

ERITH TOWN FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Thursday, 28 April 2016 - 7.00pm-8.00pm
Bexley College (Erith Campus), Walnut Tree Road, Erith

ATTENDANCE

Forum Members:

Dennis Roberts (*Vice Chair in the Chair*)(Erith Baptist Church), Cllr Joe Ferreira, Joan Armitage (*Treasurer*)(Bexley Civic Society), Chris Broadbent (Disabilities Groups), Nicola King (Erith Riverside Shopping Centre), Jacquie McDonnell (Bexley College), Jerry Martin (Chair, Erith Safer Neighbourhood Panel), and Alec Tapper (FORGE).

Members of the Public:

Janet Baxter (Carrack House, Bexley Road), Duncan & Eileen Brodie (Windrush Court), Tracy Copley (Lesney Park), Dan Fee (Lesney Park Road), Linda Finch (Bexley Road), Peter Kilner (Brasted Road), Barry Lupton (Appold Stree), Joan McCarthy (Avenue Road), Therese Oliver (Lesney Park), Irwin Parkhurst (Lesney Park Road), Bob & Chris Scutt (Sherwood House), and Chris Wakeman (Lesney Park Road).

Speakers – London Borough of Bexley:

Danny Ridgeway (Principal, Bexley College), and Lorraine Stares (Bexley Accessible Transport Scheme)

Also Present:

John Abbott (Note Taker).

Apologies for Absence:

Doreen Ives (*Chair*), Cllr Edward Boateng, and Cllr Abena Oppong-Asare, D J Akande (Erith Riverside Residents Association), Fred Finck (erith Yacht Club), Alison Fisher (Erith Rowing Club), Ray Hudson (Bexley Neighbourhood Watch Association).

NOTES OF MEETING

Action

1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Dennis Roberts, the Vice Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present and reported apologies for absence which included the Chair, Doreen Ives for whom the meeting expressed their best wishes following her heart surgery.	
2.	PRESENTATION – BEXLEY AND BROMLEY COLLEGES MERGER – DANNY RIDGEWAY (PRINCIPAL, BEXLEY COLLEGE).	
2.1	Danny Ridgeway gave a presentation on the proposed merger of Bexley and Bromley Colleges (the South East London Colleges Group although local colleges would maintain their identities).	
2.2	The proposal arose from reductions in funding and the need to conduct area reviews with the aim of providing fewer larger colleges that achieved high quality training and economies of scale.	
2.3	The Greenwich Community College was also merging with Bromley College and the proximity of their training venues e.g. Plumstead, Woolwich, Greenwich could be of significant benefit for students at Bexley College in widening the curriculum choice.	
2.4	A consultation period lasted until 29 April 2016 with a view to the new arrangements being introduced on 1 August 2016.	
3.	PRESENTATION – BEXLEY & BROMLEY INDEPENDENT TRAVEL TRAINING SCHEME – LORRAINE STARES (BEXLEY ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT SCHEME).	
3.1	Lorraine Stares gave a presentation on the Bexley & Bromley Independent Travel Training Scheme.	

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<p>3.2 Independent Travel Training enabled people with disabilities to learn to make journeys using public transport on their own. Each aspect of the training proceeded through seven distinct stages from initial pedestrian training and full accompanied travel to “shadowing” of a trainee and accompanied travel to “Red Bus Day” with the help of Plumstead Garage bus drivers, the police Safer Transport Team, trainers and teachers.</p> <p>3.3 Successful completion of the scheme resulted in trainees gaining increased confidence and independence with broadened horizons and better educational and job prospects .</p>	
<p>4. CHAIR’S REPORT.</p> <p>4.1 The annual report of Doreen Ives was presented to the meeting. She reported on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the excellent facilities enjoyed at the Forum’s new meeting venue of Bexley College (Erith Campus). <p>4.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the various presentations made to the Forum during the year i.e. from Bexley Council officers on services for the elderly and the need for urgent social housing in the area, on the Bexley Fostering Service, from the new Town Centre Manager on funding for improvements in Erith. In addition, there were a number of presentations on the future of Bexley College and the Erith Park Development and on the Food Bank being run from Queen Street Baptist Church. <p>4.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the special private meetings to discuss the planning application for the redevelopment of the former Erith swimming pool site where the strong views of the local community were put across. <p>4.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funding of £2m secured for Erith from the London Regeneration Fund to finance major improvements to key areas of the town, particularly in the area between the Town Hall and the Post Office in Bexley Road, and to improve training and job opportunities for local residents. <p>4.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • representations made to the Council regarding road safety concerns of residents of Sherwood House. 	
<p>5. TREASURER’S REPORT.</p> <p>Joan Armitage presented the Forum’s annual accounts for 2015/16 showing total funds of £1,1678.78 and total expenditure of £319.52. In addition, there were two deposits of £1,000 (d/d 10/2/16) and £95.43 (d/d 24/3/16) to account for.</p>	
<p>6. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.</p> <p>The following membership of the Forum was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erith Town Centre Businesses (excluding Morrisons) – Lorraine Davidson (The Running Horses PH), Len Arnold (Europa Gym) Chris Betts (Frogmore Real Estate Partners), Danny Ridgway (Principal Bexley College) • W. Morrisons Supermarkets plc – Vacant (Company to be approached again) • Erith Riverside Shopping Centre - Nicola King • Erith Playhouse Theatre – Bill Brookes • Local Residents Groups – DJ Akande (Erith Riverside Residents Association) Rosemary White (Erith Park), Vacant - (Lesney Park Action Group) • Bexley Access Group - Chris Broadbent/Terry Middleditch • Bexley Accessible Transport Scheme (BATS) – Lorraine Stares • Bexley Neighbourhood Watch – Ray Hudson • Bexley Pensioners Forum - vacant • Bexley Civic Society - Joan Armitage 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erith Museum - Mike Dodsworth • Erith Rotary Club - Les Hoskins • Erith Rowing Club – Alison Fisher • Erith Safer Neighbourhood Panel – Jerry Martin • Erith Yacht Club – Fred Finck • Ethnic Minorities group – vacant • Faith Groups – Doreen Ives (Christ Church), Dennis Roberts (Queen Street Baptist Church), Rev. Rob. Radcliffe (St Johns Church) Alec Tapper (Our Lady of the Angels) • FORGE – Alec Tapper • Health Representative – Dennis Roberts • Members of Bexley Council – Cllr. Abena Opong-Asare, Cllr Joe Ferreira, Cllr. Edward Boateng 	
<p>7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2016/17.</p> <p>The following persons were elected as officers on the Management Committee for 2016/17:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Doreen Ives • Vice Chair (Community) – Dennis Roberts • Vice Chair (Business) – Lorraine Davidson • Treasurer – Joan Armitage <p>The following members were also elected to serve on the Management Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Edward Boateng / Chris Broadbent and Jerry Martin. 	