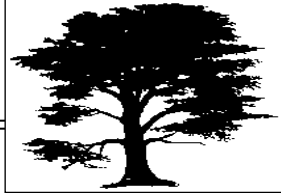


# Homesteads Community Forum Public Meeting Notes



1<sup>st</sup> February 2008 at 7.30 pm Hardie Hall, Hardie Road,  
Stanford-le-Hope  
[www.homesteadscf.org.uk](http://www.homesteadscf.org.uk)

Homesteads Community Forum

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

### Present:

**Committee:** Tony Sharp, (Chairman) (TS), Tony Benson (Secretary) (TB), Frances Benson (FB), Carol Sharp (CS), Beverly Evans (BE), John Evans (JE), Sally Griggs (Treasurer) (SG), Ray Griggs (RG), Nadine Gardner-Holt (NGH), Mike Farman (MF).

**Councillors:** None present

**Council members:** None present

**NGAGE:** Wendy Mayo (Also a Homesteads Resident)

**Police:** PCSO Christine Hope

**Public members:** 32 people signed the attendance register

**Apologies:** Suzanne MacPherson, Natalie Warren, NSO Jac Sears

## 2. Approval of notes of previous Public Meeting

The notes of the previous public meeting were approved.

## 3. Matters arising

- a) Petition and presentation to ask council to adopt locking of Balstonia Park. 1500 signatures were collected. This has been presented to the council. The council did not consider Anti Social behaviour to be a problem in the area, so why lock the park. This view is not in writing. Sue McPherson is sympathetic to the issues of residents. It is possible that a security company can be found to lock the park cheaper. Natalie Warren believes funding can be found from elsewhere.
- b) Does the Council Insurance cover our 'Party' activities? The council has stated that the Children's Christmas Party is fully covered. The 'Party in the Park' requires more discussion with the insurance company and may require a 'Top-up.'
- c) 'Awards for all' funding for 'Party in Park' activity. Sally has arranged a meeting with Natalie Warren to discuss the issues. Natalie has offered to help with our funding applications. The chairman asked if any of the assembled residents would be willing to act as a fundraiser for the forum. No offers were forthcoming.
- d) Claim 6 months funding (£4352) has been received.
- e) Can trees in Dunstable road be lopped? Provision of £1500? Sally reported that Natalie had recommended that the council pay the cost of the tree lopping saving VAT. The cost will be deducted from our allowance. It has also been suggested that the cost has now been revised to £1250. The cheque has been signed and the work can now proceed.
- f) Costing and Plan for fencing Delius Way. The council does not consider the scheme to fence off a mount in Delius way feasible, so the issue has been dropped.



g) Rubbish removal rear Dunstable Road. The council has been contacted? Rubbish should be removed by the council as part of their normal cleaning routine.

#### 4. **Chairs Report/Leads/Actions**

The chairman thanked residents for attending at our first meeting at our new meeting venue, Hardie Hall Stanford-le -Hope.

The chairman thanked all those that helped with the Party in the Park and the Children’s Christmas party last year. He said both events were thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. He also thanked the police team for their help with the activities and presence in the Park. He felt it was a good example of PR

#### 5. **Treasurers report**

The treasurer said our bank balance stood at £3626.84.

The Garage rent for storage is paid to date. A new rental agreement is to be signed next week.

The park locking was paid until the end of December 2007. Invoice for January 2008 due. Approx £355

The Thurrock Play Network annual fee is due £10

The Children’s Christmas Party cost £448.68

The funds remaining will last until the end of April. Our commitments for this period are:-

Locking park for 4 months @ £355	£1420 approx
Garage rent including increase	£ 120 approx
Administration Budget (Some already spent but not claimed)	£ 568
Start up for party in park	£1000
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	£3108

The secretary proposed that the remaining £518 is retained as a safety net so committee members do not have to use their own money to support forum activities and expenses. Money claimed takes a while to be paid by the council.

A full set of accounts will be available at the AGM in March.

#### **Spend Application for remainder of year 2007/2008**

The chairman said he had an estimate to put additional netting above the existing palisade fence, 1.2 metres high around 240 metres of the park and to replacement of damaged fence panel with palisade fencing at the entrances to the park in Rose Valley crescent and the Rodings. The total cost is £4200.

One resident suggested the forum did this as a project offering his services. The chairman said that all the practicalities of doing this would have to be assessed. We would require Public Liability insurance, have to carry out a Risk Assessment and abide by Health and Safety rules. We would require more information before proceeding but it was unlikely we would be allowed to do this. He suggest that there were other ways in which resident could be involved in forum issues and activities

It was proposed by Tony Sharp and seconded by Tony Benson that we put in an application to claim the money for the additional work at Balstonia Park. The vote was carried unanimously.

#### 6. **Future spend applications for 2008/2009**

The allocation for this year is unknown as it has not been agreed by the council. Last year our spend allocation was £11,360 as set by the funding guide lines. In previous years we had claimed the whole of our allocation but last year for each spend allocation, a separate form has to be completed, agreed and signed together with a business plan. The treasurer, Sally did this last year. The chairman asked if the list of spend was acceptable to the residents. For the record the proposed spend applications for 2007/2008 were:



- a) Maintaining security of Balstonia Park – Locking the gate.
- b) Party in the Park
- c) Children's Christmas party
- d) Lock up garage for storage
- e) Expenses

A suggestion from one resident was removal of an unsafe wall that is along a service road for access to some garages. This is at the rear of Rodings/Redlie Close. This 'walk way' is used by many residents and children on the estate. The ownership of the wall is unknown and the hazard and has been reported to the council.

The chairman suggested that the legal position etc had to be established before we could proceed. The forum could provide some labour and skips to dispose of the bricks. With residents help the wall, could be removed.

It was proposed by Tony Sharp that the residents vote to accept the future spend applications and for the committee to investigate the dangerous wall issues. The vote was carried.

## **7. Any other Business**

### **a) Play equipment damage in Balstonia Park.**

A letter from the council has advised us that they are not to proceed with any legal action to recover the cost of repairing the play equipment. The repair cost has now been reduced to £300 with the council paying the VAT. The forum has correspondence from the previous council manager of Parks advising us that they would accept responsibility and maintain the play equipment in the park.

### **b) Planning application Amusement Arcade Corringham Town centre**

A committee member described his attendance at the planning application where it was said that anti social behaviour in Corringham Town centre was not an issue. The QC chairing the hearing said no report was available from the police on this matter. The developer said the Amusement Arcade would add Vitality to the town centre, with the average frequenter being 35year old females.

### **c) Forum help**

The Chairman again asked the assembled residents if any would be willing to help with the running of the forum, particularly with the fund raising activities.

## **8. Next Public meeting                      Annual General Meeting**

**7<sup>th</sup> March, 7:30p.m. Hardie Hall, Hardy Road Stanford-le-Hope**

The meeting closed at 8:30pm

