

WELCOME FORUM
West & East Tilbury & Linford Community Forum
7.30pm Thursday 2th March 2018
Linford Methodist Church Hall

PRESENT: Chair: John Purkiss, Deputy Chair: Dave Bowling, Brian Martin, Fraser Massey, Kerrie Mansfield, Scott Sullivan, Fred Mulley, Rose Philips, Valerie Adams, Gordon Stevens, Iris Crane, Maura Turner, Mark Turner, Rob Quick, Hannah Corderoy, Linda Mulley. Jimmy Allan Essex Wildlife Trust.

APOLOGIES: Sue Sammons, Kim & Chris Ford, Pam Painter. Jan Fawcett, Cris Bowling-cook, Mike Tarbard, Michael Keal

Please note: Your name and email address must be clearly printed on the 'Signing In' sheet to ensure you are listed as present and to receive a copy of the meeting minutes. Thank you.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Agreed

MATTERS ARISING:

An update on the Library was given by Natalie Warren at the February meeting. Once the Steering Group meets next, more information should be available. Both Mike Tabbard and Scott Sullivan sit on this committee.

Quite a few people attended the Council Local Plan meeting at E. Tilbury Village Hall last Saturday. It is hoped the council will take notice and act on the issues raised by residents. It is clear there will be massive changes in future to E.Tilbury and Linford.

The Chair thanked Dave Bowling for all his hard work in ensuring the 106 monies from the new development is actually spent in this area. It is vitally important that improved facilities and infrastructure are in place, not just houses.

106 MONIES: The amount indicated by the Council for Indoor sports facilities is £332,611.09 and Outdoors £139,293.85, plus a further £9,000 which has been agreed will be redirected to us for specifically identified outdoor activities by this forum. We therefore need project ideas put forward, discussed and agreed in Forum meetings and minuted as such to substantiate requests.

Money for CCTV cameras and Gobions Park can also be put forward as a much needed resource. A very substantial amount of money listed for a pedestrian bridge over the railway also does not appear to be progressing, as network rail has not even be contacted.

It is a concern that if this money is not spent within a timeframe, it will be handed back to the developers. It is clear that with such a lack of local facilities and amenities this must not be allowed to happen or the community will lose out on any benefit due to council inaction. This forum have requested the "cut off" date but have not been furnished with it, thus this needs urgently pursuing. We need to make sure our council are working in the best interest of our community, which appears presently questionable as a wall of obstruction, deflection and bureaucracy has been met.

Action Point: *At the next meeting with the Council JP & DB to challenge what the 106 monies from the latest development has been identified for.*

RWE GAS POWER STATION: DB attended this meeting. He was assured that the generators will be encased and therefore will not be noisy. He raised concerns about proposals for another landlocked power station and is waiting to find out more information about this worrying proposal. The company who are involved is Stratera Energy based in Kensington. Email has been sent as they issued leaflets to local people in west tilbury.

NHS ORSETT HSOPITAL HEALTH HUBS MEETING: DB attended this meeting that had a very poor public turnout. He queried the availability of parking at these proposed hubs. There is a chance that Orsett hospital may not be closed, it appears this is dependant purely on a financial decision. It is now the intention to keep Emergency Services (A & E) at all 3 main hospital sites which is good news. However, the various Trusts will be dedicated specialist sites for various specialties. It is unclear where the specialist Dialysis unit would be sited, although most people I wanted it to stay at Orsett. The intention is that the new hubs will have paramedics and care practitioners on site to see patients as well as GPs. There was concern over the fact that you may see an emergency care practitioner in place of a doctor, however these staff are very experienced and can refer to a doctor they will be probably more practised in the identifying of conditions such as scarlet fever than a fairly new GP.

SOLAR FARM – COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND: Inquiries have been made regarding the Community Benefit Fund monies from the installation of the Solar Farm. It appears monies (£40,000 over 5 years) are being directed to a charity called the East Tilbury Relief in Need Charity. Apparently the charity has 7 directors, although it appears no one has heard of this charity locally or knows of any recipients of the charity. The Forum intends looking into this charity and will pursue details of its status and work.

LTC COUNCIL TASKFORCE UPDATE: LM gave an update from the March Taskforce meeting at which Highways England presented a video, supposedly showing how the new tunnel and road might look. The lack of realistic detail was disappointing and the printed elevation graphs were not to scale and had been published in November 17. Other detail such as proposed road closures was not highlighted until specific questions were asked by members of the Taskforce.

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND ATTENDANCE AT APRIL FORUM MEETING: Highways England Lower Thames Crossing Community Engagement Department will be visiting the April Forum meeting on Thursday 26th April from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. There will be various stands giving information and hopefully answering questions pertinent to the crossing and road directly affecting this area.

Action Plan: *The Forum is keen to get as many local people as possible to come to this event. Fraser and Kerrie agreed to post details on both Your East Tilbury & Tilbury Facebook page, as well as the Forum Facebook page, both now and several days beforehand. DB to source leaflets and posters for strategic locations leading up to meeting*

Leaflets will be printed advertising the event and members are asked to kindly volunteer to help with leaflet drop. We would like to exhibit the “No More Crossings in Thurrock” banner outside the hall and will ask the LTAG whether this is possible.

SPEED WATCH: Bob reported that due to the small size of the team, with sickness and other personal issues, it is not moving forward at the moment.

Action Plan: *To put request for more volunteers on the Forum notice boards. Bob.to provide wording details to Cris Bowling-cook*

THAMESIDE NATURE PARK: Jimmy reported that the Nature Park has been receiving good and positive feedback. There is a busy schedule planned for the Easter holidays. The Ranger team has been added to and there are now 2 new volunteers working 5 days a week. The process of completing security on site is ongoing following on from the recent break ins. It was noted that the access road has vastly been improved. Park officials are in negotiations with Natural England to link up the coastal path. Some members questioned again why the path can't be used at weekends when the cranes are not in use. On the 27th April the local History Society will be at the Nature Park with an evening programme of events. Admission will be £5 a head.

Kerrie is considering trying to organise an outing for the Linford Toddler group to the nature park.

It was noted that the path from Gobions to the TSNP was far too boggy in places to use. Jimmy confirmed that they are aware of the problems and works will eventually be started to address the problem.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: DB informed that there have been an increasing number of burglaries reported. 3 in one night reported over an extended period of time. It appears the priorities for the Community team is antisocial behaviour, hate crime and cases of modern slavery. It was highlighted that the community team are doing two hour slots coffee with cops whereby we would like them for half an hour every four weeks for a quick update in our specific area

Action Plan: *Forum to request police to attend this forum in order for any information and needs exchange for the area.*

GOBIONS PARK: Kerrie arranged Sing a long at Linford Toddler Group, but donations were poor. New members for the Friends of Gobions Park are urgently needed to help organise and run fund raising events. Payment from Thurrock Council for the park signs has been received and a meeting arranged with the signage company arranged for the 11th April to discuss about design options. Fraser will bring further updates to this meeting and it is hoped to organise an event to unveil the new signage when erected, which probably won't be until late summer/autumn.

The Park committee are putting in another grant application for fencing and some other small signage. One of the most requested ideas is CCTV cover.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: *Coalhouse Fort.* DB reported that Ray the Warden is excellent, despite having very little assistance. Michelle is looking to put in a dipping pond for the children. The Zip wire is in urgent need of repair and maybe the council could look at funding this out of the 106 Outdoor sports money.

Bata Reminiscence: Scott – Exhibits from the library collection is starting to be restored next week by a company called Rainbow. Later in the year they hope to run workshops about restoring artefacts for local schools and people. The next Open Day is planned for Saturday 28th April in the Bata Admin block.

Bob – noted how disappointing it is that so many questions are put on the Your East Tilbury Facebook page that often they are already answered on the Forum Facebook. Fraser was asked if there is anything we can do to signpost people to our page. He has tried on a number of occasions to advertise our page, but will look again at what can be done. He will put an advert on our notice board about our Facebook Page and site.

Kim reminded John that the next Thurrock Association of Forums meeting TAF will be on the 17th May 6.30pm.

Gordon – Reiterated that he still hadn't received a reply from Cllr Brian Little about the Traffic census. He will commence the next local traffic census on Monday 9th using the same format as previously.

Mark was concerned that a fridge has been left outside the first house after The George & Dragon for some time. It was suggested he inform Sue Sammons our Councillor about this concern. Another issue is the flashing light outside the Solar farm which was reported to the council who just took the fitting away, this has now left the area dangerous with no light at all. Again, he was advised to pass the concern on to Sue Sammons.

Rose had noted the new sports equipment installed in the park at Orsett, this is the sort of thing we need in our park. She reported that the sign on the green in West Tilbury has been found, although not erected again yet. There is concern that the big ship down at power

station makes an awful lot of noise. There is also concern it will be a feature of the coast for some time as it has been arrested? It was kicked out of teeside and would appear it has no port side power thus periodically it starts up its engines at night as it is a hazard to aircraft and has to power lights, enquiries to be made to port of London authority and complaint through councillor Sammons. At the moment there is no further news about sale of the Kings Head site.

Graham warned people and dog walkers to be careful at the Fort as there were a lot of Adders around, which is quite unusual for this time of year.

Brian reported that local schools are now part of the Osborne Academy Trust. St Cleres has been asked to take an extra 120 pupil from the waiting list, therefore enabling more local people to get places for their children as young people in the area can't find places nearby. More places will be needed for East Tilbury and Linford children as further development happens.

Kerrie confirmed the Fun Day this year is planned for 22nd July this year. It has been difficult to identify a suitable date that doesn't clash with other events and the main school holidays when many people are away. It was suggested that maybe a community event such as Tug of War at the fun day would be a good idea.

Action Point: *JP will try his usual contacts to find sponsor. Maybe tug of war for community.*

Thanks were given to Hannah for making the tea and coffee for tonight's meeting.

Concern was raised about access to a parcel of land that is for sale right next to the George & Dragon, this would be a very dangerous place for vehicle access.

Fraser is researching the East Tilbury cinema, now the village hall. Anyone with information or who remembers using the cinema in its heyday, please contact him.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Please note that Highways England, Lower Thames Crossing Community Engagement Team will be presenting instead of our usual meeting

6.30pm to 8.30pm. 26th April 18. Linford Methodist Church Hall.

Please pass details to your local friends and neighbours to ensure a good turn out.