

ERITH TOWN FORUM GENERAL MEETING



Thursday, 27 October 2016 - 8.00pm-8.50pm
Bexley College (Erith Campus), Walnut Tree Road, Erith

ATTENDANCE

Forum Members:

Doreen Ives (*Chair*), Cllr Edward Boateng, Cllr Joe Ferreira, Cllr Abena Oppong-Asare, Chris Broadbent (Disabilities Groups), Bill Brookes (Erith Playhouse Theatre), Alison Fisher (Erith Rowing Club), Ray Hudson (Bexley Neighbourhood Watch Association), Jerry Martin (Erith Safer Neighbourhood Panel), Rev Rob Radcliffe (St John's Church, West Street), and Dennis Roberts (Erith Baptist Church).

Members of the Public:

Sheila Blake (Alford Road), James Elsby (Cross Street), Linda Finch (Bexley Road), Joan McCarthy (Avenue Road), Chris & Bob Scutt (Sherwood House, Queen Street), Miss G Smith (Cross Street) and Chris Wakeman (Lesney Park Road).

Speakers – London Borough of Bexley:

Caroline Moore & Sharon Tomlins (Orbit South Housing Association) and PC Tom Brown and PCSO Adam Winch (Metropolitan Police).

Also Present:

John Abbott (Note Taker).

Apologies for Absence:

Joan Armitage (*Treasurer*) (Bexley Civic Society), Della Jeffreys (Men in Sheds), Nicola King (Riverside Shopping Centre), Jacquie McDonnell (London South East Colleges), and Alec Tapper (FORGE).

NOTES OF MEETING	Action
<p>1. PRESENTATION – LOVE LONDON WORKING – CAROLINE MOORE.</p> <p>1.1 Caroline Moore gave a presentation on the Love London Working training and employment programme led by the Affinity Sutton housing association, in partnership with 15 other housing associations (including Orbit and Peabody). It was a three -year London-wide programme aimed at helping unemployed people over the age of 16 into work, no matter how long they had been without a job or what barriers to work they faced such as health, disability or single parenthood.</p> <p>1.2 The support included offering training opportunities to financial support through to developing key skills like IT and work related training. Individual support with job applications, CV writing, interview practice could also be provided and access to a wide variety of jobs and work placements across London.</p> <p>1.3 Caroline Moore described the methods of advertising the initiative and the Forum suggested a local media campaign through publicity in the Town Centre and on social media to help promote the existence of the scheme.</p>	
<p>2. CHAIR'S REPORT.</p> <p>2.1 Doreen Ives reported on several matters:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Christmas Tree</p> <p>2.2 The Council had made a grant of £2,500 towards Christmas decorations in the Town which would be spent on the provision of a Christmas Tree similar to that provided at Crayford last year (about 15-20 ft high and decorated with lights). It was to be located in Pier Road near the police office (installed 21 November, removed 8 January) and would be protected by a barrier.</p>	

NOTES OF MEETING	Action
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NOTES OF MEETING		Action
4.2	A possible solution to the water point problem may rest in the development of the former swimming centre site across from the Gardens.	
5.	ERITH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL.	
5.1	PC Tom Brown reported on the progress made regarding the Ward Panel's three priorities of motor vehicle crime (including tampering with vehicles on driveways), anti-social behaviour, including Pier Road, and security marking of cycles to deter theft and assist with identification.	
5.2	Police had also assisted the new Council enforcement officers employed to enforce the littering and dog fouling legislation.	
5.3	Ray Hudson reported that (a) Supt Geoff Boothe would be leaving Bexley to become Borough Commander at Croydon, (b) Belvedere Police Station was now closed and to be sold, and (c) territorial policing in Bexley was to be reorganised into two Clusters – North and South rather than three as at present.	
6.	CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP.	
6.1	Dennis Roberts referred to the proposal from the South East London Health Region to consolidate planned inpatient orthopaedic surgery at two sites (called elective orthopaedic centres) in south east London – Orpington and Kings College Hospitals. He also circulated a copy of the Patient Council updates on a number of local medical services.	
6.2	At Queen Mary's Hospital, there was the new Cancer centre and an adult learning disability building. A children and young people's services centre had recently opened. A kidney dialysis unit was also to be provided at the Hospital.	
6.3	Ray Hudson referred to launch a few weeks before of the Hospital Watch scheme which was overseen by the police and designed to involve visitors as additional eyes and ears to assist police and security staff at the Hospital.	
7	ANY OTHER BUSINESS.	
	<i>(a) Toilet Facilities for the Disabled</i>	
7.1	Chris Broadbent referred to the lack of toilet facilities in the Town Centre for disabled people with electric mobility scooters and asked if this could be investigated.	
	<i>(b) West Street – Parking Issues</i>	
7.2	The meeting discussed the additional pressures on parking for local residents with the opening of the Bexley College and also the extra difficulties arising from the development of the land at the rear of 14-28 West Street for terraced housing with access via Cricketers Close.	
7.3	Cllr Joe Ferreira reported that as a result of the informal consultation exercise in September, residents in West Street and Maximfeldt Road were in favour of the extension of the Erith Controlled Parking Zone and the formal consultation stage would now take place in November. At the same time minor changes to parking spaces in Erith High Street (conversion of all 4 hour bays to all day shared use (24 spaces)), and in Stonewood Road (conversion of all residents' bays to Mon-Sat, 9am-5.30pm (6 spaces)).	
	<i>(c) Queens Road/James Watt Way Junction</i>	
7.4	Chris Broadbent asked whether measures could be taken to relieve traffic congestion at the Manor Way/ James Watt Way roundabout during peak periods e.g. by introducing a filter light in the traffic signals at Queens Road.	
8	DATES OF MEETINGS 2016/17. (venue Bexley College (Erith Campus), Walnut Tree Road beginning at 7pm):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 26 January 2017 • Thursday 27 April 2017 (AGM) 	