

# Orsett Community Forum

## Minutes of the Open Committee Meeting held on 09 July 2008

### Present:

Graham Monk: (Chair)  
Anjie Gaywood  
Diane Revell

Matt Jackson (Secretary)  
John Vesey (Treasurer)

Joanne Cooper  
Mike Revell

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.45pm.

**1. Apologies:** Wendy Mayo from Ngage

### **2. Minutes of Closed Meeting held 04 June 2008**

Minutes of meeting 04 June 2008 were distributed and agreed.

### **3. Funding Requests from 2007/8**

Anjie has contacted both the Bulphan and Horndon forum again re part funding of the PCSO vehicle and is awaiting a response. The Chair confirmed that he has sent a letter to the Chief Superintendent at Grays re funding of the PCSO vehicle by Essex Police due to Orsett's rural status and is awaiting a response.

Cllr Mike Revell mentioned that he had spoken to Inspector John French, Neighbourhood Inspector for Orsett about this issue. The Chair agreed to speak to Inspector French further.

The funding for the Welling Road 30mph speed sign has been approved but the survey has still not been completed.

### **4. Bus Routes**

The Chair talked about a Thurrock Transport Strategy meeting that had taken place recently. Anjie asked the Chair if he could email the Action Plan to her. Anjie agreed to check with Faye Cox that the plan did not include bus routes for Orsett and to confirm when the next Thurrock consultation for bus routes would be taking place.

### **5. Play Area**

Joanne Cooper briefed everyone about the progress of the Play area project. The first Friends Group meeting took place on 18 June and two new members were welcomed to the group.

354 petition signatures were submitted by the Friends group to the full council on 25 June, with an accompanying statement about the support of Orsett residents for a new playground.

A stage 1 application for funding from Community Spaces has been completed. It was decided to delay submitting the application until the group received estimated costs for the playground equipment. A meeting was held on 04 July with a council approved playground contractor to discuss costs for equipment, fencing, seating etc. The contractor has agreed to send details of estimated costs to the group by 11 June.

Rob Bellamy (Street Services) has confirmed in writing that the council would cover on-going maintenance of the newly sited play area, providing the play equipment did not increase in area by more than a third. Rob had also

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requested that the group's bid for funding should include costs for decommissioning the existing play equipment. The Friends Group, the Forum and the Orsett Ward Councillors all felt that this was out of scope for the project. The existing playground has been neglected for many years by the council and the Friends group was established to secure funding and maintenance cover for a new play facility, not deal with existing council problems. Matt had requested to Rob that the council should carry out a full health and safety risk assessment on the existing play area with the aim to decommission sooner rather than later. Cllr Mike Revell has asked Rob to copy him in on the response. Joanne will respond with a Stage 1 complaint if no response is received.

The Chair mentioned that Veoila Cleanaway Trust and Cory Environmental Trust are two other funding options available for the project. David Kooyman (Chairman of Orsett Cricket Club) also suggested that Youth Opportunities Fund and Sport England could be two other avenues to explore.

Joanne also mentioned that the Friends group have submitted a question to Full council regarding the use of the funding that the council have been awarded by the government to approve play areas in Thurrock and why Orsett hasn't been included as an area for regeneration.

### **6. Crime**

The Chair presented the latest neighbourhood watch weekly report for the period 16 June to 23 June 2008. There were 7 crimes reported which were mostly vehicle related. Matt will look into getting them put onto the forum website.

Travellers who removed fencing at Welling Road/Orsett quarry entrance boundary-Matt has looked at the 106 agreement site plans which appear to show that the northern aspect of the land is council owned. It was agreed that the forum would fund obtaining a copy of the 106 agreement so that the boundary in question could be more easily investigated. The quarry owner's details were not detailed on the 106 agreement; therefore Matt will try and get this information via PC Nick Luff/Land Registry information.

Possibility of travellers purchasing land sited next to Thurrock and Basildon College - the Chair confirmed that there has been no intention by travellers to purchase this land.

### **7. Pound and Lock Up**

A discussion was held concerning the lack of maintenance for the Pound and listed Lock Up building. The Chair explained that the responsibility for the upkeep of these buildings was passed from Simon Black, (Head of Communities, Libraries and Cultural services) to the Highways department in May 2007, due to the proximity of the buildings to the highway. Highways department are stating that the buildings were passed over to them with no budget for funding. Cllr Mike Revell asked if he could be sent documented evidence of this transfer to the Highways department- Matt agreed to send a report from Simon Black to the councillor.

Anjie confirmed that ED Vokes (Highways) had assured her that he would contact the lead councillor about seeking funding, however this was 2 to 3 months ago and nothing has been heard since. Anjie also mentioned that the

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council have made botched repairs to the Pound using soft materials instead of seasoned oak.

It was decided that the best course of action would be to keep the Stage 1 complaint letter on hold for the moment and for the Chair to write a letter to the Portfolio holder of Highways – Cllr Neil Rockcliffe. The Chair said that he would also look into whether English Heritage could help with this issue.

### 8. Road Safety

Matt briefed everyone about the progress of the following issues:

- School Lane twin yellow kerb ticks (outside the school), north side of the road, outside hospital
- Re-paint double yellow lines along School Lane (existing worn out lines)
- High Road junction with Pound Lane/Rowley Road – double yellow lines and kerb ticks on all four corners to highway standard on each approach to this junction
- Basildon and Thurrock NHS trust to adopt free for 30 minutes parking in hospital car park

Matt had received an update from Highways on the day of the forum meeting from Julie Nelder – Senior Traffic Engineer in Highways. Julie confirmed that Orsett School is on their works programme for treatment this year under the “Safer Routes to School” scheme. The proposal to implement the kerb ticks in School Lane will be advertised in next week’s issue of the Thurrock Gazette (18 July 08). Subject to no objections being received, the Order should be in force within 4 weeks from the consultation end date.

An Order will be raised at the same time as the kerb tick order for the lining contractor to re-paint the double yellow lines in School Lane.

Other issues to be resolved but not specifically mentioned at meeting:

- Extending yellow lines from mini roundabout by Rectory Road
- Warning Chevrons to be painted on road at junction of high road and rectory road
- Pavement area around village hall very uneven
- Users of the village hall cutting through from the new development- needs proper path to be constructed

Matt agreed to continue following up these issues up with Highways.

No update has been received with regards to the hospital car park issue.

UPDATE: Jenny Galpin from the Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has now confirmed that they are intending to introduce a FREE of charge system for the first 45 minutes for Orsett Hospital car park. She explained that the new regime will require changes to the car park management system and therefore the earliest it will be in place is in the autumn.

Re traffic and pedestrian survey – The Chair discussed about inviting the leading councillor for Highways Neil Rockcliffe to the September open forum meeting to discuss all the traffic concerns. Matt highlighted the fact that we should really get the survey figures before having a consultation meeting with Highways. If so we would either need to have the survey done within the next two weeks before the school holidays, or aim for first two weeks in September. It was agreed that the Chair would speak to Neil Rockcliffe about the urgency of the survey. If the survey is to be performed in September then

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the open meeting should be moved to October – the Chair will contact Village Hall to find out about available dates.

### **9. Youth Club**

Joanne confirmed that the new youth club at the Churches Centre is now planned to start in September. Joanne is in the process of helping the Club Leader source funding for the club and would welcome any help with this. David Kooyman mentioned about Youth Opportunities and the Youth Cabinet fund. The Chair also mentioned about Thames Gateway and would send Joanne further details on this.

### **10.A.O.B**

The lack of attendance to the open meeting was discussed. Due to holiday/absence, the meeting had not been advertised in Thurrock Gazette. Matt agreed to deal with the gazette directly for all future open meetings. Matt confirmed that meeting notices had been posted on the notice boards around the village and on the post-box on the Bonners estate. It had also been published on the Orsett Bulletin Board. It was felt that leaflet dropping the whole of the Orsett ward would not be very cost/time effective. Anjie and another resident suggested that more advertising was required for the Bonners estate as they may not have seen the notice on the post-box. The Chair suggested that the forum should start up an email distribution list to communicate meeting dates. It was agreed to first start with Bonners residents. Mike Revell agreed to send a list of email address of Bonners residents that attended the travellers meeting to Matt.

John Vesey asked if the weekly planning applications for the Orsett Ward could be posted onto the community forum website. John agreed to take this up with the council.

The Chair brought the site plans for Orsett Park to the meeting and explained that he had received a letter from the developers who have confirmed that due to the current economic climate, it is not their intention to proceed for the foreseeable future.

Re the resident concerned about illegal commercial activity in Pound Lane - Matt has asked them to keep a diary of events with photos.

Anjie has not heard from Nick with regards to dates for life saving skills for the local playgroups and will chase him up.

Joanne presented a letter to the forum from a resident who had twisted her ankle on uneven paving by the village hall. The resident had complained to the council who replied stating that the area in question is not council land and is classed as "unadopted, Private land". The Chair agreed to take this matter up further directly with Highways.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.