



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on
Thursday, 14th September 2017 at 7.30pm
in Bulphan Village Hall.**

Present: Janet McCheyne (Chair), Dawn McMahon, Kim Towlson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Society and Community Forum), Alan Cox, Peter Tarrant (Committee), Dave Hale, Gary Brien, Lorraine Brien, Roy Thomas, Cllr. Brian Little, Denise Wakeling, Kelly Fiford,

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from several villagers, and committee members John Hanson (Treasurer) and Diane Perkins (Secretary).	
2.	<p>Matters arising from minutes not already on the agenda</p> <p>a) Thanks were expressed to Dave Hale and John Spicer for installing the bench donated by Lesley Denham and family at the end of the park.</p> <p>b) In response to a resident's question at our last meeting, regarding the rumoured closure of Orsett Hospital, Cllr. Brian Little stated that no decision has been made to close Orsett Hospital. However, there will be consultation later in the year regarding health services. 4 new health hubs are proposed, to be located in Corringham, Grays, Purfleet and Tilbury and A & E departments will be maintained at all 3 main hospitals. No existing health services will be reduced until adequate alternative services are in place.</p>	
3.	Treasurer's report: Current balance is £3,567.88 (of which £111.24 ring-fenced for the entranceway and £195.00 for the drainage group).	
4.	Chair's correspondence: a Rural Coalition has been formed from around 12 national organisations which support rural communities. One of their priorities is for government and local authorities to acknowledge that rural services provided by the authorities are declining and rural communities are providing these themselves. They urged that rural communities are supported in this, and that authorities provide support, rather than barriers.	
5.	<p>Kim, as a member of the Thames Crossing Action Group, gave the background and an update on the Thames Crossing issue. Although Option C has been chosen, the detail of the route is not yet available. However, some compulsory purchase orders are being served (e.g. Baker Street interchange area/Woolings Row) and surveys are being carried out. There will be a public consultation on the detailed route late next year (end of 2018). Building will start 2020.</p> <p>The Thames Crossing Action Group will be challenging the route chosen, but will also be looking at things to put forward to mitigate the impact of Route C if it does go ahead. A Council Taskforce has been set up and would include one seat for a member of TCAG, one seat for a Thurrock resident and one seat to represent local businesses.</p> <p>Many residents who attended the public meeting on 10th September at Brandon Groves held the view that Option C had been chosen because it would open up the most land for development.</p> <p>The top grounds for challenging Option C will be air pollution.</p> <p>Janet thanked Kim, who left to attend Orsett Community Forum meeting.</p>	

6.	<p>Thurrock Road Users Group: at the recent meeting, Highways England had explained that that wind deflectors can't be retro-fitted to the QEII bridge because the structure would not support that. The University of London has been commissioned to make detailed dynamic models of the bridge with vehicles of current design to test whether the closure of the bridge could, in future, be triggered by winds of 65mph rather than 60mph as at present. J30 has been remodelled so it's more dynamic/intelligent; 5 portable VMS (Variable Message Signs) have been put into use: they are quicker to react to traffic situations, and give more details, than overhead gantry signs.</p> <p>If the bridge is closed the J31 slip onto the M25 will be closed, to avoid tunnel traffic trying to avoid delays snarling up local traffic in the area.</p> <p>A resident pointed out that improvements to details of traffic management seemed of limited value while large ports and housing developments were being built, with no major improvement in the infrastructure.</p> <p>Cllr. Little (who chairs the Thurrock Road Users Group) said that £10k had been allocated by the Minister of Transport to ease Dartford/Thurrock congestion.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Former Bulphan shop: the concerns expressed by residents at the last meeting had been submitted to the planning officer (lack of visibility when driving out of Albert Road, and protection of the Victorian letterbox). The timeline for comments was extended and a further comment had been submitted regarding limited unobstructed pavement at the junction. Decision probably mid-October. b) Burrows Farm: the application for 26 houses is due to be decided by 5th October 2017. Meanwhile, enforcement of previous breaches of planning is continuing. Planning Contravention Notices have been issued. c) Langdon Hills Golf Club is in discussion with Thurrock Council regarding development on part of the site. d) There was a discussion regarding Section 106 Agreement Contributions, with Forum members feeling strongly that the S106 moneys from developments in Bulphan should be spent on improvements in the Bulphan area. Residents asked if Cllr. Brian Little could convey to decision makers that the £306,581.99 which the council currently hold and which was given by the Pieris Place developers should be held for future affordable housing in Bulphan: the money does not have to be spent until January 2027, and it is to be hoped that applications including some affordable housing will have been permitted by then. 	Brian
8.	<p>Bus users group: this group meets quarterly and is attended by the general public, local councillors, bus operators and council staff, to discuss all matters regarding local bus services. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th October, 2 - 4pm in the council chamber and if you would like to attend, please call Gavin on 01375 413886</p>	
9.	<p>Defibrillator: Forum members heard that a defibrillator for the village has been requested by some residents, and that the village hall committee have agreed in principle for it to be fixed externally on the village hall, near the main door. Janet had consulted with Horndon-on-the-Hill School and West Horndon Village Hall, who both have these already. The costs to the school were around £2,500 but at West Horndon, the only cost to residents was a donation of around £300. Janet awaits further details from West Horndon hall committee before further action is taken.</p>	
10.	<p>Village Hall update, including new shop: the hall and stage floors have been refurbished to a high standard. Dave has been redecorating the kitchen and other areas, and was thanked for the work he puts in to keep the hall well-presented.</p> <p>Janet reported that the Council Property Board is due to meet next Thursday, and that consideration of the Community Asset Transfer (granting us a 99-year lease of the hall) is on the agenda. Getting to this point has been very protracted and Forum members</p>	

	expressed their gratitude for the patience of the benefactor in keeping open his offer to donate funds to cover the building of the shop annex.	
11.	<p>Bulphan in Bloom update: Kelly reported that recent fund-raising efforts had been very successful. The next event is the afternoon tea in May 2018. Alan reported that Bulphan in Bloom and the Community Payback workers hope to tidy up the churchyard in time for the Harvest Festival (October 8th at 11am), and that Bulphan's churchyard came 4th in the Chelmsford Diocese annual "Best Kept Churchyard" competition. Bulphan in Bloom already have ideas as to how to do even better next year.</p> <p>Kelly explained the background of the Victoria Road project which started in 2009 and transformed an unsightly overgrown area into an attractive asset. Following several episodes of flooding, Anglian Water contracted Barhales to carry out remedial works. Unfortunately the landscaping and planting carried out by BiB was damaged. Eventually, after more than 2 years of negotiation, Kelly, on behalf of BiB, received £4792.68 to reinstate this area. Kelly was congratulated. In the meantime, a new house has been built adjoining part of the ditch. The house builders left that part of the ditch with a very narrow channel, and debris, and recently the roadway has flooded.</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion, committee member Peter Tarrant was asked if he would inspect the site and offer advice as he has experience in this area. Once a way forward has been suggested, Kelly will meet with the new owners of Oakwood House (the new house) and Tickety-Boo (the other house beside the ditch) and other residents to decide future action.</p>	Peter Kelly
12.	<p>Police Newsletter: advice has been received to try to make sure your house looks occupied when you are out after dark. A newsletter detailing police activity during August had also been received.</p> <p>Some Forum members and Cllr Sue Little had attended the Community Policing Meeting in July: this was not well-publicised, and the police are trying to improve communication, especially the 101 reporting service which even the police admit is disgraceful.</p> <p>Crime rates in Orsett Ward have decreased (37% reduction in burglary, 5.7% reduction in all crime). Police are now targeting/monitoring known criminals, which is helping with the reduction. From October 20th, Thurrock police would be operating 2 shifts, which would increase coverage.</p>	
13.	<p>Next events: Down Memory Lane (display of photos and memorabilia on Saturday 30th September in the village hall 2 - 8pm) Thank you to Peter who has agreed to transport the display boards. Several Forum members offered photos etc to display, and all were asked to mention the event to neighbours and friends who may be able to lend photos etc.</p> <p>Christmas Eve Sleigh Tour, Sunday 24th December, 4pm. Festive refreshments back at the hall.</p>	Peter All
14.	<p>Questions from the floor: Roy asked about the capacity of the mains drains to cope with the Pieris Place development, and Peter said this had been dealt with in the 1970's.</p> <p>Peter asked Cllr. Brian Little to take forward the issue that residents had expressed deep concern about the very narrow width of Doesgate Lane, especially approaching the Lower Dunton Road end. Vehicles drive at high speeds along this narrow country lane, and it is dangerous. Widening the road and fencing it had been requested. Brian agreed to put in this request.</p>	Brian
14.	<p>Next Open meetings: Thursday 9th November 2017, 11th January 2018, 8th March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.</p>	