

Orsett Community Forum

Minutes of the Committee meeting held 15/02/08

Present: Graham Monk Chair Steve Whittet Mins Secretary
 PC Nick Luff Beat Officer Cllr. Diane Revell
 John Vessey Treasurer Anj Gaywood
 Matt Jackson Joanne Cooper

The chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending

1. **Apologies** Cllr Mike Revell, Penney Broadbent, Wendy Mayo and Wayne Thacker

Matters Arising

2. **Rowley Road Traffic Calming:** Graham mentioned that he had spoken to a resident of Tilbury at the last Forums Association meeting and he had requested that a second bus shelter be placed opposite the existing one outside of the Hospital. This idea was deemed to be impractical based on the current site conditions.

Graham stated that he will contact Highways and ask them to look at the possibility of resurfacing work in Rowley Road. The cost of this work could be met using some of the £159,000 part of the 106 agreement inherited from Bryant Homes.

On matters of safety, the junction of Rowley Road and the High Road was discussed at length. It was agreed that this junction is particularly hazardous and it was suggested that double yellow lines with yellow kerb ticks, suggested by Nick Luff, be placed on all four corners of this junction including Pound Lane. Nick explained that this would at least give people no excuse for parking in the area as not even disabled badge holders were able to park when yellow kerb ticks were in use. It was pointed out that enforcement would still remain a problem.

Diane stated that she had received several complaints about illegal parking around the School. A discussion took place and ideas were exchanged on ways the committee felt could be used to combat the problem, once again Nick Luff suggested yellow kerb ticks be used to reinforce the double yellow lines around the area of School Lane. Anj Gaywood suggested that posters similar to that used at Bulphan School be used in the situation. The posters request that drivers do not park on the zigzag lines outside of the School. It was stated that as the new Head teacher will be taking control of both Schools it would probably happen anyway.

Matt Jackson suggested a speed limit along High Road from the mini roundabout at the junction with Bonham Drive to Rectory Road at the junction with the Whitmore Arms of 20mph, this was well received and will no doubt be discussed at future meetings.

3. **Bus Routes:** It was suggested that consultation for the changes to the current bus route were about to start. Diane said that she was unaware of any such consultation in the near future. Graham said he would speak to someone at Thurrock Council Traffic section to find out the current position. Anj suggested that if and when consultation took place a leaflet drop in the village would at least make people aware of any proposals on bus routes.

4. **Rectory Road:** Graham reported that the speed sign had been completed very quickly following the last Forum meeting he went on to explain the he had spoken to Mathew Ford of Thurrock highways following the meeting and its agreement to install the sign and it was erected within a week! Matt stated that he felt that vehicles were still approaching the Rectory Road roundabout to quickly and that it wouldn't be long before an accident occurred. It was felt that the fundamental rules of the highway code were not being adhered to and that one possibility was to introduce rumble strips on the approaches to the roundabout along Rectory Road.

5. **Safer Thurrock Partnership:** PC Nick Luff stated that a vehicle had been sponsored for use by the PCSO's in North Essex. He went on to explain how the sponsorship worked and asked if this could be considered by the Forum for possible funding. It was agreed by everyone that this would be a good idea. It was further agreed that both of the other Forums in the ward Bulphan and Horndon, be approached with a view to making similar sized donations from each Forum budget, any shortfall in cost would be met by local business sponsorship. Future maintenance of the vehicle would be negotiated with the vehicle supplier/manufacture with a view to doing the servicing for nothing. Graham suggested he write a letter to local businesses, with a contact name if possible, suggested by committee members. Graham asked members to forward their ideas as soon as they could. It was stated that the new Head at the School would go ahead with the School Speed Watch successfully implemented in Bulphan. It was suggested that a radar speed gun reflective jackets and signs be purchased again sharing the cost with the other Forum's. The gun would be approx £800 the signage £100 It was also suggested that because of matters surrounding the potential for "neighbourly issues" each village would visit each other to carry out speed checks eliminating this as a problem.

6. **Future Funding:** The Children's play area was discussed at length it was felt by all that this was a priority as it had been around on Forum agendas for some time. It was agreed that the current location was not ideal and that spending money on it at the moment was not an option. It was agreed that it would need to be relocated. Graham stated that the area of land adjacent to the football pitch in School Lane was currently rented by Coles Farm and was used as "set aside land" as this was no longer the case it may be that the land could be acquired and the current football and cricket pitch layouts be moved across, this could then potentially allow the relocation of the play park to be placed opposite the bowls green within the cricket club confines. It was accepted that until this was ratified it would be difficult to get prices for the play equipment etc as the exact sizes were unknown. Methods of funding this project were discussed. It was felt that the cost could be £30,000 or even higher, Joanne said that she was liaising with Carol Spencer. Graham mentioned the possibility of contacting Cleanaway for funding this project. It was felt generally that we should try and move forward with this.

Steve asked if any money could be used for anti skid surfacing on the sharp bends at Conways Road around 50m from Coles Farm, as several vehicles had crashed into the adjacent field.

It was agreed to see if any of the Bryant £159,000 could be used for this.

Graham stated that the current Forum budget is £6863.00 John Vessey stated that we also had the £321.88 start up money that could be used for leaflets etc.

Graham suggested that a third speed sign be purchased for Welling Road. Other potential future funding items mentioned were The Open Access Holiday Play Scheme at a cost of £700 + VAT per session. The council would be invoiced directly saving the Forum the VAT. Also the "BarundBus" to come to Orsett.

Matt suggested some form of counter be placed on the current speed signs identifying the number of speeding vehicles going passed.

John requested some form of warning chevron be painted on the Road at the Junction of High Road and Rectory Road.

Anj asked if funding could be given to the village hall for the installation of shutters following the recent spate of vandalism.

John Vessey, with his Village Hall committee hat on, stated that he had just under £2000 for this in the Hall fund and was actively seeking other forms of funding this project.

Graham gave some funding stream examples such as Awards for All and Cleanaway. Graham also wanted it known that the New Development would not be forgotten about in terms of future funding but it was felt that until the builder has completed all, works planting etc it was not known exactly what was needed in this part of the village.

In order of preference it was agreed that the funding be allocated as follows subject to full approval at the next full Forum meeting.

1. Vehicle for the PCSO's
2. Speed sign Welling Road
3. Painting of Chevron High Road Rectory Road
4. Open Access Holiday Play scheme

Other considerations would be the Radar speed gun and signage
And the Barundbus

7. **A.O.B:** Dates for the next Forum and committee meetings were discussed and it was decided to have them on the following dates venues permitting.

- 27th Feb Open meeting Whitmore Hall
- 9th April Committee Whitmore
- 12th or 14th May Open meeting Village Hall
- 4th June Committee Whitmore