

Erith Town Community Forum



Public Meeting: 25th January 2018
Bexley College (Erith Campus), Walnut Tree Road, Erith

Management Members Present: Doreen Ives (Chair) Rosemary White, Bill Brookes, DJ, Ryan Casey, Alison Fisher, Joan McCarthy, Jerry Martin, Ritesh(McDonalds), Olu Obafaye, Cllr Joe Ferreira.
Public Members Present: Chris Wakeman, Irwin Parkhurst, Janet Baxter, Cariole Lang, Mark Deveney, Nicola Taylor (Minutes)
Apologies: Dennis Roberts(Vice Chair) Joan Armitage(Treasurer) Pat Fearnside, Therese Oliver, Cllr Abena Oppong-Asare, Alec Tapper, Sarah Batten, Peter Nuttley
Speakers: Nick Marsden and Adam Smith Bexley Mencap.

Notes of Meeting:

Item	
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence Apologies – as listed above
2.	<p>Presentation: Safer Places Scheme -Nick Marsden and Adam Smith -Bexley Mencap Nick explained about the work of Mencap working with people with learning disabilities, their families and carers.</p> <p>The safer places scheme is a new scheme that is intended to help people lead an active life. Shops and businesses sign up to the scheme to act as a safe place in the event of a person being lost, ill, or had something stolen, they display a sign prominently so that the vulnerable person knows they will get help there. Members of the scheme carry a card with the details of their contact person. If the person is feeling unsafe they can go into the shop/business and ask for their contact person to be called to collect/help them.</p> <p>Adam showed a video that the Mencap clients had created to show the scheme in practice. Mencap is looking for businesses to sign up to the scheme in Erith and throughout Bexley. Businesses will get training on the scheme and how to help a vulnerable person.</p> <p>Nick has been working with Ryan Casey Erith Riverside Shopping centre and it is hoped that businesses in the centre will sign up. Other businesses committed support at the meeting, Mcdonalds and Bexley College.</p> <p>DI to circulate contact details for the scheme and NT to add to the Facebook page.</p>
3.	<p>CHAIR' S REPORT – Doreen Ives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to Mark, new Manager of Erith Town Football club. Mark is keen to bring the club back to Erith and has been in talks with Erith Leisure centre management. • Christmas. The Forum received a grant from the council to decorate the Town for the Christmas period. This year we were able to buy two trees which were located at either end of Pier Road. However the company that was supposed to manage the trees, lights etc. did not deliver the service promised. Doreen is in discussion with them over payment and this service will not be used next year. Ideas are welcomed as to how we can use the grant to improve footfall to the Town this year. Please contact Doreen if you have any ideas. <p>Q: Have the barriers been removed? A: Yes they have now been removed but Doreen had to email them this week to get this done.</p>

Christmas tree festival. Now in its 12th year, the festival was a great success, with The Exchange, McDonalds, and Bexley council getting involved. The Exchange decorated the grounds and brought in a Food festival which was well received. The event was well attended with a packed Musical concert and Carol Service. Donations were up this year raising money for the church and Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. If you would like to be part of the festival for 2018 you need to get in early as tree sponsorship is very popular. The website is <http://erithchristmastreefestival.com/> and the email is info@erithchristmastreefestival.com

Erith is home to two conservation areas: Lesney Park and Erith Riverside. Whilst both benefit from the additional protections afforded by national and local planning policy to all conservation areas, Lesney Park has an [Area Appraisal and Management Plan](#), whereas Erith Riverside does not. In fact, it is the only one of Bexley's 23 conservation areas without an Area Appraisal and Management Plan. These documents set out the special character of the conservation areas and provide development management guidance for the preservation and enhancement of the areas. The Council is now seeking to adopt an Area Appraisal and Management Plan for Erith Riverside. Doreen and FORGE are awaiting the date of a meeting to discuss this

- Redevelopment of Town hall, Tram depot and surrounds. Cllr Ferreira told the meeting that the council had appointed an architect. The Tram depot is planned to be developed as housing but plans for the Town hall have not been decided. The old town hall is still in use by Capita and restoration to the building will be required. It is rumoured that this maybe a hotel or housing. It has been confirmed that the building frontage will be preserved.
- **Mayor of London consultation** Doreen will be attending an event at the Civic Offices on the 1st Feb at Civic Offices. The event is to find out more about the mayors plans regarding developments in the area and is especially important given all the development in Erith and the pressure for high rise buildings.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

There was no report as no money has been spent in this period. .

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM OCTOBER MEETING MEETING**

Snooker Club Cllr Ferreira gave an update on the situation. The council are now only starting to take action, planning enforcement notices have been sent. The Nursery has been suspended by Ofsted and funding from the council has now stopped.

Q: What are the council going to do about the Snooker club which has been running without planning permission despite being invited to apply?

A: Cllr Ferreira has written to the Chief Executive for the council to take decisive action on this matter. Teresa Pearce MP has been involved with issues regarding the Nursery. Doreen has written to the Leader of the Council.

The meeting was told by neighbours that Fire Officers tried to carry out inspections early Jan 2018 but were refused entry by the decorators. The building is continuing to be used with church services happening up until Wednesday 24th Jan 2018 and it is possible that people are staying overnight in the building.

Doreen agreed to write to the Chief Executive on behalf of the forum and Cllr Ferreira will continue to push for actions from Council officers.

6.	<p>CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP</p> <p>There is currently no update on the District Nurse service but Dennis asked for a reminder of the opening times of the urgent care centre in Erith. <i>Erith and District Hospital Park Crescent , Erith, Kent, DA8 3EE</i> <i>Opening Times are 8am until 10pm 7 days a week.</i> <i>Phone number 01322356116</i></p>
7.	<p>SHOPPING CENTRE UPDATE Ryan Casey, Centre Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A barber shop will open in the unit previously used for the phone shop. • Costa Coffee, a Factory outlet shop and a Fruit and Veg stall have opened and been well received. • Christmas saw a 10% increase in footfall at the centre, with choirs and school performances. • There is a repair issue with the gates, and so fencing has been placed to protect people, it is hoped that this will be completed soon.
8.	<p>ERITH POLICE PANEL UPDATE - Jerry Martin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a good turnout at the last meeting, which means that they maybe looking for a new venue. • There is a new Sgt for the Safer Neighbourhoods team, Sgt Brian Young is based at Pier Road. • Main issues have been Drug use in Compton place and Anti-social behaviour • It was decided that Ward priorities would not be localised to areas but would be for the whole ward. • The ward is changing due to the boundary changes. Franks Park is no longer part of the ward but Erith Park will be included. • The date of the next meeting may need to be rearranged, Doreen will circulate details for this.
9.	<p>FORGE – Joan McCarthy</p> <p>GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS!</p> <p>The Water pipe has now been put in place by the housing developers across from the gardens. There is currently no stand pipe as they are waiting for the council to do this. This will be locked so that only FORGE members can access this.</p> <p>Q: Why could not use the pipe under the steps? A: The council have investigated this and there is no pipe and the area was used as a storage area for old equipment from Danson Boating lake. It is hoped that this area will be able to be used by FORGE for storing gardening equipment in a locked metal cage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid training has been arranged by the council for all the Friends groups. • Spring flowers are coming up now. • Letters due to go out in March/April to ask people to join FORGE and pay their £1 membership fee and give a donation if possible.
10.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERITH FUN DAY the date for the event is 7th July 2018. Stall bookings are due to be taken shortly, if you would like to be involved please contact Therese Oliver erithfunday@btinternet.com • The meeting thanked the Police for their prompt assistance in dealing with issues

	<p>in Compton place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an increase in graffiti in the area, particularly at the end of the pier. Can the council intervene? Cllr Ferreira will contact council officers to get this removed and contact Morrisons who own the Pier. • Mark Deveney, Erith Town Football Club manager, stated he is keen for the club to be involved in the community and that the long term plan is to return to the area as they are currently based in Crayford. They will be taking part in the Erith Fun Day and would welcome any other ways they could be involved in the community. He noted that there is little signage around the town which is not welcoming to visitors and means they cannot find facilities easily. Cllr Ferreira to raise this with council officers. Doreen to write to the Highways department about this. • Doreen reminded members that the April meeting would be the AGM and more members are needed to join the Management Committee. Anyone interested should get in touch before the meeting.
11.	Date of Next Meeting – THURSDAY 26TH APRIL 2018