

Meeting held on Monday 16th September 2019 starting at 7.00pm at the Woolmarket

Present:

Kim Towlson	Horndon-on-the-Hill Forum rep and TAF chair
Janet McCheyne	Bulphan Forum rep and TAF secretary
Dawn McMahon	Bulphan Forum
Jenny Meads	Corringham, Fobbing & Homesteads Forum
Trevor Batchelor	Purfleet-on-Thames Forum
John Rowles	Purfleet-on-Thames Forum rep
Philip Edgar	Chadwell St Mary Forum
Dave Bowling	WELCOM Forum rep
James Brinklow	Aveley & Kenningtons Forum rep
Teresa Webster	Aveley & Kenningtons Forum
Michelle Pike	Aveley & Kenningtons Forum
Jim Graham	Orchards Forum
Angela Savage	Orsett Forum rep
Joe Pigg	Orsett Forum
Terry Piccolo	Stanford Forum rep (and Mayor)
Lynn Gittins	Senior Admin Officer, Thurrock Council
Natalie Warren	Thurrock Council

Apologies for absence: Wendy Curtis (Belhus & S. Ockendon), Roger Passfield (WTSSPF), Vince Offord (Little Thurrock), Peter & Carol Saunders (Chadwell St Mary), Tina Holland (Orchards), Steph Lakin (Tilbury), Becky Price (Thurrock Council)

Also on the committee: Tessa Dallyn-Roberts (Thameside)

1. **Welcome** Kim Towlson welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Natalie Warren**, Community Development Manager at Thurrock Council, explained about her paper on how to escalate celebrating and supporting communities. Engagement HQ (a digital consultation portal) had been launched and would provide a more interactive online consultation tool; a Conference was to be hosted by Thurrock CVS on 7th October, "Working Together to Build Stronger Communities". There was the opportunity for TAF to have a stand there. It was agreed that all Forums would send suitable items to display, on what their Forum had achieved. Deadline 25th September, items to community@thurrock.gov.uk. The councillors would like feedback from Forums on what they needed from the council. Forums can send feedback from their members to Lynn Gittins (LGittins@thurrock.gov.uk).
Natalie asked for comments from our meeting, and John Rowles congratulated her on an excellent paper, but said it was very like an equally good one which was presented 7 years ago, and no action followed. John also mentioned some initiatives which had more recently been set up and were successful, but then stopped (e.g. THRUG and the Planning Forum). Natalie said that initiatives were often dependent on one person from the council, and if they left, the impetus was gone, and that she is hoping Community Collaboration can be embedded throughout the council workforce to avoid that problem. Lynn said that THRUG was restarting and she would be able to send out dates within the week.
Teresa said that the council are not using Forums: they were first set up to enable better communication (both ways) between Council and communities and this is not really happening, or far too little notice is given. Natalie asked if we could send specific examples of what the council can do, to use the Forums more. Jenny said that the proposed e-newsletters, with information (e.g. dates/venues of consultation events) should help with communication.

Dave Bowling stated that often plans were discussed with the community, decisions taken, and then later changed elsewhere without involving the community.

Kim thanked Natalie for coming.

3. **Minutes of AGM held on the 11th June 2019:** these were noted.

4. **Matters arising:**

a) **Signed copies of Constitution to Lynn:** Lynn now has copies from all but 1 Forum.

b) **Noticeboards:** Avey & Kenningtons reported various problems with their current noticeboards: Lynn will help to sort these. Purfleet-on-Thames and Bulphan need their boards to be refurbished (send Lynn photos, insurance can pay).

c) **Stanford Forum meetings:** Terry Piccolo explained the current status of Stanford Forum: the 5 committee members have been on the committee for 17 years; there is poor attendance at meetings; a new CIC has been set up to run the Community Events that the Forum previously organised; the committee all intend to stand down, so Terry advised that the Forum should either be relaunched, with TAF's support, or closed. The current committee are willing to continue for 3 months or so if the intention is to relaunch it. They have around £1900, some of which could be used to fund the relaunch. TAF agreed to support efforts to relaunch. Kim will book a venue (ECTA?) for a relaunch meeting and liaise with Terry on other arrangements.

d) **Promoting Forums: Stand at INTU:** Trevor will meet soon with Sarah Rivett, INTU's community development manager. Terry suggested also having a stand at Thurrock's Give-a-Gift shop in Lakeside, which is there for 2 or 3 weeks. Dave B. suggested handing out fliers at railway stations and schools. Kim pointed out that schools no longer wished to distribute paperwork, but could be approached to add info about Forums to emailed newsletters. Jenny suggested that a generic promotional flier/poster could be designed, with contact details for all the Forums, to be used at events, placed in libraries etc. Jenny and Lynn agreed to work together to design and print these.

e) **Friends of Thurrock Parks:** the next meeting would be held on Monday 23rd September at 6pm in the Lightship Cafe at Grays Beach. The agenda will be sent out very soon. At TAF's last meeting, Lynn had assured us that the Parks Engagement Officers had not been funded by S106 money, but Janet had noted, and Teresa confirmed, that at the last Friends of Thurrock Parks meeting, Jahur had said that they had in fact been funded by S106 money. Lynn will confirm one way or the other. Teresa had a query about Daisy Fields in Tilbury and issues regarding the football sessions. The council are working to get it constituted and restarted. Tilbury Forum are dealing with this.

5. **Chair's update:** Kim has attended quite a few Forum meetings, and supported some who are struggling. There are currently about 15 active Forums. Little Thurrock attendance has dwindled but they are planning a relaunch.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** the treasurer's box was passed to Philip to give to Carol, so no treasurer's report was available for this meeting. The balance remains at £1,155.56p. Chadwell's accountant, Kim Hooper had offered her services to Forums. Kim (Towlson) has requested details of costs, but mentioned that for most Forums, an independent examiner, rather than an accountant, would suffice to sign off annual accounts.

7. **S106/CIL:** Dave explained again that it would be very beneficial for all Forums to form into 5 groups to register as Neighbourhood Forums and develop Neighbourhood Plans. This would mean we would have more say into use of S106/CIL money, and be able to directly spend some of it. Teresa use to work for Locality. Kim and Dave will meet, and liaise with Teresa to formulate the way forward. Some reps felt we need to make sure we don't lock ourselves into something unworkable. Jenny felt the creation of a TAF Planning Group to look into Local Plan development issues might be worth exploring: Kim will organise this. Terry informed us that in the next 6 weeks, the information gathered from past

consultations will be put together in a Stage 2 draft Local Development Plan, which will go out for consultation.

8. **Thames Crossing update:** Kim advised that HE workers are currently carrying out exploratory drilling operations in various places in Thurrock, and not to be alarmed. Philip asked for clarification on the proposed lanes at the Orsett Cock, as there is some confusion related to A13 widening and LTC. It was also mentioned that some reps had heard of queries relating to future funding insecurities for LTC.
9. **Thurrock Community Forums website:** Lynn reported that only 8 Forums were active on their webpages. The council pay £850 per year to Vision ICT for the Forums website and pages, which has the capacity for 20 Forums, and would therefore be good value for money. However, with only 8 Forums using the website, was it sustainable? Jim said that Orchards Forum only use their own Facebook page (minutes are not yet posted on that page). Keeping the website up-to-date and making minutes available to read on there is a criteria for receiving admin money. Jenny mentioned that people attending computer training at libraries etc. are taken to the Forums website to learn on. Lynn is available to help anyone who has trouble accessing their pages on the website.
10. **Lynn's remarks:** Lynn mentioned that quite a few Forums have not yet claimed their admin money. Teresa had a query regarding Aveley & Kenningtons funding, which Lynn explained.
11. **Confirmation of dates and venues for the coming year:** these were agreed as:

Monday 25th November 2019 at South Ockendon Centre

Monday 24th February 2020 at Tilbury Community Hub

Monday 15th June 2020 (AGM) at South Ockendon Centre

Kim closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

ACTION LIST

- all Forums would send suitable items to display, on what their Forum had achieved. Deadline 25th September, items to community@thurrock.gov.uk.
- all send feedback on what their members want from the council and send specific examples of what the council can do, to use the Forums more to Lynn Gittins (LGittins@thurrock.gov.uk)
- 1 Forum to submit their signed Constitution to Lynn
- Purfleet and Bulphan to send photos of their noticeboards to Lynn
- Lynn to sort out noticeboards at Aveley, Purfleet and Bulphan
- Kim to organise Stanford Forum relaunch
- Trevor meet Sarah Rivett re stand at INTU
- Lynn speak to Give-a-Gift team re Forum promo at their shop in INTU
- Jenny & Lynn design and produce Forum promo leaflets/posters
- Lynn to confirm whether Parks Engagement Officers were S106 funded or not.
- Philip to pass treasurer's box to Carol; Carol to sort out signatories and get last year's accounts examined and signed off
- Kim to circulate accountant costs
- Kim, Dave and Teresa to liaise re Neighbourhood Forums
- All to ensure that they are using their Forum webpages, or linking to another website or Facebook page where minutes and meeting dates are posted and viewable