 and report.

TW advised Aveley Design Charrette follow up meeting, at St Michaels Church was due to be on 29th November 4pm – 8pm has been cancelled due to Purdah. No date as yet but possibly will now be January 2020.

TW advised the Forum is pleased to advise we now have our bank account set up.

TW advised, as previously advised Aveley and Kenningtons Community Forum are not part of the Aveley Village Community Foundation Ltd previously known as Aveley Village Community Forum Ltd. However we are keen to work with any other groups in Aveley. We received a message on 18th September from the Foundation asking if the Committee would like to volunteer at the Christmas market. We contacted the Foundation on 24th September, 18th & 24th October. The Forum also suggested that both the Forum and the Foundation sit down to discuss the Christmas market and the request to us to volunteer, the war memorial and other issues. On 24th October we received a response from the Foundation that due to recent events, the Foundation is not in a position to accept this offer to meet. They are also pleased to say that they have sufficient volunteers for the Christmas market.

TW asked if anyone wanted to raise anything under AOB.

None

Date of the Next Forum Meeting which is the AGM

TW advised 21st January 2020 at 7.30pm here at Aveley Football Club at 7.30 pm

TW advised If anyone would like to express an interest in becoming a Forum Committee Member, please let us know. Email info@aveleyandkenningtonscf.org.uk

Please note, there will be no door to door leaflets delivered for the January meeting.

Please keep an eye on the notice boards or sign up to the information loop.

Meeting Closed

On behalf of Aveley and Kenningtons Community Forum Committee I would like to thank you for attending this evening and thank you for your patience too.

We look forward to receiving any feedback from you that will help us.

We have so far delivered over 3,500 leaflets for each of our public meetings. We would like to thank those of you who have helped us deliver the leaflets and if any of you could assist us with the deliveries, we would be very grateful.

Don't forget too if you do wish to become a member and or sign up to our information loop our Committee Member Joy will be happy to provide you with a form.

And finally, don't forget before you go if you do wish to sign a letter of objection against the Thurrock Football site PDI centre, the letters will be on a table at the back of the Hall.

We wish you a pleasant journey home and goodnight.

Closed 9.18pm