

WELCOME FORUM

West & East Tilbury & Linford Community Forum

7.30pm Thursday 22nd February 2018

Linford Methodist Church Hall

PRESENT: John Purkiss – Chair, Dave Bowling – Vice chair, C Bowling-cook/Linda Mulley Sec, Frazer Massey – Tres, Pam Painter, Iris Crane, Valerie Admas, Rose Phillips, Brain Martin, Mike Tarbard - BHC, Natalie Warren – TC, Cllr Sue Sammons, Renie Bell, Rob Quick, Gordon Stevens, Fred Mulley, Daphne Harvey, Jimmy Allen – TNT, Michael Keal, Lesley Keefe, Scott Sullivan

APOLOGIES: Kim Towlson, Kerrie, Jan & Neil Fawsitt

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Agreed as correct.

MATTERS ARISING:

Broadband: Fraser confirmed that this upgrade has been confirmed although it may take up to 6 months to happen. One area covered by this upgrade is the old Bata houses in this phase. Further funding will be available to update other areas with very poor speeds in the next phase.

Gobions Park: Forms to apply for a grant have been received for signature. No new members have yet come forward, anyone interested should contact Fraser Massey. An events schedule for the coming year has been agreed.

Neighbourhood Watch: 3 offences only have been reported last month. Attention was brought to the recent incident of the White transit van with men trying peoples back gates. The registration number was given out and we were advised the van had a Tow bar and dent on left hand side. Please advise your neighbours and friends to be vigilant.

Ingrebourne valley : Cllr Sammon reported that although there is still mud on the road, its not as bad as it has been. Although the drains have been cleared in some sections of Buckingham Hill road, this was not in vicinity of the site. Members noted that the building site at Bata is also creating mud on the roads and they don't have wheel washes.

LIBRARY UPDATE - Natalie Warren gave a brief summary of the present situation. The land is leased by the council not owned by them and the owner is currently not willing to sell. The Insurance Company say the library can be reinstated in its current format, but they will not pay for a complete rebuild. A full structural survey is being undertaken to decide the best option. This should take approximately 2 months to be finished enabling them to make a decision on the insurance company's offer.

A Steering group has been set up for scoping a business plan on this project as it may be a missed opportunity just to rebuild in its current format as the library was

open only 15 hours a week and not being fully utilised. It is realised the area is growing and as the insurance offer will not give us anything better than before, the group are looking at other options. These include:

- Demolishing and rebuilding slightly better and bigger, although they would need the landlords consent, however, this would need further investment in addition to the insurance money. Further questions need to be asked about the current lease which is only 57 years which the council lease.
- Where there is land to build something bigger and better for the future. The Council doesn't own much land in ET , but some of the proposed new development sites might be an option.
- A model of a community hub with library is being considered with modern facilities, including other community services and resources, as in other local areas. However, design would take some time to be agreed, but maybe we could use the design of another HUB instead, making slight alterations for East Tilbury with regard to internal layout. Natalie realised how frustrating the process would be.

Questions were taken and concerns and ideas put forward. JP asked about a parcel of council land off Coronation Avenue. NW will look into this. The Tennis court site was also thought a possibility, or the Bata sports field, thought to be owned by Lansbury. BM reiterated this has been a longed for dream with a consultation and business case put forward some years ago. NW will look into all these options and report back to the Forum. Gobions park would be an ideal site and would work well there. The Council lease this ground from Cory's.

MT from Bata Heritage centre reiterated that they have always wanted to be situated in a hub .

Heritage Centre: Mike Tabbard – Gave information and thanks for all the help given by the community over this difficult time while they are trying to clean up the various artefacts. Professional help has had to be sought via a company called Rainbow. The Centre applied and have been successful for lottery grant of £65,500 as well as an additional £5,000 from Thurrock CVS. This has enabled them to employ a part time Project manager. The successful applicant is Scott Sullivan who will start officially on 1st March.

The Heritage Centre are organising 4-6 events across the borough this year, the first being an Open day on Saturday.27th April from 10 to 2pm. John confirmed there has been no further information from the Police about the crime.

106 MONIES: Dave Bowling – reported that we appear to have had some sympathy from the council and it has been agreed that the community will be given £9,000 towards outdoor sports facilities, but Dave is still chasing how council will spend the rest of the substantial 106 monies. He and Liam Judd are meeting with Kirsty Paul from the Council to relook at how monies are intended to be spent. Dave is still investigating how money intended for a proposed pedestrian bridge will be spent, as the sum would nowhere near cover the total cost and to our knowledge Network Rail have not even been contacted to discuss this.

In response to Dave's investigations and questions about the use of the monies, the Council have recently approached the Scout Hall authorities enquiring about land next to scout hall.

SOLAR FARM – Community Benefit Fund: Cllr. Sammons has asked for contact details for the company responsible for the solar farm, as it appears we have to contact them with requests for community benefit fund projects . The 25 year operation should deliver a contribution of £45,000 over 25 years and therefore must not be overlooked.

Action Point: SS to pass information on to CB when received.

AIR POLLUTION MONITORING: SS asked about air quality monitoring outside school which was brought up at the LTC meeting in November 2017.

SPEED WATCH: One session has taken place in East Tilbury between the rail crossing and the new estate. Speedwatch Volunteers say everybody seemed to slow down apart from one car. In West Tilbury poor health of the volunteers has prevented them undertaking a session yet, but they are planning one soon. Anyone wishing to join the Speedwatch Team please email the WELCOM Forum.

LOWER THAMES CROSSING - Taskforce Update – The February Council Taskforce meeting had been extremely disappointing as HE had not produced the promised Visuals of the road and crossing. In the January meeting they had put forward 'Project Led Decisions' which had indicated that the 6 lane motorway exiting the tunnel on the Thurrock side would still be raised in the air passing East, West Tilbury & Linford to traverse the railway line, even though on the Kent side all the road will be in 'cut and cover' design. Various councillors and LM the Resident Representative were very scathing of HE, both for their inability to meet their own deadlines and the negative approach to the welfare of residents of Thurrock. Cllr. Rice suggested that should HE continue to dismiss taskforce views and Thurrock residents in this way, we should consider taking them to judicial review.

THAMESIDE NATURE PARK: Jimmy Allen reported a break in on the site on 18th January during daylight hours, when a tractor was stolen. This has since been recovered although it has been damaged. Another Break in occurred just last night, even though security measures have been put in place, but unfortunately failed to prevent the theft of a piece of machinery which has since been found abandoned locally. Again, damage has been caused, although nothing further was taken. The Park have now employed a security Company to patrol the area.

On a more positive note, the park had a good half term, with all events booked out, even though the tragedy at Mucking crossing had interrupted plans somewhat. Events are now being planned for spring and summer. The relocation of reptiles from the Tilbury Cruise terminal area 5 years ago, has now had the monitoring completed. A new road has now been completed and a new entrance and access road will be coming soon.

Thameside Trust - BM & JP are trustees of the Trust. 3 million pounds has been donated by Cory's to restore the site. We are in the final stage with Cory to settle section 106 funding and allow the Wildlife trust to take over further land. Access to

the lake has been identified, as have the fish that inhabit the lake. Access by footpath from Coalhouse is needed although we are told cranes are still operating in that area, but it was suggested that this could be used maybe at weekends at least. BM noted that some Trust members are retiring, so they are looking for new interested people. A change in law about charities will give an opportunity to request charitable status with Thameside Nature park.

It was asked if there was any work in the future to lay pathways from Coalhouse Fort and from Gobions Park to link up to Thameside Nature Park making a coastal path.

The Trust have aspirational plans once further 106 monies are available and further land freed up. JP offered the Nature park to use the Forum's notice boards to advertise their events. There was further discussion by members about access issues to the park.

ROUND THE TABLE:

Thurrock Road Users Group - Gordon Stevens went to the council offices and was kept waiting 20 mins to talk to Cllr Brian Little. He eventually phoned Gordon and offered copy of minutes and date of next meeting, but Gordon has heard nothing since.

Action Point: JP to write to Brian Little.

UKIP members becoming Independents - SS confirmed they have all resigned from UKIP and are now standing as Thurrock Independents.

MT. Attended a meeting with Conneticut about the 100 walks. There are plans for a 100 recipes walk this year. Mike has led walks for the last 4 years, but is now looking for someone to take over his place and create a walk locally. Anyone interested should contact Mike Tabbard.

A Forum member living in W.Tilbury has received a letter regarding the new Power Station proposal. A booster station is also proposed to be upgraded close to some homes and there is noise monitoring being undertaken now. There are serious concerns about the noise from these turbines. A Consultation is planned over the next month. Residents should have received details about this consultation.

Wed. 28th Feb – The Tilbury Hub, Civic Square. 1pm – 7pm

Mon. 5th March - West Tilbury Village Hall. 2pm – 8pm

Some members thought that UKIP councillors should have resigned their posts; due to their leaving the party that was voted in to become Independents. It was also voiced that they were disgusted with James Baker, and that there is very little evidence of any work he has undertaken in this ward.

It was confirmed that the East Tilbury Medical Practice near Khan's in East Tilbury had the Receivers come in, but the Council have bought the building and College Health are now managing the practice.

Doctors at the Rigg Milner surgery won their case and will be carrying on as usual. The surgery is now closed half day on Tuesdays.

PP mentioned 3 functions taking place shortly, these are:

- Cake sale at St Frances. 10th march.
- 7th April Quiz Nite. St. Frances - teams of 8 please. £5 per person
- 5th May Essex Music Man at St Catherines - £8 with refreshments.

PP asked for anyone interested in joining the Linford W1. Meetings are held on 1st Thursday of the month at 7.15pm at St. Frances. Linford WI is celebrating its 90th birthday this year.

A funding application for the Beacon at Coalhouse has been submitted, but there is no further information at present.

It has been noted that independent companies are offering Pharmacy delivery services. These companies are: Pharmacy to You and Essex Pharmacy. However, there are concerns about how this will affect our local chemist and it was felt we should encourage everyone to use our local chemist in case it closes if business is lost due to these private companies that also charge. There was general agreement that our present pharmacist is excellent.

Public meetings regarding the proposed closure of Orsett hospital are being organised and everyone should try to attend one of the meetings to try to keep it open.

There is a big drilling rig from Scotland sitting outside Tilbury docks and concerns were raised about it running 24/7 and chucking out diesel fumes.

Action Point: SS to find out about it. What it is, why it's there and how long will it remain.

It was noted that Kate Draper had not returned calls.

Action Point: JP to chase.

It was confirmed that the marked bays outside houses in Princess Margaret road are public parking bays for anyone. Not for individual houses but cars could not park across driveways.

FM confirmed that the Fun Day this year will be held on Sunday 22nd July.

Action Point: JP to contact Walsh to ask if they will kindly support the event again this year.

A member reported the sad death of Linda Chaston RIP.

SS was asked why Low Street Lane is being closed and was this anything to do with the new crossing road being next to, but Sue confirmed it is because of the constant fly tipping and it's also deemed 'not fit for purpose' and dangerous.

Action Point: LM to contact HE requesting them to attend the next Forum meeting in March with further details of their proposals.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm Thursday 29th March

Linford Methodist Church Hall.

