

ERITH TOWN FORUM GENERAL MEETING



**Thursday, 26 January 2017 - 8.00pm-8.50pm
Bexley College (Erith Campus), Walnut Tree Road, Erith**

ATTENDANCE

Forum Members:

Doreen Ives (*Chair*), Joan Armitage (*Treasurer*) (Bexley Civic Society), D J Akande (Erith Riverside Residents Association), Chris Broadbent (Disabilities Groups), Bill Brookes (Erith Playhouse Theatre), Alison Fisher (Erith Rowing Club), Jerry Martin (Erith Safer Neighbourhood Panel), and Dennis Roberts (Erith Baptist Church).

Members of the Public:

Sheila Blake (Alford Road), Duncan & Eileen Brodie (Windrush Court), Ken Chamberlain (Christchurch Avenue), James Elsby (Cross Street), Linda Finch (Bexley Road), Rion Hall (Alford Road), Peter Kilner (Brasted Road), Peter Lupton (Appold Street), Joan McCarthy (Avenue Road), Therese Oliver (Lesney Park), Brian Silk (Chandlers Drive), Chris & Bob Scutt (Sherwood House, Queen Street), Miss G Smith (Cross Street) and Chris Wakeman (Lesney Park Road).

Speakers – London Borough of Bexley:

Andy Pike (Director RRRL, Cory Riverside Energy), and PC Tom Brown, PC Gillian Couzens and PCSO Adam Winch (Metropolitan Police).

Also Present:

John Abbott (Note Taker).

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Edward Boateng, Cllr Joe Ferreira, Cllr Abena Oppong-Asare, Nicola King (Riverside Shopping Centre), and Alec Tapper (FORGE).

NOTES OF MEETING		Action
1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.	
1.1	The Chair, Doreen Ives opened the meeting by welcoming those present and reporting the apologies for absence (as above).	
1.2	The Chair that unfortunately it would not be possible to have a presentation on the proposals for the future use of the former Erith Library Carnegie building as full details had still to be submitted to the Council and Councillors to be briefed. It was hoped to have the presentation at the April meeting.	
2.	PRESENTATION – CORY RIVERSIDE ENERGY FACILITY – ANDY PIKE.	
2.1	Andy Pike gave a presentation of the current operations of the Cory Riverside Energy plant at Norman Road, Belvedere. The facility generated 525MWh of electricity each year from burning 750,000 tonnes of waste, most of which was conveyed to the site by the company's river barges from four riparian transfer stations thus removing 100,000 lorry movements from the road.	
2.2	Enough electricity was generated to power 160,000 houses and the operation saved 230,000 tonnes of carbon over the alternative of landfill. The ash and other residue could be used as construction aggregate or in the production of building blocks for the building industry.	
2.3	The new Data Centre at the site approved by the Council in March 2016 would be powered and heated by electricity from the plant.	
2.4	He then updated the Forum on the company's planning application for permission to increase the amount of waste transported to the site by road from 85,000 tonnes to 195,000 tonnes and to allow the delivery of waste by river on a 24/7 basis.	

NOTES OF MEETING	Action
<p>2.5 The planning application had been deferred by the Planning Committee in November but was due to be reconsidered in March.</p> <p>2.6 In response to questions, Andy Pike said that the proposal would provide increased flexibility in operations and in the worst case, he foresaw an extra 26 vehicle movements per hour, although he stressed that by far the greatest use of the Norman Road / Eastern Way junction was by vehicles from the ASDA distribution centre.</p> <p>2.7 Rion Hall referred to the concerns of objectors to the impact on the adjacent Crossness Nature Reserve of the Data Centre application and asked whether a green roof concept had been considered. Andy Pike said that the site was designated for employment use and Cory's development partner would be responsible for the building and operation of the centre.</p>	
<p>3. CHAIR'S REPORT.</p> <p>3.1 Doreen Ives reported on a number of matters:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Christmas Tree</p> <p>3.2 It was agreed that the Christmas Tree had looked very nice and festive and there had been no problems with vandalism etc. It was hoped that with sufficient volunteers and sponsorship that a switch-on event might be arranged for next year. Therese Oliver said she could enlist the support of the Erith Rotary Club and possibly also involve Morrisons. The Christmas event at Christ Church had been very good.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) Carnegie Building – Future</p> <p>3.3 A presentation on the future of the Carnegie Building would be arranged for the April meeting.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(c) Pier Road Buildings</p> <p>3.4 It was understood that the Pier Road buildings (snooker club) was being sold and that the Council was buying the properties as it wanted control over the future use of the site which was part of the Western Gateway area.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(d) Riverside Shopping Centre</p> <p>3.5 Nicola King had provided a report updating the businesses in the centre and those opening. It was noted that Cash Converter had closed. The Forum agreed that the new Steak and Fish restaurant was a very welcome addition to the shopping centre's offer. New ANPR camera checks had been introduced at the pay-and-display car park.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(e) Erith Market</p> <p>3.6 There was no further information at present concerning the future of a market in Erith following the recent unsuccessful trial.</p>	
<p>4. TREASURER'S REPORT.</p> <p>Joan Armitage reported that the total in the bank was £1720.82, including savings of £169.16. A donation of £60 had been received from the local MP, Teresa Pearce and that a sum of £18 was spent in respect of the carol singing at the Christmas Tree festival.</p>	
<p>5. NOTES OF LAST MEETING – 27 OCTOBER 2016 AND MATTERS ARISING.</p> <p>The notes of the last meeting were tabled.</p>	
<p>6. FORGE (FRIENDS OF RIVERSIDE GARDENS).</p> <p>Joan McCarthy reported that members of FORGE had planted of bulbs in the Riverside Gardens during November and that the Council intended carrying out some maintenance work and organising training sessions on horticulture.</p>	
<p>7. ERITH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL.</p> <p>7.1 Jerry Martin reported that a Panel meeting was to be held the following evening and invited people to attend as few regularly attended. Body Worn Video cameras had been rolled out to police officers and PCSOs in the Bexley Division and would be very useful in recording incidents e.g. stop and search.</p> <p>7.2 There was a discussion on the need for introducing a left turn filter light into Queens Road from James Watt Way (by McDonalds) and on the contra-flow cycle lane along Erith High Street.</p>	

NOTES OF MEETING		Action
8.	CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP.	
8.1	Dennis Roberts referred to the proposal to use the Urgent Care Centre at Queen Mary's Hospital as a base for providing a 7-day GP service 8am-8pm using a rota of GPs.	
8.2	The Urgent Care Centre at the Erith and District Hospital was open every day of the year between 8am and 10pm and provided a good service.	
8.3	He circulated a leaflet on guidance on reducing medicines waste.	
9.	ERITH FUN DAY 2017.	
9.1	Therese Oliver reported on the arrangements being made for the Erith Fun Day to be held again at the Erith Recreation Ground on Saturday 15 July 2017 between 12 noon and 6pm. Some popular events at previous fun days e.g. the petting farm, funfair and laser clay pigeon shooting would be returning and sponsorship was being sought with a view to some activities being free.	
9.2	Other entertainments could include a steel band and the Met Police Choir.	
9.3	Issues around the food offer and the toilet facilities that occurred at the previous Fun Day were being addressed.	
9.4	There was a Facebook page ErithFunDay where the event was publicised.	
10.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS.	
	<i>(a) Erith Leisure Centre – Water Quality</i>	
10.1	The water quality at the Erith Leisure Centre swimming pool had been the subject of discussion by the Erith Swimming Club and some children had been unwell between September and January. A problem with the water filters had now been resolved by Parkwood Leisure.	
	<i>(b) Pom Pom Community Forum</i>	
10.2	Sheila Blake and Rion Hall, Chair and Vice Chair of the recently formed Pom Pom Community Forum addressed the meeting about a number of concerns of local residents and in respect of which they sought advice on the most appropriate way of lobbying the Council.	
10.3	The first was the litter and flytipping problem in the area and a local litter picking group had been formed and with the help of the Council had collected 46 bags of refuse. One difficulty was Houses in Multiple Occupation but the Council's waste management team had taken action in advising landlords and tenants of the proper collection and disposal arrangements.	
10.4	Another concern was the removal of trees from the Pom Pom wood to facilitate the construction of a new roundabout for the main access into The Quarry site which was currently being developed. A bus stand was also proposed as an extension of a bus route was planned to serve the development. The Council had not responded to residents' concerns about this and other sites in Holly Hill Road and Birch Walk where it was considered trees were at risk.	
10.5	Another major concern was the history of serious foul and surface water flooding in the Sandcliff Road area over many years and the risk of the additional burdens that would be placed on the sewerage systems by the large redevelopment schemes in the area at The Quarry (640 new houses) and Tower Road (400 new houses)	
10.6	An invitation was extended to attend the Community Forum's next meeting in February.	
11.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 2016/17.	
	(venue Bexley College (Erith Campus), Walnut Tree Road beginning at 7pm):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 27 April 2017 (AGM) 	