



**Minutes of the Open meeting held  
on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013  
at 7.30pm  
in Bulphan Village Hall**

**Present:** David Gilbane (Chairman) Janet McCheyne (Secretary), Naomi Cooper (Treasurer), Cllr. Sue Little, Brian Little, Corinne White, Dave Hale, Bob Shearing, Gill Miles, Colin Pankhurst, Dawn McMahon, Amy Thongmak, Micky Griffin, Graham Pinkerton, Denise Wakeling, Ken Giles, Geoff Hollisey, Mr. and Mrs. Young, Iris Aedy, Vera East, Sylvie Besant, Monica Gardner

**Guest speakers:** Chris Brake, MS Power

1.	David <b>welcomed</b> everyone to the meeting. <b>Apologies</b> had been received from several residents. David invited those present to take part in a silent tribute to <b>Barbara Scott-Wilson</b> who had died in a house-fire at Slough House, China Lane. Condolences were expressed for John Benjafield. Both Barbara and John had attended Forum meetings regularly.
2.	Chris Brake gave us information on the proposal to apply for planning permission for a <b>solar park</b> at Fairwinds Farm, Lower Dunton Road. He provided details on the proposed siting of the solar panels, the security and landscaping plans, the capacity of the farm and actions to be taken to ensure wildlife was not disadvantaged. He gave proposed time scales, including the fact that after 30 years operation the whole site would be decommissioned and returned to agricultural use. He provided photos taken from various viewpoints, with computer imaging showing the visual impact of the proposals. Residents asked a considerable number of questions, which Chris was happy to answer. Some residents did have concerns about the loss of agricultural land, the impact on the conservation site on the other side of the road, the erosion of the green belt and the implication of this site becoming previously-developed land. However, some residents expressed support for this green, renewable source of energy. Janet has full details of the proposal, maps and photos and these can be viewed by contacting her <a href="mailto:secretary@bulphancf.org.uk">secretary@bulphancf.org.uk</a> or comments/questions can be sent direct to Chris on <a href="mailto:chris.brake@mspower">chris.brake@mspower</a>
3.	The <b>minutes</b> of the Open meeting held on 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2013 were agreed and signed by the chair.
4.	<p><b>Matters arising:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Easter Antics</b> had been well-supported, enjoyed by all, and, unusually, £25 profit had been made.</p> <p>b) The <b>Jubilee bench</b> is still safe and sound on the stage in the hall, awaiting clement weather for its installation near the entrance of the playing field.</p> <p>c) Cllr. Sue Little had received a letter from <b>Post Office Ltd</b>, saying that they were continuing to attempt to restore a post office service locally. They would welcome suggestions as to how this could be taken forward. Tracey-in-the-shop had provided, at her own expense, a weekly minibus to Orsett Post Office, so that those without transport could collect their pensions. Despite this being requested by villagers, no-one has taken up this service, which has been provided for the last 3 weeks. It is therefore unlikely to be continued.</p> <p>d) There was a lively discussion regarding the <b>redundant loop of the Brentwood Road</b>: Cllr. Angie Gaywood, portfolio holder who is dealing with this had written to some residents, mainly those in Pear Tree Lane – some addressed in Brentwood Road did not receive letters. The letter said that very little evidence had been provided to demonstrate anti-social behaviour in this area, police patrolling the road had not witnessed any examples of the reported behaviour, and went on to ask residents to reply within 7 days giving details of any previous incidents, with details and if possible dates and times of day. Some residents felt that many complaints had been made, but had somehow not been logged; some also felt that the portfolio holder and the police were taking a defensive stance, rather than supporting the local community. As there is no necessity to use this section of road, most residents actively avoid it, but they realise that those residents living in that section of Brentwood Road need support from</p>

	<p>their community. Comparisons were made with Brentwood Council’s successful approach in stopping this behaviour at a similar stretch of what was previously the A128, adjacent to Thorndon Park and the Halfway House.</p> <p>e) The appeal by <b>9 Church Lane</b> regarding the extension built without planning permission was upheld, and the extension can now stay.</p> <p>f) Following numerous complaints relating to unsightly <b>signs at Wick Place</b>, the site managers have applied for planning permission to erect 2 matching signs, well back from sight-lines needed at the junction. These signs would have neat “slats” advertising the various businesses on the site. The decision on this application would be made at the end of April 2013.</p> <p>g) Further <b>breaches of planning control at Burrows Farm</b> continue to be reported on a regular basis. Planning enforcement officers state they have had to redirect their resources elsewhere, notably cases involving gypsies and storage of hazardous waste in the Green Belt. They add that notwithstanding the above, this case is clearly still a priority and Officers are continuing investigations. The Forum committee are still hoping that an enforcement officer can attend a future Open Forum meeting.</p> <p>h) Naomi said that <b>potholes</b> she had reported had been filled. She encouraged others to continue to report them. Some concern was expressed over the quality of work, saying that some potholes were already reappearing.</p> <p>i) Planning permission for a <b>barn at Garlesters Hall</b> is being sought: Forum members heard that it is a small barn and will be sited adjacent to Garlesters Farm larger barn. Mr. Griffin is raising rare breed pigs there, and the meeting supported his proposal. Planning permission is also being sought to <b>extend Maple Leaf House</b>. It is difficult to assess the impact on Albert Road, which has mainly bungalows and chalet bungalows. Albert Road residents were advised to inspect the plans to check the height of the proposals and respond as appropriate.</p> <p>j) Ashley Corbett, Street Cleansing manager, tells us that <b>bagged dog waste</b> can be placed in normal bins throughout the whole of the borough, and not just in dog-waste bins.</p> <p>k) Naomi has been pursuing the possibility of registering Bulphan Recreation Ground as a <b>QEII protected field</b>, which would mean it must be kept for recreational use only, in perpetuity. Provided Thurrock Council submit the necessary documents in time, this should go ahead. When it does, it is proposed to have a celebratory event.</p> <p>l) <b>Rural Broadband</b>: unfortunately, details of how to register an interest in rural Broadband were not sent out with Council Tax returns, as promised. Janet to email the link to the Forum contact group again.</p>
5.	<p><b>Siting of the bus shelter</b>: Mr. Pankhurst said he had no objection to the bus shelter remaining on his land, provided the problems associated with it were dealt with (waste and litter). However, the council policy is not to have bus shelters on private land. They were consulting with adjacent houses at the other bus stop in Church Road, on the north side.</p> <p><i>Immediately after the meeting, Janet received a letter from the Passenger Transport Unit saying that those residents had raised objections, so there would now be a consultation to site the shelter outside No. 35 Church Road and move the stop from outside No. 51 Church Road to the new site.</i></p>
6.	<p><b>Housing/hospice development at Little Malgraves</b>: Cllr. Little explained that Horndon-on-the-Hill Community Forum were very concerned about 80 houses being built at Little Malgraves. Lower Dunton Road was inadequate for extra traffic and the DP World development would exacerbate this. The development would be clearly visible from Langdon Hills Country Park, spoiling a beautiful vista. It was felt that a hospice in Thurrock was a good idea, but that it should be positioned more centrally in the borough with good transport and public transport links.</p>
7.	<p><b>Thames Crossing</b>: there was a lengthy discussion on “Option C” which had featured in the local press this week. Thurrock Council were urging Thurrock residents to vote for “none of the above” as people in Thurrock wanted no more motorways, and felt free-flow tolls or no tolls would solve the problem. However, the implications of the lorry movements generated by DP World are a threat.</p>
8.	<p><b>DP World/Port Development</b>: it is clear that there will be very large numbers of lorry movements in and out of this port, but actual statistics are difficult to obtain. The knock-on effect of any congestion will be felt throughout the area, and will inevitably increase traffic through Bulphan. Naomi had joined Horndon-on-the-Hill residents in a tour of DP World, and some of those present expressed an interest in going on a similar trip in the summer. Cllr. Little will arrange this.</p>

9.	<p><b>Police/Neighbourhood Watch</b></p> <p>No police were in attendance. Thurrock Neighbourhood Watch contact is now Terry Fowles, who can be 'phoned on 101, extension 360396, or email <a href="mailto:Terry.Fowles@essex.pnn.police.uk">Terry.Fowles@essex.pnn.police.uk</a>. Anyone who wishes to receive weekly crime details for the Orsett ward can register with <a href="http://www.thurrockneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk">www.thurrockneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk</a></p>
10.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> the Forum has £2,579.93, and is also holding flood relief funds of £563.00. As previously mentioned, the Easter Antics made a profit of £25.58.</p>
11.	<p><b>Bulphan in Bloom</b> report: Janet gave details from Kelly's report, which included Bulphan in Bloom's activities over the past year. Unfortunately, due to the weather, this year's activities had been limited. However on 14<sup>th</sup> April, they will be providing a Big Bulphan Brunch, with volunteers taking part in litter picking, painting and gardening being rewarded with a free brunch at Bulphan School.</p>
12.	<p><b>Flood update:</b> despite the heavy rainfall, there had much improvement regarding flooding. Excess water had been draining away more promptly. China Lane residents had provided a large new drainage pipe, at their own expense. Other drains in the China Lane area need jetting: China Lane residents were advised to contact James Brown, of the Flood Group, to seek advice.</p>
13.	<p><b>Bulphan Village Hall:</b> Denise, booking secretary, reported that the hall is very busy, with lots of bookings. A structural survey would be carried out in the very near future, to aid the hall committee's strategic planning.</p>
14.	<p><b>Questions from the floor:</b> there was a request, once again, to <b>extend the speed limit</b> westwards along Fen Lane, to include China Lane and the nearby bends. Various means of achieving this were put forward.</p>
15.	<p><b>Future events:</b> as one of the participants in the pilot project bringing live <b>professional theatrical productions</b> to village halls had dropped out, this is unlikely to be taken forward.</p>
16.	<p><b>Next Open meeting:</b> this was set following the meeting and would be the AGM, to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at Bulphan Village Hall.</p>