

Orsett Community Forum

Minutes of the AGM meeting held 21/11/07

Present:

Graham Monk Acting Chair
PC Nick Luff Beat Officer
John Vessey Treasurer
PCSO Lisa Plastow

Steve Whittet Acting Mins Secretary
Cllr. Diane Revell
Wendy Mayo Ngage
Natalie Warren CDO Thurrock Council

The chair opened the meeting at 8PM and thanked everyone for attending

1. **Apologies** None were received

Matters Arising

2. **Rowley Road Traffic Calming:** Graham stated that the traffic calming scheme had not happened and would not happen as confirmed by Cllr Mike Revell at previous meetings. A member of the floor made a comment that he was unhappy with the proposal and stated that in his opinion it was a death waiting to happen. Dave Shaddock stated that the Rowley Road residents were totally opposed to the traffic calming proposals. It was suggested by the resident of 2 The Green that the consultation process was totally inadequate in his opinion. David Shaddock explained how the 106 agreement entered into by Thurrock Council and Bryant Homes worked and that monies identified for this work could not be used for any thing else however an agreement had been negotiated between Bryant Homes and The council officer responsible (Trevor Hutchinson) in which around £159,000 could be earmarked for essential works around the village. David went on to identify these areas. David qualified his comments by stating that he had requested that any monies used would not replace the Repairs and Maintenance budget set aside for the village.

Graham stated that he sees the junction of the High Rd/ Rowley Rd as a priority. It was felt generally by all parties that the village had become busier with more vehicular traffic.

3. **Bus Routes:** A member of the floor complained about the current bus routes around the village. Graham explained the protocol in getting a route changed. It was stated by Graham and other members of the committee that the consultation process had in fact been carried out with adverts placed in the gazette. Diane Revell gave an explanation of how the consultation process works and went on to say that it could be changed.
4. **Stifford Clays Road:** Graham reported that the signs have been completed.

5. **High Road Bollards:** Graham outlined the reasoning behind the installation of the bollards to the High Road. As parking had become a problem outside the village shop which in turn could cause accidents. It was proposed that some form of waiting restriction be placed at this site. John Vessey asked why 20mph limits could not be introduced around the village. PC Luff stated that statistically Orsett did not have a high accident rate. PC Luff stated that a community speed team could be developed. It was also suggested that the bollards were causing an obstruction to some pedestrians. A debate ensued and general topics relating to parking and speed village wide were discussed. Cllr Diane Revell was asked if she could find out why the council do not enforce double yellow lines around the village. An area of concern was the Primary School. John Vessey also stated that he felt the roundabout in Rectory Road was dangerous. A vehicle had been parking close to the roundabout which could potentially cause an accident. PC Luff gave an explanation of what he could enforce within the traffic law and suggested that if parking at junction was a problem then yellow lines could be extended. He also stated that if a vehicle was parked within 10m of a junction he would be happy to enforce the parking laws.
6. **NGAGE:** Graham Monk introduced the Ngage Team. Wendy Mayo gave a talk on what she does as a field worker for Ngage she also introduced Natalie Warren who is the Community Development Officer for Thurrock Council, Natalie is responsible for Forum development and funding. Graham stated that a web site exists for the forum along with a laptop and Free training should anyone require it.
7. **Safer Thurrock Partnership:** PC Nick Luff introduced one of his colleagues PCSO Lisa Plastow. Nick explained the current structure as being one specialist officer and three Police Community Support Officers. It was generally felt that the PCSO presence around the village was reassuring. Nick went on to say that he was entirely ward based. Nick went on to give some statistical information regarding crime in the area. PC Luff was asked how frequent visits to the village were and he stated that PCSO's are only available between 8-12midnight. It was generally felt that the Police presence was generally ad hock. Dave Shaddock asked if the current policy had made a difference and Nick Luff suggested it had. Nick did say the transport was still a problem. Lisa stated that she was using her own vehicle for transport around the area. Nick stated that the use of cycles had been suspended as not all PCSO's were trained. David Coyne from the cricket club stated that the car park at the cricket club was being used by people taking or dealing drugs. Diane Revell asked a number of questions relating to the transport problems, Diane went on to talk about the possibility of sponsoring a van/vehicle for use by the PCSO's.

Other topics were discussed including the possibility of a community speed watch team or a school speed watch programme of sorts. A suggestion had been put forward to the Primary school Head teacher but she has apparently resigned. Lisa Plastow stated that she had attended the school on many occasions. PC Luff stated that contact details were available in the form of business cards should anyone require them.

8. **Future Funding:** Graham noted the request's for a second speed sign to be located in Rectory Road. Graham stated that he had received written proposals from Matthew Ford of Thurrock Council and had requested approval from the Forum. A member of the floor requested that the signs location be identified to those living nearby. A lengthy discussion then took place. Graham asked the floor to vote on the proposed sign and it was unanimously carried in favour. Graham went on to say that two other proposals had been received for funding and they included benches at the recreation ground and environmental considerations. Graham explained the way the funding of the Forum worked. He went on to say that unless ideas are received monies could be lost. Diane mentioned the children's playground and a discussion ensued. Graham thanked David Shaddock for all his hard work whilst chairing the Forum. David Shaddock reiterated Grahams comments and explained that ideas for the funding were extremely important.

9. **Treasurer's report:** John Vessey reported that £7,000 remained unspent. John echoed earlier comments regarding external funding. He went on to give a comprehensive breakdown of Forum funds. John requested that ideas for funding be filled out on the appropriate form which he showed to the meeting. John stated that £5,000 had been set aside for a sculpture on the Bryant Estate. As this had not yet been agreed it was decided that further consultation was needed however if a sculpture was not installed then some sort of feature should be provided within the village.

10. **Election of Committee Members:** Graham gave a brief outline of what people should expect if they are nominated and then elected to the committee. Nominations and voting then took place. Graham agreed to stand as Chair with the right support. John Vessey agreed to continue as Treasurer, Steve Whittet agreed to continue as Minute Secretary. Area representation is as follows:
Southfields Bonners: Ange Gaywood Matt Jackson
The Village : Joanne Cooper
Backer Street:
Bryant Development: Penney Broadbent, Steve Hobart and Steve Whittet
Secoded by Sheila Fursedonnel???
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11. **A.O.B:** David Shaddock asked Natalie how many Forum meeting's a year would be adequate and she replied, four if possible. Constitutional changes were discussed and Natalie stated that she was working along with colleagues to resolve the issues within three weeks.

Meeting Closed 10.10PM