

**Meeting of Corringham, Fobbing and Homesteads Forum  
Held on 14th February 2016 at 7.30pm in Corringham Library**

<b>Present:</b>	Danni Tate	DT	Chair	}	Committee
	Penny Partridge	PP	Dpt. secretary		
	Bill Dawson	BD	Treasurer		
	Pam Tate	PT			
	Alan Phillips	AP			
	Cllr Roy Jones	RJ	TBC		
	Malcolm Knight	MK		}	Residents
	Brenda Scott	BS			
	John Fox	JF			
	Dave Plant	DP			
	Rita Dawson	RD			
	Tony Sharp	TS			
	Lynn Fox	LF			
	Peter O'Rourk	PO			
	Alex Ridley	AR			
	C. Sharpe	CS			

## **1. Apologies**

Andrew Roast. Roy and Trudy Eaton Hazel Parr

## **2. Minutes**

Agreed

## **3. Matters Arising**

DP mentioned the inventory, which was updated 2 years ago. The incorrect names were noted; they should be AP and JF (not DP)

#### **4 Kirsty Stokes TBC**

An addition was made to the agenda, to give Kirsty Stokes an opportunity to present to the floor regarding the Thurrock Local Plan.

Kirsty Stokes is the Principal Planner at Thurrock Council.

Thurrock have adopted the core strategy which requires an additional 18500 new homes. Targets are set by the regional plan. The strategy needs refreshing following the recession.

The National Plan has been turned on its head – it is now condensed with less contradictions. The community has to ask the question “What does the plan mean for us?”

We are required to have a 5 year land supply (in place already). However, we only have a 2 year supply of housing land at the moment. National policy says that if you don't have enough sites, local authorities will be allocated sites.

The proposed Thames crossing will have an impact on the future of the borough.

The emerging development plan is now condensed into one plan/document. Kirsty described the process for the new plan:

We need to look at the core strategy, what has worked well, what hasn't worked well. The borough should be building 950 houses a year, but has only been building 400 on average. This puts pressure on the housing system. Thurrock has an increasing issue with homelessness. What direction do people want Thurrock to take? Nothing is set in stone – Thurrock is looking for feedback to access future outcomes. The full

council meeting is on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and the consultation runs from 26<sup>th</sup> February until 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016. No sites are set out, especially in view of the proposed Thames crossing.

Thurrock will be looking at the census information with other boroughs to assess our needs. There will be viability testing – developers can't always make an appropriate profit from some sites. We will have an open space strategy – Thurrock wants the community to say what is important. There will be accessibility mapping – looking at schools, facilities etc.

Looking at the Issues and options will help the borough to identify the planning issues. This enables stakeholders to have their say.

The key question is "What would you like Thurrock to be like in the future?"

Kirsty is trying to get the community involved with the consultation process. All documents will be available online, in libraries and in council offices. Ongoing consultations will be with the Youth forum, the Residents forums and the Developers forum. They want to keep people updated and give regular feedback. They want people to come forward to help gather views. They will be doing a road show – details of which will be on Thurrock's website.

Thurrock will be involving other key stakeholders. Talking to neighbours to negotiate if necessary. English heritage and the environment agency.

### **Key dates**

24<sup>th</sup> February – full council

26<sup>th</sup> February - local plan consultation starts

16<sup>th</sup> March - local plan youth forum

11<sup>th</sup> April - local plan consultation ends

19<sup>th</sup> April - local plan developer forum

Local plan roadshow TBC March 2016

Local business forum/TBC March 2016

Local plan residents forum TBC May 2016

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Kirsty asked if there were any questions.

DP – at the end of the timing, what will be ready by May 2016? The core exercise is to consider sites. Thurrock will have all the responses and can start shaping a work programme.

DP – who is responsible for developing the neighbourhood plan in our area? 2 community forums have expressed an interest – Bulphan and East Tilbury. Kirsty suggests we get in touch if we are interested. She suggests we really get involved.

RJ – when are you expecting to have something more concrete to report? Hopefully October - November time. We will have a good idea of what sites have come forward and realistic options. The Government is clear that we must have a very good reason for not meeting our need. The final version of the plan will be out in about a year.

DP – will green belt go forward for the plan? Maybe, but brown field is a priority. We need to prove that we have enough brown field sites. RJ noted that East Tilbury is a case to answer. Can we say to developers that they need to play ball by using high risk sites? Developers need to make a profit. Can we create a favourable policy situation? If there are issues with site clearance etc they may not be viable.

A member asked who determines what is affordable housing? For the core strategy there is a target of 35%. There is a bill going through government

that will give an opportunity for a 20% discount for young first time buyers starter homes.

A member as asked, with regards infrastructure, how much do you take the wider infrastructure into account? They consult all statutory bodies, eg health, education. Highways are much more project specific. Everything is taken into account e.g. would it help to put a secondary school in east Tilbury? Thurrock will look at all things holistically.

RJ – referring to the proposed 750 homes on Williamsons land. Local health is already over stretched as are the roads, e.g. East Tilbury and the crossing. The A13 is dreadful. We know we need to grow but at what cost? People were queuing at Lakeside for 4-6 hours with no support from police etc. The crossing is not welcome in Thurrock.

Kirsty explained that they want to find the best possible compromise.

A member said that there is a passion across the borough against the crossing.

RJ – we need Thurrock to fight against the crossing together.

DP – the original London gateway plan is being implemented now.

Kirsty – the housing situation is different in Thurrock to other areas. We are a relatively young community. There is a 70% natural change – more people being born than dying.

RJ – we feel that London is dumping people in Thurrock. – putting up housing costs for locals.

A member said that Thurrock takes all the rubbish, landfill, industrial sites. Now we are providing houses for the Londoners. Kirsty explained that London is now able to deal with their own waste – apart from construction and demolition.

RJ – There is a rumour that Mucking tip is being used again.

A member said (regarding the roads and growing population) That Thurrock has the worst reported CO2 emissions.

Kirsty – The Thurrock transportation team have got an air quality management policy. They will be looking at how Thurrock plans.

A member asked if it isn't it a bit late now? We fought the port with concerns about diesel fumes but were not taken seriously.

A member said that local authorities are keen to put industry within communities.

Kirsty – we will do our best to put a local stamp on any national policies.

A member said that they had suggested (re the port) that they build a road around Stanford? They also suggested a bridge over to Canvey. Ideas came from the public but they weren't listened to.

Kirsty – really wants informed opinions. The planners will listen to them.

Danni – we still have problems with lorries parking on the Manorway, despite money being given to Thurrock to deal with transport issues. (1.2 million)

RJ said that there is consultation re the 1.2 million.

Kirsty urged everyone to get involved and attend the roadshows etc.

DP – how can you get people involved?

Kirsty – we should share with our community. She wants people to recognise the importance of the document and consultation.

DP suggested we don't accept any more planning applications until the consultation is complete.

Kirsty was thanked for coming.

## **5.Treasures report**

No transactions to report

## **6 Public Forum**

A member suggested that highways put double yellow lines, where you turn right into the town centre. Chair said there must be a specific reason to have double yellow lines. DP has raised it already. All traffic stops there and it is dangerous due to the zebra crossing. Roy will make enquiries. Cars parked there belonged to contractors who parked up for the day. Can we extend the double yellow lines from the crossing to the springhouse club – Roy will look into it.

DP – the forum had asked for estimates for planters etc. These were provided.

## **7. Ward councillors report.**

Roy Jones

Re the Giffords Cross junction. The sequence of lights has been changed and he thinks they are right now.

Re the parking at Rookery Hill (lay-by). He has brought this up, and the mess can only be dealt with by cleaning and new bins.

The latest problem parking place is now above the A13 on the big roundabout. Roy has put in a report. They are also parking at the BP garage and the Sorrells.

The question has been asked whether speed and traffic light cameras would help. They will be carrying out surveys and analysing data, in view of the 1.2 million.

A member asked if there were any cameras by the farm/one tree hill? Roy will ask.

Roy suggested that it might be worth getting someone from transport/highways to come and talk to the forum.

A member asked who is monitoring the weight of vehicles going through Corringham? It is up to people to report these.

Roy expressed concern about the fire authority cuts, from 1/3 to half within the borough. Thurrock is competing with Chelmsford for fire tenders.

DP said that the Grays, Orsett and Corringham appliances were just enough for the borough and shouldn't be cut.

A member noted that there are two unitary councils and asked how Southend operates? Roy concentrates on Thurrock.

Re the proposed new Thames crossing – We need to get together and write letters. Do the survey. There are some templates out there.

Chair of TAF is doing a leaflet drop.

A member said that not everyone is against it. The survey needs to be put to the general public.

It is important to note that on the survey you do not have to select any of the options, you can say none of the above.

A member asked if we should do a maildrop?

Orsett and Horndon have got an active campaign going.

Roy – as a council we have to be careful how far we go, we mustn't cross the line.

All the libraries have run out of surveys.

A member asked if Danni should write to the other forums, to get the message across.

A member asked what would be the cost of doing a leaflet drop?

A member asked if councillors should have a stall in the town centre, to generate interest. Roy said that anyone can do that – and it should be led by residents.

Shane Ralph is thinking of doing a march onto Downing Street.



Danni will contact Kim and offer the forum's support with delivering leaflets.

A member said that we should claim our human right of clean air.

Andrew Roast – in absentia

A report from Andrew Roast was read, explaining that the problems with 4 x 4 racing on the Manorway being dealt with.

## **7. AOB**

Parking -The problems around the town centre are getting worse.

RATA have some future events planned. Can they use the notice board outside the library? Yes, BD has the key.

Re the Christmas lights - A meeting was held last week – traders will give 100% support. Can they have the support of the councillors? The committee is planning for a 3<sup>rd</sup> December switch on with carols in Grover Walk.

DT – The AGM will be in April. The Constitution says that to vote you must have attended 3 times in 6 months.

A member noted that the Homesteads website is still live. Danni will email Terry.

**Next meeting 7:30, 14th March 2016 at Corringham Library.**