

West Tilbury East Tilbury & Linford Community FORUM

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2017

Linford Methodist Church Hall

Present: John Purkiss – Chairman, Fraser Massey, Fred Mulley, Hannah Cordory, Peter Risk, Valerie Adams, Rose Phillips, Kim Towlson, Hail Green, Linda Musson, Cliff Musson, Lesley Keefe, Bob Quick, Iris Blane, Gordon Stevens, Kerrie Mansfield, Daphne Harvey, Jan Fawsitt, Neil Fawsitt, Rosemary Roast, Michael Keal.

Guests: Murry James (Thurrock Council), David Jordan (BT Openreach)

Apologies: Cllr Sue Sammon, Dave Bowling, Cris Bowling, Paul Lickman, Liam Judd, Chris Ford

Minutes of the previous meeting & Matters Arising – Agreed as correct.

Zebra Crossing – Cllr Sammons – Sue had heard back from the Council who confirmed it is not possible to install a zebra crossing near Gobians Park because of the proximity to the Level Crossing . It was also asked whether a zebra crossing could be installed outside Linford Methodist Church and the bus stop, *this has been a long standing request.*

***Action Point: SS** to request if a crossing could be installed further down the road and outside Linford Church and bus stop. This is a dangerous spot to cross.*

Air Quality Testing – Cllr Sammons – In November the Council are installing a NO2 diffusion tube monitoring kit at Gravel Pit Cottages as this is closest to the proposed LTC route. Previous monitoring in Princess Margaret Road from 2010 to 2013 showed levels below those of the Air Quality Objection. KT. Mentioned that pollution and air quality is discussed in Taskforce meetings as a serious concern.

Ingrebourne Valley – *James Sutton, from Ingrebourne Valley has agreed to attend the November meeting to give an overview of the work being carried out, any issues residents have and future development.*

***Action Point: Forum Secretary** to request Cllr. Brian Little to come to the next Forum meeting regarding this and traffic lights that are supposed to have been installed at the junction of Buckingham Hill Road and the A1013*

106 Monies for Local Projects – A Letter from Lee Nicholson, Planning Dept. has been received and our requests will be added to the Infrastructure Requirement List (IRL) to be reviewed.

Broadband Council Grant update – Murray James Head of IT at Thurrock Council and David Jordan Director of BT South England attended the meeting. Mr James reiterated they are aware of areas of very poor broadband connectivity and slow speeds in this area.

Community Fibre Option is available which the Council will give us a grant for. Fraser Massey has requested this on our behalf. There has been very good response from residents using cabinet 11 which serves approximately 80 homes in E.Tilbury. West Tilbury is a slightly different problem which will be looked into to see how many people are interested and Fraser will gather this information to pass it on to David Jordan.

Cabinets can also be expanded if too full. David will look into the problems for Stanford House which has lost connectivity speeds due to the new development and also Linford which also has extremely poor speed. Fraser will discuss options for additional cabling with David Jordan to improve these areas.

David explained Community Fibre Partnerships and that Openreach is part of BT who owns and provides the networks that all Service Providers use. He gave an overview of what they do and how they invest heavily. (11 billion £s of their money to connect UK with fibre)

There is a Target of 95% connection to broadband in the UK and they are working with councils to address the remaining 5%. The Community Matchfund quote to upgrade Cabinet 11 is £4,780 for which TBC will give us a grant. FTTC Fibre cable to box enables us to have faster speeds with a Max 80 megabits. Once the contract is signed Openreach will deliver within 1 year. Murray confirmed the commitment still stands and the Grant money will be made available.

Lower Thames Crossing – KT advised there has now been a 2nd Taskforce meeting. The issue of Pollution and dangerous Emissions is being looked into closely. Roger Slade is now the Lead of TCAG after George Abbott's departure. TCAG are offering to come to this area and carry out an event like they did at South Ockendon, to raise awareness to the residents of E & W Tilbury and Linford. We will arrange to hire a hall and invite residents to let them know what's happening. The final HE consultation will be held in 2018 so there are still possibilities available to us. KT stressed if Option C3 happens TCAG will still fight to get the best outcome for all areas to mitigate the impact. A discussion followed and it was agreed the meeting should be scheduled for the end of November. Sunday afternoon 26th November at 3pm would be something to aim for.

***Action Point.** Daphne will find if this date is free at the Sports Hall. The Forum will provide cost of any materials needed. JF & RR to liaise with TCAG.*

Friends of Gobions Park – FM reported it had been a busy week for the park. 7,000 spring bulbs had been planted by a good amount of volunteers. Concern was raised that the farmer leaves gates open, which had allowed several people to drive their cars over the park, but it was agreed that no dedicated car park could be built as it would just be used by and encourage commuters.

Rachael Farmer from the Council has met Fraser regarding CDF monies. The Group are again holding a Halloween Pumpkin carving competition as well as a Best Dressed House again this year. There has been a suggestion for using one of the planters for a community Christmas tree. It would have to be Solar powered lights this year, but alternatives could be looked into.

Kerrie Mansfield is arranging a nearly new baby toy sale at the Linford Methodist Church Toddler Group which will be held on the 4th November 1pm-3.30pm if anyone would like to attend or donate. Profits will go towards Gobions Park.

Neighbourhood Watch – No update has been received. KT. Who is Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch Orsett Ward receives the Crime reports and has kindly agreed to send them on to the Secretary of the Forum.

JF Advised that the ATM at Tesco Petrol Station, Chadwell St Mary had reported several incidences of cards being cloned.

Library – There was a Meeting at the end of September. The options discussed were refurbishment or demolition. It was agreed that to demolish and start again was the best option. A Public consultation will be held next year.

Thames Nature Park- JP attended a meeting last Monday, apparently there is a conflict between Corys and the Nature Park, with Cory's saying there is no available spoil to continue filling, but the Nature Park will only take over land that meets their required standard. The environment in the lakes for fishing is very good and there have been 3 tenders received. Pathways are to be looked at for better access to lakes and the visitor centre.

Community Speed watch – Risk assessments are scheduled for suitable sites for speedwatch on the 9th Nov. There was discussion about various incidents of speeding that had witnessed.

106 Monies from Bata Estate – LM & DB met with Stephen Metcalfe our MP with their concerns regarding the lack of improvement in services and infrastructure from the 106 monies associated with the Bata Field Estate. Information gained from Freedom of Information requests was passed over to him and we have requested his intervention in ensuring ET and Linford see some visible improvements from these monies.

AOB.

- ET footpath is in an appalling state and needs cleaning up. One street light has been flashing for year and one is completely out.

Action Point: SS to take forward with the appropriate Council Dept.

- Beacon repair - a quote was given to the Council over a year ago. A hundred year commemoration of World War I is planned for next year so its imperative work is completed before then. Apparently there are lots of problems relating to some heritage conservation, but next month there is a meeting with Matthew Brown Regeneration Programme Manager, Thurrock Council, so hopefully things will move quicker then.
- Concern was raised about antisocial behaviour in and around the village and it was asked if we could get some CCTV installed. The Village hall also needs lights outside. As the hall is a Council owned building we will ask SS to put this request forward.

Action Point: SS to take forward with the appropriate Council department.

- Daphne read out an email received from Marion and Bob Kuyper sending thanks for the Gardening Tokens the Forum had presented them with as a token for all the many years they worked for and on behalf of the area. The meeting was unanimous in wishing them ever happiness in their new home.
- **Sports hall** – No further update, but a meeting has been arranged.

- KT asked whether there was any issues with Bridleways in the area, but we are unaware of any.
- Road Signs to E & W Tilbury on the corner of the green in W.Tilbury are totally rotted away. We will ask SS to raise this issue with the appropriate Council Department.

Action Point: SS to action with the appropriate Council department please.

- It has been noticed that there are 20mph and 30mph speed signs all the way through Bulphan. With all the issues that we have with speeding through the area is this something we could request from the Council.

Action Point: SS to request the appropriate Council Department.

- The pavement outside W.Tilbury Post House is very dangerous. We can use the on line Council Reporting system, but we will also ask SS to report.

Action Point: SS to bring to attention of appropriate council department.

- The Level Crossing Gates will be shut on Sunday 29th October for 24 hours 1am Sunday to Monday morning 1am. This is longer than the original signs indicated and they have not been updated. We are not sure how this compromise pedestrian access and there are serious concerns about First Responder alerts and emergency vehicle access.
- Hedges surround the Linford football field need cutting back. This is causing parked cars to overhand pavement, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road.

Action Point: SS will you please inform the appropriate Council department of these safety issues.

- It was reported that a Flag pole may be installed at the Memorial Park. Cllr Baker is apparently trying to get this to happen.
- St. Catherine's Church is open on both Saturday and Sunday afternoon (28th and 29th) for teas and to mark the life of St. Cedd. There will be craft activities and historical information. More details are on the St. Catherine's website and Facebook page.
- On REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (12th November) there will be the usual remembrance service at the Bata war memorial at 10.50am

Date of Next Meeting

7.30pm. Thursday 30th November 2017

Linford Methodist Church Hall