

Homesteads Community Forum AGM Public Meeting Notes



13th February 2009 at 7.30 pm Hardie Hall, Hardie Road,
Stanford-le-Hope
www.homesteadscf.org.uk

1) Welcome and Apologies

Present:

Committee: Tony Sharp, (Chairman) (TS), Tony Benson (Vice Chairman) (TB), Frances Benson (FB), Carol Sharp (CS), Beverly Evans (BE), John Evans (JE), Sally Griggs (Treasurer) (SG), Ray Griggs (RG), Mike Farman (Secretary) (MF), PCSO Christine Hope (CH) .

Councillors: None present

Thurrock Council: None present

NGAGE: None present

Police: Sgt John Gray
PCSO Christine Hope (Also a committee member)

Public members: 22 people attended and signed the register

Apologies: Suzanne MacPherson, John Everett, Natalie Warren, Wendy Mayo, Frank and Joan Norris, Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) Jac Sears, Nadine Gardner-Holt

2) Approval of notes of previous Public Meeting

The notes of the previous public meeting were unanimously approved.

3) Matters arising

a) The chairman reported that the erection of up-stands and netting at the Rose Valley end of the park has been postponed to 23rd February. The Homesteads Forum has no further funding to complete the project of up-stands and netting from Andrews Close to the Rose Valley entrance. We do have a small amount of money that could be used to fit the up-stands and then add the netting when more funding is available.

The chairman concluded by saying that all the work that the forum can afford will be completed by the end of February.

b) Play frame. The chairman has been in contact with Carol Spencer, Funding Officer for Community Development at Thurrock Council who is looking at our funding. Tony Benson mentioned the recent meeting with the 'Playbuilder' representative. 'Playbuilder' is funding for recreational areas to cater for the 8 to 13 year olds. The representative was also keen to see the area around the Hassenbrook stream, at the western end of the Homesteads, made friendlier to children's play activities. This is outside the scope of 'Playbuilder' funding but other funding may be available.

4) Treasurers report

The treasurer said that her report would cover the period 1st March 2008 to 13th February 2009 (50 weeks). An update would be provided at the next public meeting covering the full 52 weeks. Copies of the financial report and statement were available.

We received from Thurrock council directly £9320 from our budget of £11400. Other amount were paid directly by the council as follows:-



Additional insurance for the Party in the Park event -	£50
Park fencing	£1394.40
Additional fencing	£550

Accounts for the Picnic in the Park and Children's Christmas party were provided. The latter was incomplete as there are some outstanding bills. A full complete report will be issued later.

Finally the Homesteads Forum has an under spend of approximately £1000 which we can apply to use for projects in the next financial year.

5) Annual General Meeting

The current chairman passed the chair of the meeting to the Vice Chairman, Mr Tony Benson. He asked if any other resident wished to be nominated for the post of Chairman. No other nominations were received. He proposed Mr Tony Sharp as Chairman which was seconded by a resident. Following a show of hands Mr Tony Sharp was elected unanimously as Chairman for a further year. He returned to chair the meeting. He asked for a show of hands for the following people to continue as the committee.

Vice Chairman Mr Tony Benson
 Secretary Mr Michael Farman
 Treasurer Mrs Sally Griggs

Frances Benson, Beverly Evans, John Evans, Ray Griggs, Nadine Gardner Holt Carol Sharp. Christine Hope

The Chairman closed the AGM.

6) Chairs Report

The Chairman said that council is to cut 50% from the 20 Community Forums budgets this coming financial year. A total budget of £100K has been reduced to £50K. Each forum is allocated a 'Basic' amount and a 'proportionate' amount dependent on the number of residences in the area. Depending on how the cuts are implemented we are expected to receive £8200 or £8900. A committee of forum representatives has been set up by NGAGE to look at the distribution of funding.

Tony Benson suggested that with our reduced funding we could not continue our activities as in other years. Our priorities next financial year could be

- ❖ Park Security Locking
- ❖ Party in the Park
- ❖ Children's Christmas party

These activities bind the community together. He said this was the committees view and asked the gathered residents for support.

Tony Benson proposed that park locking, Party in the Park and the Children's Christmas party were the priorities for the next financial year. The proposal was seconded and put to a vote which was carried unanimously.

The chairman said that it had been suggested by another forum that the Park locking could be carried out cheaper by another security firm. No one had provided him any more details to substantiate the claim. It was also suggested that the council pay the Security firm for us saving the VAT. This could amount to a £500 a year saving.

7) Police Report

Since the last public meeting October 3rd 2008, 47 crimes have been recorded in the Homesteads forum area.



The crime figures are very low when compared to other areas, but it should be noted that burglaries are on the increase. PCSO Christine Hope reiterated that it was very important that UPVC doors were locked correctly using the handle to engage the side bolts and then locking the door with a key. The key must be removed from the lock and stowed away out of sight. It was also advisable to mark all your property using appropriate means.

CRIME	NUMBER	REMARKS
Violent	1	
Domestic violence	9	
Robbery	17	
Burglary from Dwelling	1	
Other Burglary	14	From Shed
Criminal Damage	1	
Theft	1	
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	1	
Theft of pedal cycle	2	

Roads in the Homesteads area (Branksome Avenue and Southend road) have been monitored for speeding cars at least 3 times in recent weeks, with successful results. A number of endorsable and non endorsable offences were identified. These include one case of excessive speed, Mobile phone use, none use of seat belts and under inflated tyres. New Years Eve was one of the times monitoring took place.

A resident asked about the Corringham Library break in and Town centre damage before Christmas. The police reported that the town centre CCTV had been used to gain a description of the assailants. 2 youths have been caught but only one charged and received the subsequent punishment of a 6 month prison sentence suspended for 6 months. He had to pay £750 compensation for his part in the £30K damage caused. He was 18 years old. Other people were also involved in the incident but have as yet not been apprehended.

Sergeant John Gray spoke to repeat the advice **NOT** to leave entrance door or car keys near to an entrance door. He said the best advice was to take the keys to bed.

He asked if the residents had any priorities for police action within the Homesteads area. Following a discussion it was agreed that priorities in the Homesteads were.

- ❖ Anti Social behaviour particular in the Balstonia Park area.

He said police would respond to any priority within 60 minutes of a call

8) Any other Business

None

9) Next Public meeting

8th May 2009 at 7:30p.m. Hardie Hall, Hardie Road, Stanford-le-Hope

The meeting closed at 8:20pm

