

WELCOM FORUM

West & East Tilbury & Linford Community Forum

29th November 2018 - Linford Methodist Church

M I N U T E S

Present: John Purkiss (Chair), Fred Mulley, Linda Mulley, Daphne Harvey, Sue Sammons, Iris Crane, Rose Phillips, Kim Towlson, Bob Quick, Lesley Keefe, Jimmy Allen (Essex Wildlife Trust), Gordon Stevens, Valerie Adams, Dave Crates, Sandra Gunn, David Gunn, Dot Blake, Leigh Hughes, Reese Slade, Heidi Bell, K. Bell.

Guest Speakers: Laura Blake - Vice Chair & Roger Slade - Chair (*Thames Crossing Action Group - LTC*), Dan Ambrose (*Kier – A13 Widening Project*).

Apologies: Dave Bowling, Chris Bowling, Fraser Massey, Mike Tarbard, Scott Sullivan

Minutes from the previous meeting:

Minutes from the October meeting were approved with the following exception: Mike Tarbard, Chairman of the Bata Heritage Centre noted that he gave a brief report on the Centre and the current status of East Tilbury library at the October meeting, but this was omitted from the minutes. Apologies Mike for the oversight. JP informed the meeting that Natalie Warren TBC will update at us at the next meeting.

Thames Crossing Action Group:

Laura Blake reminded the meeting that there are just 3 weeks left of the Highways England consultation in which to return response forms (the form is also available on the TCAG website). Responses can also be submitted in letter format and you can add as many additional pages as you want to convey your concerns. Although local schools have been contacted there has been little or no response as they seem to think this is purely a political issue, although it will be our children that will be most impacted by the pollution effects of this road. Children can also respond to the consultation, even by picture, if this represents their views. Everyone was asked to raise awareness of responding to this consultation.

Laura advised caution on how you might respond to several of the questions in the response form aware of how HE have worded some of the questions. It is clear this option will not solve the crossing problems, even HE have admitted that. In particular, the proposed A13 junction raises huge concerns and the impact this will have on other local roads, especially if either crossing is closed. Traffic would have to come down the A13 to access the LTC! She also highlighted many of the potential bottlenecks if this occurs.

In particular TCAG are looking into why the Service station at ET has only recently been included. HE say this is to fulfil their legal obligations, so why didn't it feature in the initial plan? It is also far too close to ET school and the new housing development, that doesn't even feature on their latest maps. This is a particular concern.

The intended junction to rejoin the M25 will also greatly impact on the A127. It is clear that the whole of our borough, regardless of where you live, will be adversely affected by this proposed route.

There is an extraordinary Council meeting planned for the 11th December discussing both the LTC and the Local Plan and it is suggested that as many people as possible should attend. HE have not organised a Consultation event in ET, even though this is one of the most affected areas. Laura and Roger are meeting Tim Jones from HE and our MP Stephen Metcalfe on Saturday and will strongly insist such an event should be held. It was also suggested that letters of objection should be sent to Chris Grayling the Transport Secretary as this could sway the proposal ever going ahead.

Action Point: LM to send Details of Village Hall contact Chris Shepherd to Laura .

A13 Widening update – Dan Ambrose: Keir. Dan attended to keep us informed of the A13 widening project. Majority of work will be carried out evenings and weekends, but from mid-January the next phase will start with a week of overnight closures. A 40mph speed limit will also be put in place at that point, which will probably continue until April. Temporary barriers will also be installed but should only result in a relatively low impact. Keir are holding Monthly open door events. These are held at the old Toomey's site, Orsett Cock roundabout, the next one scheduled for Wed. 19th Dec. The December newsletter will be out in the next couple of weeks.

TBC Taskforce Update - Linda Mulley, Resident Rep.

There was a good turnout in the Public Gallery for this meeting that adversely affects so many residents across Thurrock. Again the meeting strongly questioned HE on the many points of the proposed LTC. In particular, the request again was for the majority of the road to be in "cut & cover"; if Crossrail can be put in a tunnel over 20 miles across London, why can't the same be done for Thurrock with the LTC?

The Business Rep on the panel strongly questioned why the new Port link road had been removed from the plans; HE responded that traffic forecasting had shown that usage of such a link road could not justify the cost. Laura Blake, Chair of the TCAG bombarded HE with criticisms regarding their current plans and LM also spoke out strongly against the proposed Service Area in East Tilbury and the fact that the road would go over the railway line and the many other issues concerning the road and its construction and the devastation of greenbelt land and residential properties in our area.

The HE Roadshow van will be parked in East Tilbury, either outside the Village hall or Stanford House from 2pm on the afternoon of the 10th December and West Tilbury in the morning on the Green.

Nature Park: Jimmy Allen reported that the Security gates have now been installed, unfortunately there have already been signs of vandalism and this detracts from more work that could be happening. Safety checks to both the gates and paths will be routinely carried out. This Sunday they are holding their first Folk afternoon an event that will be repeated every other Sunday afternoon, it is hoped to have alcohol available on sale in future. A Craft weekend is scheduled and from 15th December Santa will be in residence. More info of times etc., are on their website with more events coming in January.

Jimmy was asked whether EWT have responded to the LTC consultation. He thinks this has been done centrally. He was given a HE response form by Laura however.

Gobians Park: No one was available to give an update. SS advised there is a new parks guy at the Council and he informed her that Gobians is on his “to do” list and is trying to arrange a meeting on the 17th Dec. but this is not yet confirmed.

Centenary Beacon Event: Everyone agreed this was a great event and really brought the community together. Well done Lesley for lighting the beacon. It is thought about 1,000 people attended. The Vicar’s speech was very good and inspiring, although the sound system needed to be much better. The Forum thanks to Blacksmith for making the commemorative figures. Apparently a charity has given £47,000 pound for renovations to coalhouse fort and the radar tower, which has been made up to £50,000 by the Council.

TBC are intending a permanent memorial of the Centenary event and are asking for artwork, poppies, etc. The Forum agreed we should contribute and JP will ask John the Blacksmith if that’s okay to put forward one or two of the figures he kindly made for us.

Crime figures: LM gave the report details up to 18th November, there have been 2 car thefts and one house burglary reported in ET. A burglary and car theft also occurred in Beechcroft Avenue on Tuesday this week. Please be vigilant everyone.

Community Speed Watch: Bob Quick had received some Posters which were given to JP to put in the Forum noticeboards. Bob is currently the only remaining person trained to carry out speed watch in ET. He appealed for more people to come forward to attend the training and assist him to keep our community safe.

Thurrock Road Users Group: The next meeting is now on the 12th December. 10 to 11.30am.

Round Table:

Sports Hall meeting – John will attend with Daphne Harvey.

THRUG (Thurrock Road Users Group - Gordon is going to attend the meeting on the 12th Dec.

Rose Phillips reported that BT are digging up holes in Blue Anchor Lane, the reason isn’t clear.

David Crates has met with our MP Stephen Metcalfe with regard to concerns about delays for emergency vehicles at ET crossing.

In regard to the pollution concerns if the LTC goes ahead Lesley O’Keefe asked how many children currently attended ET school; it was thought about 900. She wondered how many children also might live on the new estate that will be very close both to the road and the proposed Service area. The new extension to the school will take approximately another 1,150. This is very concerning.

LK also pointed out that contract vehicles that will be used for construction of the tunnel and new road are not subject to the same strict diesel pollution rules. She also believes the concrete liners for the tunnels will be made this side of river. LM had noted vehicle counters on Muckingford Road in the last week or so. SS thought this might be the council looking at possible speed restrictions

Sue Sammons confirmed that Mr Richard Scruby's house before the railway has been bought by Persimmons, to fulfil their development undertaking of adding an emergency access walkway to the Boulevards development. They have also added another 3 houses.

Calendar Events: 1st Dec. St Catherines Christmas Bazaar. 11am to 2pm
2nd Dec. Cruise Terminal Christmas event. 3pm to 6pm.
THRUG meeting 12th Dec. 10am to 11.30am.
10th Dec. HE Roadshow van. West Tilbury am. East Tilbury pm.

John Purkiss wished everyone a Happy Christmas and thanked everyone for continuing to come to Forum meetings to make a difference to our Community. He reminded everyone that we need more young blood to come to meetings, so if anyone knows of someone that might be interested, please give them details of our meetings.

Date of next meeting:

January 31st Thursday 2019 7pm for 7.30pm. Linford Methodist Church Hall.