

Erith Town Community Forum

Public Meeting

Date: 26th April 2018

Venue: Bexley College, Erith

Members Present:

Management Committee- Jerry Martin, Doreen Ives, Dennis Roberts, Rosemary White, Rev Rob Radcliffe, Bill Brookes, Ryan Casey, Cllr Abena Oppong Asare, Cllr Edward Boetang

Members of the Public: Janet Baxter, Ritesh Patel, Tracey Kember, Carolynn Birmingham, Chris Wakeman, John Abbotts, Peter Nutley, Sarah Batten, Bill Lord, James Elsbey, Gillian Smith

Apologies: Joan Armitage, Joan McCarthy,

Notes of Meeting:

Item		Action
AGM		
1.	<p>Chairs Report Doreen gave a report on the Forums activities in the past year. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year Erith was host to the Lighthouse Project which run a pop up restaurant and activities in the summer of 2017. This showed that the council are keen to promote Erith as Greater Erith. • The Carnegie building (Erith Library) is being developed and the Exchange were successful in a tender to run the developed building. • The Forum has had speakers from many projects in the area such as Breathing space funded by Orbit Housing and Mind. Caroline Field from Orbit regarding the Erith Park and Arthur Street developments. Mencap and the Safer places scheme. • Doreen has continued to represent the Forum at meetings such as the Mayors housing strategy and various council meetings • The Council funded two Christmas Trees in December 2017 but the company used did not do as good a job as promised. • Activities in the old snooker hall have still not resolved and will continue to need monitoring from local councillors. • A leaflet promoting the forum was produced (funded by McDonalds) this is added to welcome packs in local housing associations and was used at the Erith Fun Day. • Special thanks to the college to allow us to use the facility to hold meetings • Thank you to everyone for support throughout the year. 	
2.	<p>Treasures report The balance of the Forums account is £1500.</p>	
3.	<p>Membership Changes – New Member – Erith Town Football Club It was proposed that Mark Devaney, Chairman of the Erith Town Football club be added to the Forum Management Committee, this was agreed.</p>	
4.	<p>Election of Officers 2018/2019 (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Management Committee (10 members)) The following officers were elected:</p>	

	<p>Chair – Dennis Roberts Vice chair – Jerry Martin Vice chair for business – Les Hopkins (To be confirmed) Treasurer – Joan Armitage</p> <p>Management Committee Doreen Ives to continue on the committee, also Peter Nutley, Rosemary White and Nicola Taylor.</p> <p>The Forum presented flowers to Doreen Ives and thanked her for all her hard work for the forum for the past years.</p>	
ORDINARY MEETING		
5.	<p>Matters Arising from January meeting Cllr Edward Boetang thanked members of the forum for their support in the past 8 years as councillor for Erith Ward. He has thoroughly enjoyed representing the ward and has enjoyed working with members. Edward would like to continue on the Management Committee, this was agreed. Cllr Abena Oppong has also decided to stand down as councillor for Erith and thanked the forum for their support. She has enjoyed the last 4 years and could not have done all the casework without the support of the forum.</p>	
6.	<p>Forge Joan has sent apologies and no update was available.</p>	
7.	<p>Shopping centre update – Ryan Casey The centre hosted a Health and wellbeing event day recently, both the stalls and units did well so more events are planned for the future. Footfall to the centre has continued to rise each month. Newly let units are Zaz Barbers and The Works which have been well received. There is only one empty unit at the moment and they are working hard to let this.</p>	
8.	<p>Erith Police Panel Update – Jerry Martin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry told the meeting that the recent safer neighbourhoods meeting was well attended. The priorities set are Anti-Social Behaviour including street begging around Erith High Street. • There is a Public meeting 17th May 7pm to 9pm in the Applegarth suite at Marriott hotel on Burglary and crime prevention • New Borough commander is Simon Dobinson covering Greenwich, Lewisham and Bexley. • Jerry extended his thanks to Edward and Abena for constant support. 	
9.	<p>Clinical Commissioning Group Health Issues update – Dennis Roberts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis had some leaflets on self-care awareness and a free NHS talking therapy service for adults please take one if you represent a group • Most of records are shared with urgent care centres and hospitals but reminder if you do not want them shared you must sign a 	

	<p>letter from local GP to say so</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking at Queen Marys is an issue – urgent care centre – parking is an issue? • Urgent care centre, a hub for doctors out of hours appointments and between 8am and 10pm on a weekend seems to be working well. 	
10.	<p>Erith Fun Day 7th July</p> <p>There was no one present from the group but it was agreed that the Forum would try to have a stall at the event. If anyone would like to help please get in touch.</p>	
11.	<p>The Exchange</p> <p>Sarah and Peter gave an update on the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building work is well underway with a brand new slate roof., hence the scaffolding. The council have put £300k towards this. • Open day in 14th June (to be confirmed with the builders) • There has been a break in at the building when new boilers and all pipework stripped out. Although this is covered by the builders insurance this is a blow to the project. Security has been stepped up and it is hoped this will not impact on timescales. • The lower ground floor of the building is due to be opened in October. • This will consist of the café bar area, and conversation room. • Priority is to make the building watertight and stop any further deterioration. It is envisaged that there will be a series of pop up events in the opened space. • Issue about parking. There are a couple of parking bays at the back of the building. It was feared that Bosworth House would be used impacting the residents. This will be monitored and if there are any issues please let The Exchange know. It is possible that parking may be possible in the old Town Hall as this is currently only used during the week but this may change when Capita move out of the Old Town Hall. • The Exchange have been working with BACCA (Bexley African Caribbean Community Association) on a Windrush event in Bexleyheath. If you have any stories that you want to tell please get in touch • The planned schedule of events on opening the venue will be: October Celebrating Black History month, November Guy Fawkes and Diwali the festival of light. Including Procession in the past about Alexander Selkirk. • It was asked if there could be museum displays. The Exchange have met with the council and it won't be possible to bring back the museum in the same form but there will be a programme focusing on the history of Erith and working with UCL students in London who are studying heritage courses. It is also possible that Rose Bruford and LSEC will be involved in a performative heritage interpretation. • It is not yet known what will happen to the Lighthouse structure. This has been stored by the council. • For further information www.the exchangeerith.com and 	

	Facebook @theexchangerith. Posters will also be displayed to advertise events.	
12.	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Rob Radcliffe told the meeting of any event at St Johns Church West Street on the 23rd June 10am to 4pm. The church is the oldest building in Erith, they have a few pieces from Lesnes Abbey on display in the church. It will be possible to do brass rubbings and there will be a light buffet after evensong. • It was queried how notification for the meeting is sent? This is sent by email at the email address given, this is sent many weeks prior to the meeting. Notifications are also displayed in the health centre and shopping centre. We will try to push this via social media in the future but we also need Word of mouth. Please tell everyone about the meeting and encourage them to attend. • Bill Brookes representative for the Erith Theatre is stepping down and introduced Carolyn Birmingham the Secretary of the Erith Playhouse. Bill has attended for many years and the management committee thanked him for his work. • Erith snooker centre update. The Brightsteps nursery is now closed and is being investigated. The funding from the council now stopped. The church have submitted a change of use planning application any objections need to be in by midnight 27th April 2018. 	
13.	<p>Proposed Dates of meetings for 2018/2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26th July 2018 • 24th October 2018 • 24th January 2019 • 25th April 2019 (AGM) 	
14.	Meeting closed at 8.25pm	

