

Homesteads Community Forum AGM Public Meeting Notes

8th March 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: Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) Jac Sears
PCSO Christine Hope (Also a committee member)

Public members: 29 people signed the attendance register

Apologies: Suzanne MacPherson, Natalie Warren, Sgt Gray, Residents from 8 Andrews close, Rose and Bill from Gideons

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. No more information is available. Sue McPherson is trying to obtain more information on the situation.

b) Does the Council Insurance cover our 'Party' activities? Ongoing discussion to resolve the insurance issues.

c) Additional funding issues discussion with Natalie Warren continues.

d) Balstonia Park fencing. The chosen contractor for the work is not on Thurrock Council's register of approved contractors. The chosen contractor will be added to the register in April. If Thurrock council pays the contractor or work done, it saves the forum VAT.

The work to be done is

- Additional netting around the existing palisade fencing at the Rose Valley end
- Erection of Palisade fencing at entrance to park at Rose Valley end.

The Palisade fencing at the Rodings end has been abandoned.

e) Removal of wall at the rear of Rodings/Redlie Close. A contractor working for Thurrock Council has looked at the wall which is on a ransom strip, the owner of which is currently unidentified. The owner of the wall needs to be established before a decision can be made about its removal. The contractor is to



investigate further before making any decision on the wall. He does not believe the council is the owner. He did not consider it dangerous and therefore not a safety issue.

4) Chairs Report/Leads/Actions

The chairman thanked residents for attending the meeting.

The chairman said he had little to add to the reports he has given throughout the year. He again thanked all those that helped with the Party in the Park, the Children's Christmas party and everybody who helped throughout the year with the running of the Homesteads Community Forum.

5) Treasurers report

During the last financial year (12months) of the £11360 forum allocation, £1270 was paid directly by the council to a contractor, saving the forum over £200, the VAT payable on the service provided. The council does not suffer any extra loss because they are registered for VAT and can therefore claim this.

The forum funding allocation runs concurrently to the council's financial year, but requests to draw funds close on March 7th this year (07/08). Not included in the accounts is an application for £4123.46 (excluding VAT) to erect palisade fencing in the entrance to the park at the Rose Valley Crescent end and to erect netting above the existing palisade fencing in the park for protecting properties from flying balls etc.

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| Palisade fencing | £2840.60 |) |
| Top netting | <u>£1282.86</u> |) Excluding VAT |
| | £4123.46 |) |

This application is progressive but will be included in the 07/08 allocation if passed. Hopefully we can expect a similar arrangement with the council to save paying the VAT.

The Income and Expenditure account sheet (given to residents) shows the cost of the Picnic in the Park, Children's Christmas party and garage rental etc. The bank balance as at tonight's meeting is £3164 as we have just paid another month's garage rental. Security payment for park locking is to 31/01/08. The invoice for February is imminently due.

Forward budget / estimate.

We are holding £1000 to start planning the Party in the Park.

The 6 month park locking funding, approved in November, runs out in April as does funding for rental of the lockup garage.

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| Party in the Park | | £1000 |
| 3 months park locking funding | 3 x £350 Approx | £1050 |
| 8 months garage funding | 8 x £7.79 (See below) | £ 62.32 |
| Within the overall balance is £440.08 for administration | | <u>£ 440.08</u> |
| So forward loading commitments are | | <u>£2552.40</u> |
| Current Balance | | £3164.00 |
| Commitments | | <u>£2552.40</u> |
| Remainder | | <u>£ 611.6 0</u> |

The treasurer proposed that the remainder is left uncommitted to allow the Homesteads Forum to function whilst applying for new funds. The budget part above is obviously estimated as the exact figures are only known when the invoice is received for the park locking. We have been advised that the garage rental will increase in April.

Sally has also asked Jean Angus how we can apply to the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation for 'Party in the Park' funding and who is a possible contact at Thurrock Council that can advise us on availability of additional funding for our activities.

6) Constitution Rule Changes and Amendments



The Chairman said that the Homesteads Constitution was originally drafted when the forum was formed and some minor changes and amendments were now required to bring our constitution up to date and in line with other forums and guide lines as set out by Thurrock Council. An amend constitution was given to the residents with the changes and amendments highlighted. The changes briefly described:

- ❖ Homesteads Boundary Clarification.
- ❖ Homesteads membership. Who is eligible to attend meetings and vote?
- ❖ Funding application. How to apply for funding of community projects.
- ❖ Introduction of a Funding application Form
- ❖ Change in month for AGM. September to March
- ❖ General Meeting name change to Public Meeting.

Following a brief discussion, a vote to accept the amended constitution was carried unanimously.

The Funding application forms can be obtained from the secretary.

7) Annual General Meeting

The current chairman stood down and the Vice Chairman Mr Tony Benson chaired the meeting. He said the current Chairman, Mr Tony Sharp was willing to stand for re-election and asked if any other resident wished to be nominated for the post. No other nominations were received. 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 any nominations for Vice chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, saying the present holders were willing to stand for a further year. No further nominations were received. Following a show of hands the following people were elected unanimously.

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

The following committee members were also elected for a further year.

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

The chairman also asked if any other residents were willing to help with the running of the forum. No one responded.

The Chairman closed the AGM.

8) Police Report

Jac Sears introduced herself as the Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) for Corringham Town and The Homesteads areas, working alongside PCSO's Christine Hope, Natasha Judd and David Harrison.

The Homesteads, Stanford le Hope east and Corringham Town are also known as 'Corringham West' for policing purposes

a) **Crime.** Since January 1st 2008, in the Corringham West area there have been a total of 130 crimes reported. These include 18 vehicle thefts, 1 robbery and 16 burglaries.

b) **Operation CASTOR** We have used a mobile speed indicator device in Branksome Avenue, Southend road and on the Manorway with some success. The device displays to the car driver the actual speed he is travelling. This has the effect of slowing cars over the speed limit. It was suggested buy a resident that a permanent speed indictor be placed in Branksome Avenue close to First Avenue. Thurrock Council have sent letters to residents in the Branksome Avenue area asking opinions on traffic calming measures such as mini roundabouts at the Third Avenue junction.



- c) **'Have a Say Days'** The Mobile police station is taken to a location to display a police presence in the community. The area is leafleted to advise residents. Recently it was at the Homesteads Village hall and 6 or 7 residents attended. The mobile police station will be in Howell Road on the 22nd March
The police have also been carrying out foot patrols in areas knocking on doors to enquire if resident have any policing issues.
- d) **Anti Social Behaviour** The Corringham neighbourhood policing team has set up Operation Flaunt. This is to combat the large scale nuisance youth problem within Corringham town centre particularly around the Library and the supermarket.

Since the beginning of January there has been many incidents of nuisance behaviour, disturbance and criminal damage reported. This has been occurring in the evenings. The aim of Operation Flaunt is to have high visibility patrols around the town centre at the relevant times and all youths seen within the town will be spoken to and their details taken on our stop and account forms.

For more information on policing in the Corringham West area please see the website:

http://www.essex.police.uk/yourarea/y_np_thu.php?nptId=121

OR

<http://www.essex.police.uk>

The police team are all contactable on the beat mobile 07779 319774.

The Neighbourhood Policing website will be linked on the Homesteads web site

9) Any other Business

- a) **Hassenbrook stream** Hassenbrook stream is at the rear of Dunstable Road. It is very overgrown and strewn with rubbish. This is part of the Homesteads Heritage and is recorded in the Domesday Book. It has been suggested that this could be a forum project to tidy up the stream and banks. Natalie Warren has passed a contact name at 'Green Grid' to Tony Benson. Green Grid has suggested the area can be improved but they have no funding but can supply some labour. Thames 21 may have funding available. A resident asked if Thurrock Council had any policy regarding the area.
- b) **Party in the Park** The date for the Party in the Park 2008 was agreed as Saturday 26th July 2008
- c) **Thurrock Voluntary Resilience Group** Wendy Mayo has become involved with the group which is trying to establish a network/directory of community volunteers. For more information contact Wendy at 01375 389893
- d) **Limiting Landfill Survey** The secretary asked how many residents had received the short form 'Limiting Landfill in Thurrock' survey form. The response was nil but some residents said they had received the larger booklet of the same title. The secretary urged all resident to complete and return the survey as soon as possible.
- e) **Green Belt Issues** The vice chairman reported the proposed plans to build on the Williamsons Farm site. He urged all residents to look at the website, complete and sign the on line petition.

<http://www.savecorringham.org.uk/>

10) Next Public meeting 23rd May 2008 7:30p.m. Hardie Hall, Hardy Road Stanford-le-Hope

The meeting closed at 8:50pm

