

# Homesteads Community Forum AGM Public Meeting Notes

4<sup>th</sup> July 2008 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), Nadine Gardner-Holt (NGH), Mike Farman (Secretary)(MF), PCSO Christine Hope (CH) .

**Councillors:** None present

**Thurrock Council:** None present

**NGAGE:** None present

**Police:** PCSO Christine Hope

**Public members:** 17 people signed the attendance register

**Apologies:** Councillors, Suzanne MacPherson, John Everet, Pauline Tolson  
Sgt Adams, NSO Jac Sears, Wendy Mayo

## 2) Approval of notes of previous Public Meeting

The notes of the previous public meeting were unanimously approved.

## 3) Matters arising

- a) Petition and presentation to ask council to adopt locking of Balstonia Park. The chairman reported that no more information is available. Sue McPherson is still of the belief that locking of the park is the council responsibility.  
It was suggested that we ask our councillors how many petitions have been presented this year and their success rate. Also ask our local councillors to request the status of our petition at a full council meeting. Following a show of hands of approval, Tony Sharp agreed to peruse this issue.
- b) Does the Council Insurance cover our 'Party' activities? - Lyn Gittings has advised us that an additional £75 is required to top up our insurance for the Party in the Park event
- c) Balstonia Park fencing. A new approved contractor has been chosen.  
The work to be done is
- Additional netting around the existing palisade fencing at the Rose Valley end
  - Erection of Palisade fencing either side at entrance to park at Rose Valley end.

Following the completion of this fencing and depending upon funding it is suggested that netting is but above the palisade fencing at the 'Becket Drive' side of the park. Additional palisade fencing is also suggested from the Park gates to the Rose valley entrance.

- d) Removal of wall at the rear of Rodings/Redlie Close. A discussion by many residents followed. The Chairman said that Thurrock Council suggested we raise a Disclaimer and get all residents involved in the wall to sign. This would prevent any legal comebacks. In total 4 houses would be affected by the wall removal. One resident said the wall removal would expose his garden and wants something to replace the wall. He wants the wall retained. The other 3 resident agreed. As the council officer Neil Anderson says the wall is NOT unsafe and the tree roots that are damaging the wall have no owners the Forum considers this now a closed matter.



e) Hassenbrook Clean up. 'Thames 21' and 'Ground works' worked to tidy the area. Houses in the area were leafleted prior to the event. On the Thursday 1 resident and a Grays resident turned up on site to help. On Saturday no help was received from local residents. A further 'clean up' is planned for the future.

**4) Chairs Report/Leads/Actions**

Chairman report included in the above.

**5) Treasurers report**

There is currently £6069.51 in our bank account.

Garage rental is paid up to 30<sup>th</sup> June. Park locking paid up to 31<sup>st</sup> May. Invoice waited.

A change to licensing laws has resulted in a price increase to lock the park. From 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008 the price for locking the park has increased 30p to £9.50 + VAT = £11.66/day Last months bill (May) was £356.73 and had increased to £368.37 Over the year it is estimated that the park locking would cost £4500 including Bank holiday payments.

A discussion followed with no conclusion reached on the park locking issues.

**6) Police Report**

PCSO Christine Hope reported that the crime figure she was to present were for the Town Centre and Corringham West of which the Homesteads is a part.

A total of 156 crimes had been reported.

33 were classed as violent crime which includes domestic violence and school boys fighting.

9 burglaries

9 thefts of motor vehicles

9 thefts from a motor vehicle

No robberies

43 Criminal damage

The table on the right is from the Neighbourhood community page shows the crime figures for the Homesteads Political ward for a similar period.

Following another discussion on locking the park it was agreed to continue the practice as it retains resident control of the situation.

The Homestead ward	Apr 08 to Jun 08
Serious violent crime	0
Assault with injury	2
Burglary	5
Robbery	0
Theft of a vehicle	6
Theft from a vehicle	5
Criminal damage	13
Anti -social behaviour	59

**7) Any other Business**

a) **Dumped sofa.** Sally said a 3 piece suite had been dumped in her road at around 4am. A resident telephoned the council and was told it would take 8 to 10 day to get it removed. The Thurrock Gazette has been contacted to take a picture. The council have since acted and removed the sofa. PCSO Christine suggested that reporting the incident to the Local Office in Corringham Town centre that may have provided a quicker solution.

b) **Park issue.** There is no age limit on who can use the Park. It was said that the older children play football in the park using the frame as a goal. The younger children resort to using the park gates as their goal. This results in the ball going into peoples gardens. Was it possible to provide a smaller frame for the younger children? Where would it be sited, and could the basket ball ring be moved were discussed with no conclusion. Tony Sharp agreed to get a quote for a smaller frame.

c) **Party in the Park** The chairman said most activities were in place for the date for the Party in the Park on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Help was requested from residents from around 9:00am. The van would be available 7:30 to 8:00

**8) Next Public meeting**

No date was set for the next public meeting

The meeting closed at 8:45pm

