

## ERITH TOWN FORUM MEETING

Notes of the 76th meeting of the **ERITH TOWN FORUM** held at VETS Club, Park Crescent (junction with Glebe Way), Erith on WEDNESDAY 21 JULY 2010 at 7pm.

**Present:** Doreen Ives (Chair)  
Chris Broadbent (Disabilities Group), Mike Dodsworth (Erith Museum), Alison Fisher (Erith Rowing Club), Les Hoskins (Erith Rotary Club), Ray Hudson (Bexley Neighbourhood Watch Assoc.), Jerry Martin (Chair, Local Police Panel), Rena Papa (Bexley Pensioners Forum), Denis Roberts (Baptist Church, Erith), Rosemary White (CSAZ), Councillor Margaret O'Neil, Councillor Edward Boateng, Julie Clark (Minute/Admin officer)

**Members of the Public:**

C Wakeman, S Boyd, L Finch, D Brodie, E Brodie, P Harrison, M Davis, J Baker, M Beadle, J McCarthy, G Wratten, E Pratt, M Jamison, B Griffiths

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**Forum Members:** P James, B Owen, P Horner, Philippa James

**Others:** David Evenett, MP, Teresa Pearce MP, Cllr. Chris Ball

### 2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair welcomed new members Sylvia Boyd, who unfortunately had to leave because of bad health, Jerry Martin and Cllr. Edward Boateng.

The Chair reported that Dennis Roberts had gone along to represent the Forum on the unveiling of the re-sited Mural and explanation board.

The Chair reported on receiving funding from Capital Community Foundation and said the cheque had been received and banked. She said now we have this money we must get on and produce our next newsletter. The Chair said that the funding was also to cover costs of our meetings for the next year. She said together with the £500 promised by Frogmore we are now reasonably secure.

The Chair reported on the main meetings she had attended since the last meeting. A Health Roadshow where plans for the provision of health services in Bexley were unveiled. She said changes were made in response to the change in government. and Polyclinics are no longer the flavour of the month. The Chair reported on the meeting she had attended with an officer from the Environment section of the Council to determine what could be done about better road safety for residents. She said this was very productive. She said Cllr. O'Neil would give more details later.

### 3. CONSTITUTION

The Chair spoke to the Forum about the Constitution saying that it has always been considered to be a good Constitution and that it has evolved with the Forum. She said we have added the Management Committee and we must have printed accounts. The Chair said that she had gone to Capital Community Foundation for some money and they need some amendments to our Constitution. She said they want us to make it clearer as to what the Management Committee do – Items 7, 8 and 9 of Constitution. The Chair informed the meeting of the amendments needed to satisfy Capital Community Foundation. All was agreed and the Constitution will be updated accordingly.

### 4. REPORT ON POLICE PANEL AGM

Jerry Martin reported back from the AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> July and said that they were fortunate enough to have a Quorum. He said they have a full body of officers and now have Minutes. He said that the 3 priorities set, subject to terms of reference all had good success rates. They were Drug use and supply in the local area, environmental Inquisitive crime in Franks Park and Road Safety at Trinity School. He said Caroline Roberts was the new acting Sergeant while James Coomber was on secondment.

Jerry informed the Forum that the next Police Panel Meeting would be on 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm at Carrick House and he encouraged everyone to attend. The Chair asked if Jerry could email her and remind her of the meeting and also asked Alison

Fisher if she thought the Panel meeting was worth attending, since it had been her first time. She said it was worthwhile attending.

## 5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Les Hoskins reported that we opened the year with £848.69 and said thanks to the hard work of the Chair and Cllr. O'Neill we now have £4,377. He said we have paid out £525, leaving a balance of £3,852. He said the current account has £4,700.69 made up as follows:

	£
Deposit A/C	168.48
Community A/C	4,513.81
Cash in Hand	18.40
Balance	4,700.69

## 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (MAY)

### Earth Columns Lighting

Cllr. O'Neill said she felt we should let this go because she did not feel we would get anything done on this.

### Erith Hospital Bus Stop

Now satisfactory.

### Poor pavement in Avenue Road

Cllr. O'Neill again stressed that she needs written feedback with dates etc for her to be able to action anything

### Police Surgeries

The Chair showed the Forum a leaflet brought in by Chris Broadbent that is now in Doctor surgeries, health centres and libraries. It shows a list of surgeries now being held in McDonalds from 3-4pm. The Chair asked if we can get copies for the September meeting. Chris Broadbent to find out **( ACTION: CHRIS BROADBENT)**

### Queen Street Zebra Crossing

Cllr. O'Neill had a site meeting with Andrew Bashford of the Traffic Team and said that the signs to go round the corner from Queen Street are on order and there are plans to increase the markings on the road. She said this is being done immediately. She said the crossing will take longer. Mr Bashford was very responsive. She said she did not ask about the post office crossing but Margaret O'Neill said she may get him down again. She said he specified an area he thought the crossing could go but it is a cost factor. The Chair said it was good that Cllr. O'Neill had got this moving. **(ACTION: CLLR. O'NEILL)**

The Chair said that as of the last meeting (AGM) Ray Hudson was going to sort out a representative for the Bexley London Borough Federation of Residents Association. Ray said he would let the Chair have a name as soon as possible.

**(Action Ray Hudson)**

## 7. TRI-FORUM YOUTH NEWS

Margaret O'Neill said there was nothing really to report. She said we are trying to do a combined event with the churches next year. She said we will be back in action next year. She also commented on the fact that the marquee is being used and Margaret said we should really be charging for this. Margaret to pursue.

## 8. ROBINSON CRUSOE EVENT 2011

Cllr. O'Neill reported having 3 meetings so far on the project. She said Robyn Drummond is leading on it and is excellent with loads of ideas and has things all in hand. She said the plans so far are to have a stall at the Erith Festival, then one event during the holidays, to keep people interested, and the main event on October 15<sup>th</sup>. She said there will be lots of things in town, children dressing up etc. She said a month before they will have a space at Hall Place to do with Selkirk, and we are contacting a museum in Firth in Scotland. Cllr. O'Neill said we are going to have an Art Competition which we would like to dedicate to Charlie Armitage. She said contact will be made with all local schools and it will be held somewhere in the town. She said Charlie's love was the Open House weekend at the Church Hall, Christ Church.

Cllr. O'Neill said it was a concern looking for funding and at the meetings it was agreed that Erith Forum would be the financial basis for it, rather than doing it out on a limb. She said this is a big action plan – ways we can fund, what we are going to do. Margaret said she had spoken to the head at Erith School and hopefully they may do some non-uniform days. Margaret said

she cannot praise Robyn Drummond enough. A member of the public said had anyone thought about using the town square. Cllr. O'Neill said we are hoping the Council will take this on board. The Chair said the Riverside Shopping Centre would be happy to be involved to promote activities that way we will not have to go to the Council. Margaret O'Neill said it would be great for the Yacht Club to be involved. She said we are looking at doing a reenactment. The Chair said it would be good to do some role play activities. A member of the public from the Yacht Club said they would put it to the Committee.

## **9. ERITH WESTERN GATEWAY**

Cllr. O'Neill said there is an idea that the Council Offices will be going on the tram shed site in Walnut Tree Road. She said certain members of the Council do not want to come to Erith for meetings so offices could be there. She said Sainsbury's car park is being curtailed for new Council Offices. She said if all staff come to Erith there will be more people using the facilities. The Chair asked if they were looking at a new building. Cllr. O'Neill said she was due to go to a meeting next Friday and said she will really ask the questions. The Chair said if they want a lucrative plot – we want what we want.

## **10. ERITH RIVERSIDE SHOPPING CENTRE**

The Chair reported from Barry Owen saying that there have been problems with the positioning of the Totem Pole to go at the bottom end. She said the seats in the Shopping Centre have now been raised. She said the planters were being looked after. The Chair reported on some repairs and roof cleaning at Matalan and Peacocks end. She said there would be some netting up which was to catch any workmen !. She reported on the increase in footfall but said some smaller shops were finding it hard. Doreen said Mambocino hoped their new premises opposite Wilkinsons would be ready to go by the end of June but there were some drainage problems etc. She said they should be in there by the end of July. The Chair reported on the problem of the lady selling the Big Issue who was being rather intrusive. She said apparently those who publish the Big Issue were given a license to sell in that area. Barry Owen took it up and the license has been taken away from her. A man has a license to sell there now and Barry Owen has been told that he will sell in a more acceptable way. The Chair said the fact that Barry has had to take this up he now has a good relationship with them. The Chair thanked Chris Broadbent for bringing this problem to light. The Chair reported that Barry Owen only has any say on bikers in the Shopping Centre and not in Pier Road. The Chair said she will take back to Barry regarding bikes  
**(ACTION: DOREEN IVES)**

## **11. SENIOR'S SEASIDE OUTING**

Denis Roberts reported saying they had set off on 9<sup>th</sup> June taking 48 on the coach and returned with 48. He said the driver was really good, and most people found themselves a good fish and chip shop for lunch. He said everyone had a really good day and it was very successful. The Chair said Sylvia Boyd had given a card to her saying thank you and it was excellent, when is the next one!

## **12. TOWN AND AROUND**

The Chair said we have some money so we now need to get going on this. She said we need some articles. She said we need one for the senior's outing, one for unveiling of the Mural, one from the Yacht Club, Robinson Crusoe Event, Riverside Festival, Rowing Club and any more. The Chair said she needs the articles by 14<sup>th</sup> August with the idea of publishing it mid to the end of September. Chris Broadbent said maybe the Police Surgery dates could go in it.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Erith Museum**

Mike Dodsworth said there was really no news to report. A member of the public said that BCRE were still in the Carnegie building and were there free of rent, and said there are bodies still in the building.

### **2. Future of Healthcare in Bexley**

The Chair reported that she had gone to a meeting and said whilst the Polyclinic idea, in theory, was not going ahead, what they are going to do is very much along the same lines. She said they are commissioning GP's to provide services as opposed to Bexley Health Trust. She said doctors will decide how they will purchase services for their practice and they will be given a budget. There will be Clinical Cluster in North Bexley and South Bexley. The Chair said these will be very similar to Polyclinics. She said doctors will work closely with the Social Care department of the Council. A member of the public said that people being made redundant by the health services will be re-employed by GP's offices to do the management bit. The Chair said she had hoped Phillippa James would be at the meeting tonight. She said hopefully Phillippa or Cllr. Ball would be at the next meeting to talk to the Forum about how this will all work. A member of the public asked when is Queen Marys going to close. The Chair said it was not closing but services would be going in there and other services going out. Cllr. O'Neill said she had read that they were going to transfer cancer care to Queen Marys. She said there is a white paper going to Parliament in July for discussions and decisions.

**3.** Chris Broadbent reported that the people who have taken over Wises seem to be doing really well.

**14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - Date of next meeting: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at the Vets Club**  
**Dates of future meetings: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011 and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011 (AGM)**

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm**