

WELCOM FORUM

West Tilbury East Tilbury & Linford Community FORUM

Present: John Purkiss – Chair, David Bowling – Vicechair, Fraser Massey – Treasurer, Cris Bowling-cook/ Linda Mulley – Sec, Cllr Sue Sammons, Renie Bell, Bob Quick, F Mulley, Graham Ford, Iris Crane, Rose Phillips, Valerie Adams, Roemary Roast, Gordon Stevens, Lesley Keefe, Veronica Gillings, Daphne Harvey, Brian Martin, John Board, Kim Towlson - TCAG

Guests: Matthew Brown – Thurrock Council, James Sutton – Ingrebourne Valley, Julian Howes – Thurrock Council Development Control Highways, Cllr Brian Little – Thurrock Council

Apologies: Mike Tarbard, Jan Fawsitt, Scott Sullivan, Kim Ford, Kerry Mansfield

Minutes of the previous meeting: Agreed.

Matters Arising:

Zebra Crossing – SS Reported that the crossing yellow balls will be replaced, but the Council will not upgrade to this to a Zebra crossing because they might be installing a bicycle path and it will be upgraded then. The Council have refused to install crossings close to the station or outside the shops and church in Linford.

Air Quality Testing – The only air quality testing site is currently in West Tilbury.

Sign & Pavements in West Tilbury – SS reported that the sign has been repaired, but the Council deem the Pavement not in a bad enough state to warrant repair.

Broadband – FM reported that we are currently waiting on BT to reply.

Gobions Park – FM advised that the Top soil has been delivered and laid. Thanks were given to Ingrebourne Valley for kindly supplying this. The Gobions' committee will be meeting before Christmas to discuss about design for new signs. SS reported that she had heard at the Council that there was money for parks still available.

Neighbourhood watch – No local update has been received, however, it was mentioned that there has been on going petty crime reported generally in various areas around the Borough. Number plates also are being stolen.

Library – £65,000 funding from the Heritage Lottery has been received. The next meeting regarding the Library is scheduled for late December or early January to look at the possibility of a new build.

Action Point: Natalie Warren to be invited to the January meeting to give an update. SS had noted and reported that sheeting had blown off and needed to be put back.

Thames Nature Park – It was noted that the new road has now been completed, so there is now access again. A Christmas Event is planned for the 16/17th December.

Sports Hall – no further update at present, although it has been agreed a decision will be made about the division of monies. JP reported that a meeting is to be arranged soon.

Ingrebourne Valley Ltd. James Sutton explained what the company do and the purpose of the Buckingham Hill site. At present Thanet are carrying out sand extraction and an Eco Park is being created to preserve the ecology. When completed the ecologists are not sure that the site will be suitable for public access due to the fragile nature of the species being introduced. The Footpath and Bridleway have been diverted however and will remain open. Mr Sutton was unable to answer questions about future gravel extraction off of Walton Hall Road, which is a concern to local residents. Timescales for completion of the Eco Park are expected to be 2019, but as ecology can only be moved in the Spring, this is not certain.

Residents have serious concerns about the mud on Buckingham Hill road that is being experienced. Mr Sutton confirmed the site does have a wheel spinner as well as a wheel wash and a road sweeper should routinely be in use. If this is the case it does not seem to be effective and it was highlighted that mud is often seen falling off the tipper truck tarpaulins as they turn to enter the site which accounts for some of the problem. Julian Howes from TBC confirmed they have also been carrying out inspections about this issue. Mr Sutton promised to continue to monitor this issue.

Beacon Coalhouse Fort – Matthew Brown, Regeneration Programme Manager, TBC has been looking into getting the Beacon repaired and restored, especially in light of the centenary of the end of the First World War in 2018. The Fire Beacon was initially erected in 1988 and the basket is now corroded and cannot be used. Now a proper inspection has taken place he was pleased to report that the Post is, in fact, in good condition and vertical, the fire basket however is in a bad way. The local Blacksmith has quoted £2,500 to repair it and Thurrock Council are prepared to pay half, suggesting we apply for Lottery funding for completion of the work. Mr Brown offered his assistance in completing an application for this funding. The Shield with the Borough Coat of Arms also needs replacing.

Action Point: FM to liaise with Mr Brown for this funding stream.

106 Monies from the Bata Field Development – DB and Cllr Sue Sammons had a meeting with LN from TBC Stephen Metcalfe our MP also attended. The meeting was in the main part of the council offices with the head of the department Steve Cox. Dave Bowling expressed concerns with the councils handling of the 106 money and quoted the community infrastructure levy act of 2010 reg 122 which would strongly suggest that the handling of this money was incorrect. DB also stated that the community of East Tilbury felt under siege, he was supported by SS and SM both of whom supported these views. After the meeting the C.E.O. of the council acknowledged our presence and why we were there. Leigh Nicholson minuted the meeting on behalf of the council, this has resulted in an immediate offer of money to the sum of £9,000 pounds to the forum for outdoor sports.

Action Point – *All Forum Members Suggestions to be put forward as to what the £9,000 should be spent on for Outdoor Sports Facilities in East Tilbury Area. At present the suggestion is for football kit and equipment for Linford Wanderers*

football team, Defibrillator for installation near community football field for use of the football community and community in the area.

As we are hoping that Thurrock Council will also use more of the 106 funding for local area projects and infrastructure we are canvassing local residents for their views.

***Action Point - All Forum Members** Please put forward suggestions for how this funding could be used to improve local projects, needs and infrastructure.*

The representative from TBC Highways Dept., advised that legal action has been taken against Persimmons who should have installed Traffic Lights at the junction of Buckingham Hill Road and the A1013 once the hundredth house had been built, as per their planning agreement. They are now apparently undertaking the design and BH road will be widened to provide two lanes as it approaches the lights. *The A13 widening is starting around June 2018 and Cllr. Brian Little promised the A13 works will **NOT** commence until these traffic lights are installed.* He confirmed that temporary lights are not the answer, because they have to be managed manually.

***Action Point:** Email Cllr. Brian Little as requested to remind him about traffic slowing measures needed in Walton Hall Road.*

Lower Thames Crossing – JP, DB & LM attended a meeting with Highways England and our MP, Stephen Metcalfe this week, specifically to discuss the impact of the proposed LTC as it passes ET Village, ET, Linford & W.Tilbury. As they listened and responded to the various concerns we raised, we were convinced that there is indeed opportunity for local people to raise concerns and mitigate how this road might impact on our homes and lives.

To this end, HE Community Team have asked if they can attend a Forum meeting and are also considering the best way they can engage with us. They have suggested an Information Van coming to the area every 6 weeks or so and parking up somewhere centrally so residents can pop in with questions, concerns and ideas. If you attend a smaller group, such as a Playgroup or such and think you and your members could benefit by a visit from the HE Community ladies, please let the Forum know and we will pass on this invite.

It was felt we really need to address the apathy of residents in the area who think these plans are signed and sealed. We really can make a difference, we just need to engage with these people, either through meeting with them or letters to either our MP or HE.

***Action Point** – The Forum to send out flyers advertising the local WELCOM meeting with Highways England. Probably for the end of February 18.*

AOB

Speedwatch – The Essex Coordinator came and looked at our proposed sites. Some were deemed not suitable, but two places were approved, one sited by the bus layby in ET and one down by the chicane going into ET Village. More volunteers are needed to attend the training to use the speed guns, so if you think you would like to be involved, please let us know.

Traffic census – The traffic survey data that Gordon kindly collected earlier this year will be useful in talks with HE. Gordon was asked if he would do the survey again this year, using the same methodology, so we can present year on year data to prove the excessive traffic already using our roads.

There was some discussion about the increase in HGVs and juggernauts parking up overnight in ET some thought this may possibly be because laybys are being closed in the surrounding area.

Solar panel farm - When the solar panel farm was approved by the Council, there was supposed to be some funding for the community in a Community Benefit Fund. Cllr. SS was asked to enquire about this funding, as again, the local area has seen no benefits, as a result of this planning application.

***Action Point:** Cllr SS to find out if the funding has been received by the Council and the intention for its use*

Community Cinema Scheme - There are often young adults hanging around the Village hall stating there is nothing to do locally. Fraser has been looking into the concept of a Community Cinema idea for the Village Hall, which would show popular films. Apart from a small admission fee, sweets and popcorn, etc could be sold to help cover the cost involved. Thameside Theatre has already agreed to lend a screen and Fraser has been in touch with other groups where this has proved a success. We congratulate Fraser on this scheme and look forward to hearing more about the project and supporting him in this venture.

Thurrock road user group – The next meeting will be held on the 12th Dec. 10am to 11.30am, Committee Rm 2. TBC offices

NEXT MEETING: Please note, there is NO Forum meeting in December. The next meeting will be Thursday 22nd January 2018.