

ERITH TOWN FORUM AGM AND ORDINARY MEETING

Notes of the 80th meeting of the **ERITH TOWN FORUM** held at VETS Club, Park Crescent (junction with Glebe Way), Erith on WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2011 at 7pm.

Present: Doreen Ives (Chair)
Joan Armitage (Bexley Civic Society), DJ (Erith Riverside Res. Assoc.), Mike Dodsworth (Erith Museum), Alison Fisher (Erith Rowing Club), Fred Finck (Erith Yacht Club), Pamela Horner (Erith Playhouse Theatre), Les Hoskins (Erith Rotary Club), Phillippa James (Bexley Care Trust), Jerry Martin (Chair, Local Police Panel) Denis Roberts (Baptist Church, Erith), Rosemary White (CSAZ), Julie Clark (Minute/Admin officer)

Members of the Public:

L Finch, P West, W Brookes, J Baxter, C Wakeman, J Abbott, D Young, P Young, P Harrison, D Johnson, C Ola, A Tapper, A Harbert, J McCarthy, M Beadle, T Williams

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Forum Members: Chris Broadbent, Chris Betts, Rena Papa Cllr. M O'Neill, Cllr. E Boateng, Cllr. C Ball

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair said it had been a very busy year, with lots of time taken up with funding issues early on and then near Christmas the provision of Christmas lights for the town. She said once again Frogmore did step in and made sure we had some extra festive lighting.

Doreen spoke about the Senior's seaside outing and the Christmas event which she said had not been as well attended but nevertheless still very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all who came.

The Chair said that since Christmas lots of energy had gone into studying and responding to Bexley's SPD for the Erith Western Gateway and working with FORGE to stop the building on the Riverside Gardens, and the clean-up which members participated in, organised by FORGE and Thames 21.

Doreen said the news of Bexley College taking on the old Tramshed site was welcomed and said she was pleased the project was making some progress.

The Chair reminded the meeting that all correspondence, meeting papers and newsletters are posted on the Forum website, and said this was thanks to Alan Boakes. She continued to say that we have completed and distributed 2 Newsletters since receiving funding from Capital Community Foundation and she hoped to get another one done for the summer period.

She informed the meeting that on behalf of the Forum she had attended the Police Panel meetings and the Riverside Resource Forum detailing the progress of the Belvedere incinerator. She said it is going through its early commissioning period and is likely to be up and running when all snags detected have been remedied.

The Chair said the Robinson Crusoe event is gathering momentum and said she hoped everyone had the date in their diary.

Finally, the Chair thanked all those who have helped with the Forum business throughout the year and thanked particularly the Management Committee for their support.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Les Hoskins reported an opening balance of £848.69. He thanked the Chair for all her hard work in getting funding and reported an income of £4,452.00 giving a balance of £5,300.69. He said less expenses of £2,427.68 left a balance of £2,873.01. Copies of the accounts were available.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTER

The Chair read out the changes that were proposed.

1. Bexley Federation of Residents Association be removed from the Forum membership (the group is no longer functional).
2. FORGE to be added to Forum membership. Alec Tapper proposed as representative of the group.

3. BATS – Bexley Accessible Transport be added to Forum membership – Andrew Grieve proposed representative.
4. BCRE no longer exists so proposed new Ethnic Minorities Representative – Derek Johnson
5. Proposed new Youth Representative – Robyn Drummond.
6. Proposed new Erith Theatre Representative – Bill Brookes. Pamela Horner is moving away from the area.

All the above amendments to the Constitution were moved, seconded and agreed without dissent.

The Proposal to change the start time of the meeting from 7pm to 7.30 was not passed. The start time of 7pm will remain for all future meetings.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following appointments were moved, seconded and agreed without dissent.

Chair – Doreen Ives, Vice-Chair (Business) – Lorraine Davidson, Vice-Chair (Community) Denis Roberts, Secretary – Rosemary White, Treasurer – Joan Armitage, Management Committee Members – Rena Papa, Chris Broadbent, Ray Hudson, Jerry Martin, Councillor Margaret O’Neill, Les Hoskins, Joan Armitage

The Chair notified that Les Hoskins wanted to stand down as Treasurer because he could not devote the time needed. The Chair thanked him. She continued to say how fitting it was for Joan Armitage to take on the Treasurer role because Charlie Armitage had been in this role previously.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (MARCH)

Queen Street Zebra Crossing

The Chair reported that she had received an email from Chris Ball but he had nothing to report on this yet.

(ACTION: CLLR. BALL)

Shopping Centre Signs – Bikes (lowering them)

A member of the public said that people are still cycling through the centre. The Chair said Barry Owen is continuing to look at the problem. She also noted that the newly-lowered seats are now well used.

(ACTION: BARRY OWEN)

Terry Middleditch said there is still a problem in the centre when the schools come out. He said the coffee shop has had a problem with unruly children and the manager said the security people never seem to be around in that area. The Chair said she thought the children were from St Columbus School. Jerry Martin offered to talk to the Safer Neighbourhood PCSO’s. Les Hoskins reminded the meeting that Cllr. Edward Boateng had promised to visit schools to discuss the problem.

(ACTION: CLLR. BOATENG)

A member of the public pointed out an amendment to the Minutes on pg 2. It should read Triage Nurses and not Triad Nurses. A further amendment to the Minutes was noted that Joan McCarthy should have been on the public attendance list and Jerry Martin and Joan Armitage should have been included in Apologies.

A member of the public also pointed out that there is an Urgent Care Centre at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Senior’s Seaside Outing

Denis Roberts announced that the Senior’s Outing on 16th June would now be Southend instead of Clacton. He said there were 6 places to be filled. He confirmed the coach would leave at 9.30 from Queen Street and the cost is £9 which includes the driver’s tip.

7. RIVERSIDE SHOPPING CENTRE

Chris Betts was unable to attend the meeting, but had informed Doreen that Nemesis Gym and Pound Town would be going in where the old Wise store is. The mystery retailer going in next-door to Barnardos was taking a bit longer. Chris Betts had been pleased with the Easter Fayre and hoped some of the stall holders would come back to Riverside. A new sign would be going up in the entrance to advertise all the shops. The doors in the middle of the Centre (previously a fire exit only) were to be changed so that there would be access to and from the High Street.

A member of the public asked what had happened to the Florist. The Chair said she was not sure but would try to find out.

(ACTION: DOREEN IVES)

8. UPDATE ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENT SITES

Erith Western Gateway

No further news on this.

The Chair said that although the Erith Museum volunteers had disbanded, she was anxious that Mike Dodsworth should stay as part of the Forum in order to keep the Museum and the future of the Carnegie building at the forefront of our minds.

9. FORGE UPDATE

Alec Tapper reiterated the success of the foreshore clean up in March saying it had been 5 years since there had been any effort to clean up the riverfront. He confirmed there was 2 tons of metal waste and litter removed. He confirmed that there will be a second clean up on Sat 9th July which has been set to fit in with the groups that helped before

He continued by saying that he and Joan McCarthy had a meeting with Teresa Pearce MP and her support has been total and full regarding EWG with regards to retaining the full gardens, and said we have a petition going round at this meeting initiated by her. She will submit it through the House of Commons. Alec continued to say that their submission on the EWG SPD had gone to three senior Conservative Councillors and all three Bexley Members of Parliament. A copy had also gone to the London Assembly member for Bexley and Bromley, James Cleverly, with whom, he and Joan McCarthy, would be meeting on 1st June at City Hall.

Alec reported on applying through London Planning Aid to get free legal guidance on getting Town Green status for the Gardens. He said a pupil barrister agreed to come to Erith to view the Riverside Gardens and surrounding area. He had arrived at 10am and left at 4pm. Alec said he gave us valuable guidelines on how to approach the community and defined specific areas to target. Following the meeting with the junior barrister, Joan had produced a questionnaire document, which Alec asked Forum members to complete on behalf of their particular groups.

Alec stated that he and Joan would be requesting a meeting with Boris Johnson and confirmed there are now over 600 members in FORGE. He asked for completed statements and questionnaires to be handed in by Saturday 11th June.

10. POLICE PANEL MEETING

Jerry Martin said that as a result of the work done by the Police neighbourhood team, crime has reduced in the Erith ward.

He confirmed the three new priorities that have been set are:

Anti-social Behaviour
Burglary
Metal Theft

He urged members to report problems they see to Safer Neighbourhood team and confirmed that metal theft is a particularly big problem. He confirmed the next panel meeting will be on 13th July at Carrick House at 7pm.

Terry Middleditch asked if people were aware of Smart Water. Jerry said people were aware of it but you have to pay a monthly fee. He said it is a very good way of marking your equipment, jewellery etc. The Chair asked Jerry if he could find out how much it might cost. He agreed but pointed out that by joining the Panel you get a Smart Water kit for free.

(ACTION: JERRY MARTIN)

11. ROBINSON CRUSOE EVENT

Tony Williams reported that they are still struggling to get Lottery Funding. He said he thought the Newshopper would come good. The Co-op community fund application had been completed but could take 2/3 months to come through. He said the money was not quite there yet. Heritage Fund money would support children's activities. Tony confirmed an opening event to be held in the Running Horses car park on 26th June. He said 15th October is still on target and the sailing barge has been booked and plans are being made to land Selkirk on the pier jetty. High tide is at 9.30am so will probably be about 10.15 – 10.30. He reminded the meeting about the primary school art competition and said work is continuing with Erith School. The Riverside Shopping Centre would also be linking up with them.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Vet's Club Summer Fete – 13th August**

The Chair said that the Vet's Club were trying to raise awareness and raise their membership and as a result are doing their fete again this year. She said the Forum have said they will have a bric-a-brac stall and said it was a good way of advertising the Forum. She said it is £5 a stall and any monies raised will go to the Forum. The Chair welcomed any can help.

b) **Riverside Community Forum – 12th April**

The Chair said Ray Hudson had attended this public meeting but it was not very well attended by the general public. She urged everyone to go along to see it in operation when the opportunity arose. There are plans to set up an educational room/section for schools to go on visits. She said Ray Hudson had found the meeting interesting. Doreen said the next public Riverside Forum meeting is in January.

c) **Town and Around**

The Chair said she needed any items for the next Town and Around by the second week of June.

d) **Udate on Healthcare in Bexley – Phillippa James**

Phillippa James spoke to clarify the new NHS set up in South East London. This is detailed as follows:

On 1 April 2011, NHS South East London was established as the transitional body covering Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark primary care trusts and Bexley Care Trust. This change has been made as part of delivering the government's NHS reforms.

Business Support Unit (BSU)

The BSU works alongside Bexley's shadow GP consortium, and is responsible for the health services provided to the borough's 225,000 residents. It seeks to ensure that the right services are provided to meet the needs of the population, improving service redesign throughout the whole patient pathway.

The BSU focuses on strategic planning – which includes carrying out health needs assessments of the whole borough, assessing current services and examining options for the future – as well as service redesign. This means working with primary, community, social and acute care services to design innovative and effective care pathways.

It also provides communication and patient engagement services, ranging from engagement with patients via the membership scheme *Your Health Matters* to engagement with (and between) GPs

The BSU is responsible for implementing changes to health services; examining the impact of new services, as well as outcomes for patients, cost and quality of services.

Bexley Clinical Cabinet

Nearly all practices in the borough voted in the election in December 2010, to decide who represents Bexley's GPs in key areas of decision-making.

Bexley GPs were named as one of the first groups of GPs selected to be a GP Pathfinder during a visit by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley in the same month.

Twenty-eight out of 29 practices voted in the election that saw Bexleyheath GP Dr Howard Stoate elected Chair, along with four other clinical cabinet members. A listening period is currently underway, giving people the opportunity to suggest changes to the Health and Social Care Bill.

Clinical Cabinet Position	Successful Candidate
Chairman	Dr Howard Stoate
Clocktower Member	Dr William Cotter
Frognal Member	Dr Sid Deshmukh
North Bexley Member	Dr Varun Bhalla
Member appointed by Salaried GPs	Dr Günen Üçyiğit

Phillippa said she was happy to go into any groups to talk about the new arrangements.

The Chair said there was some concern as to how good the GP's are at determining best value for money, saying "are they expecting Doctors to be businessmen". Phillippa said the GP's make the decision as to what services you need in your community and people with management skills do the rest. She said you can report any problems or concerns to PALS. Phillippa said it was better to have specialist knowledge in certain hospitals rather than local hospitals dealing with something they do not do all the time.

DJ said from the patient's point of view how will it affect them. Phillippa said it shouldn't have any effect on the patient but means that the right services are in the community. Phillippa confirmed that more services are coming into the area and not being taken away.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Date of next meeting: 20th July 2011 at the Vets Club

Dates of future meetings: 28th September 2011, 30th November 2011, 25th January 2012, 28th March 2012, 23rd May 2012 (AGM)

The meeting closed at 9pm