

Orsett Community Forum

Minutes of the meeting - 14 May 2008

Present:

Graham Monk (Chair)	Matt Jackson (Secretary)	John Vesey (Treasurer)
Anj Gaywood	NSO PC Nick Luff	Wendy Mayo (nGage)
David Fish (Sustrans)	Mike & Daine Revell	

7.30 The chair opened the meeting & introduced the committee.

Apologies were received from Joanne Cooper.

Sustrans (Presentation): David Fish discussed the health & monetary benefits of cycling and walking Thurrock cycle path network. He highlighted the NCN13 route that runs through the borough and the work Thurrock/Sustrans rangers are involved with, including light maintenance & reporting poor conditions to the council traffic dept. He also mentioned the work Sustrans do in schools, such as cycling proficiency classes for children aged 9 – 13. For more information on the Sustrans please visit their website: **www.sustrans.org.uk** or the council website: **www.thurrock.gov.uk/travel**

A short Q&A session followed; subjects such as funding, patchy network coverage - especially between Orsett & William Edwards School and timing were discussed. Cycle maps of the Thurrock Cycle Network & Langdon Hills were circulated for information. *The Chair thanked David for the presentation.*

Main Meeting Notes: The Chair reviewed the minutes of the last open meeting (27th Feb 2008) and discussed the projects / funding status thus far: -
£2500 for a PCSO Vehicle*
£700 to Thurrock Play Network
£xxxx Welling Road Speed sign (Council have funded the balance)

*The PCSO vehicle was intended to be part funded between all three forums (Orsett, Bulphan & Horndon) to achieve a sum of £7000. Currently Bulphan & Horndon have not allocated a budget to this project, however the Orsett forum have the £2.5k in their account. A further donation of £500 has been made directly to the Police, by a local resident, and Matt Jackson is investigating alternative routes to obtain sponsorship or a leased vehicle from the Ford of Gt. Britain Trust. Nick has approached the local estate agents for sponsorship – none have shown interest so far. Mrs D Revell made the forum aware of the 'Thurrock Community Chest' and potential funding availability

Bus Routes: Bus 44 is now routed via the High Road and 'stop over' time is carried out in the lay-by by the churches ctr. The Rowley Road residents are pleased with the outcome & thanked Anj Gaywood for all her efforts.

A discussion followed regarding consultations as some residents felt that they had not been previously consulted regarding a change of bus routes.

It was agreed that any future consultations should be clearly advertised and run via the forum. Bus passes: Whilst on the subject of bus travel Mr Rankin, a resident of the village asked if there was any further progress by the Council with regard to issuing the new national bus passes. Mr. Revell responded by stating that the bus passes for people that had not received the new pass had been extended and would now expire on 18th May.

Further discussion took place regarding the bus companies accepting the old local passes nationally, and it was resolved that if the passes expire they will again be extended until the new national passes have been distributed.

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Anjie Gaywood will write to the Council to request the timescale for distribution of the new passes and request that they confirm the old passes can be used for national travel until the new passes have been received.

Play Area: Joanne Cooper has completed the petition and will be presented at the next full council meeting by Anj Gaywood. A new specific group 'The friends of Orsett Playground' has been set up to attract funding from a new community funding source. It is hoped that this will give in the region of £35,000 to £37,000.

Further funding will be required to support maintenance and miscellaneous items in association with the play area, and it is anticipated that funding can be sourced from the likes of Cory et al to raise the additional funds required.

Mr Revell made the forum aware of the £1M awarded to Thurrock, in 2007, for play schemes in the borough.

This is government funded money and the Chair whilst acknowledging this funding advised that the Council have already earmarked the funding for specific areas of need in the Borough, Orsett not being one of them.

Three potential sites were discussed briefly; next to the cricket pavilion (for health and safety reasons this would not be advisable), further along school lane by the football field, and the old tennis courts in Rowley road.

It was agreed that the "friends of Orsett playground" will review the options with the Council and a surveyor to agree the best site for the new playground.

Road Safety: The forum speed watch is making progress. The Orsett forum has volunteers in place to support the 'speed watch' campaign. Seven tickets were issued, by Nick Luff, around the Baker St / High Road junction area – vehicles speeding in and out of the village. PC Nick Luff displayed the speed gun he currently uses when he is able to borrow it from Laindon, which occasionally causes problems as Thurrock do not have their own. It was agreed that the forum committee will write to Thurrock requesting that a speed gun be purchased for use by Thurrock Police. Residents are concerned with vehicles parking in Rowley Road and blocking the pavement – Nick Luff will investigate due to the 'obstruction' law. Parking in school lane continues to be a problem, and is compounded during the school run times. Basildon & Thurrock NHS Trust have been approached with a suggestion they adopt the free for 30mins parking – currently used at Basildon Hospital, in the hope school parents will use the car park rather than the local roads. No date has been set for this change however, Matt & Anj will be following this up with the Trust & council.

It was also mentioned that since the Masonic lodge licensing hours had changed parking had become a bigger issue in rectory road. The 20mph zones will also be looked into.

It was requested by the villagers that the forum should present the council with these issues raised and ask if a survey can be carried out on the entire traffic & pedestrian scheme for the village. The chair will follow this up and feedback presented in due course.

Crime: Nick has served an eviction notice to the travellers situated in the Orsett ward. Theft from motor vehicles has become an issue – particular items taken; sat nav, laptops & mobile phones. While car theft is low for Orsett Nick suggested to residents they keep their car keys away from the front/back doors and out of sight while at home. Other parts of the borough have seen a significant rise in motor vehicle theft recently. The forum was made aware of the Rag & Bone man taking a good look round local dwellings. Nick has requested we keep vigilant would like to obtain the registration number of the vehicle – call or email him the details without delay!

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A resident raised their concern that travellers had purchased land sited next to Thurrock & Basildon College – Wood View. It was agreed the forum will make enquiries with Chadwell forum.

Youth:

Local Youth Club: Currently no start date – but will be run in the churches centre.

Scout Movement: Graham Monk revealed that the Beavers, Cubs & Scouts in the Orsett ward have seen a significant increase in the past year, and in many cases run two groups to support demand; one in the village and one on The Bonners.

Cricket Club: The cricket club were pleased with the turn out at their Friday evening kids coaching event and will continue to run these events throughout the summer season. The club are currently coaching 6 local schools.

nGage: Wendy announced that through the forums they had received over 7000 feedback forms, further to the waste consultation held in the first quarter of 2008. nGage were very pleased with the feedback and have presented this to the council. Wendy thanked the forum for their input. Wendy also offered to take the meeting minutes if and when required.

A.O.B:

Matt Jackson offered to be the new secretary at the last committee meeting (09/04/08). The committee agreed this would be advantageous to the forum and voted Matt in. Matt is currently an associate governor at Orsett CofE Primary School and takes part in many local voluntary groups including the sustrans.

The forum requested Nick Luff to present his life saving skills to the Orsett ward some time in the near future, to include residents and especially the local parent / toddler groups.

It was brought to the attention of the forum that the area north of the A13 is considered rural and that the PCSO vehicle should be funded by Essex Police. Documents will be presented to the forum for further investigation.

Pound lane & lock up –

It was agreed that following requests already made to the Highway department this issue will be elevated a Stage 1 complaint. Forum to write to the Council and request support from the Ward Councillors.

[History] The pound & lock up are currently under the ownership of the Highway's dept. following a strategic planning survey in 2007. And as such Highways are unable to commit priority funding to a maintenance scheme. The forum deems this unacceptable and will progress this issue further.

Mr Revell thanked the chair & committee for holding the meeting and was pleased with the progress made by the forum.

The chair thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm