

Dear Councillor O'Neil

As Chairperson of Erith Town Forum I am applying to "Reaching Communities" for funding to cover our running costs for the next five years to enable us to continue our work in the Erith community.

As I am sure you are aware we hold bi-monthly public meetings and produce a newsletter 4 times a year to keep in touch with those members of the Erith community who are unable to attend our meetings. A copy of "Town and Around" is sent to every councillor. In addition we organise a Christmas afternoon of entertainment for senior citizens and also a summer outing.

Initially set up as part of the regeneration of the town centre, we are a non-political group and have now been in existence for over 10 years. From the outset Erith Town Forum has worked very closely with the officers and members of Bexley Council to make sure businesses and residents have firsthand information about issues relating to the area which is one of the most deprived in the borough, with many hard to reach members of the community. We have worked collaboratively on many projects with officers to secure improvements to the Town Centre and surrounding area and continue to have a very good relationship with Riverside Shopping Centre owners and management.

As part of my application I would like to have a written "reference/acknowledgment" from the Council of the part we play in helping to generate community involvement and would very much appreciate your co-operation in this matter. I have copied this e-mail to two of the officers who have firsthand knowledge of our membership and the projects we have been involved with.

I do hope you will be able to help us with our efforts to gain funding to continue working with and for the Erith community.

Yours sincerely

Doreen Ives