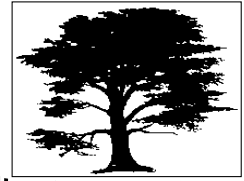


Homesteads Community Forum Public Meeting & AGM Notes

5th March 2010 at 7.30 pm Hardie Hall, Hardie Road,
Stanford-le-Hope
www.homesteadscf.org.uk



Homesteads Community Forum

1) Welcome and Apologies

Present:

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

Councillors: None present

Thurrock Council: None present

NGAGE: None present

Police: PCSO Christine Hope.

Public members: 23 people attended and signed the register.

Apologies: NSO Jac Dean, Kay and Tony Kitchen.

The chairman as usual altered the order of items to the published agenda.

2) Election of the Committee

The Chairman Mr Tony Sharp said that the existing committee were prepared to stand for election for the coming year but the secretary was leaving. He and the public members present, thanked the outgoing secretary for his past efforts.

The chairman asked the public members present if anyone was prepared to accept the role of secretary. He received no response. He said he would ask NGAGE if they could provide secretary cover for future public meetings.

The chairman asked for a show of support from the public members present for the following people to continue as the committee.

Chairman	Mr Tony Sharp
Vice Chairman	Mr Tony Benson
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Mrs Sally Griggs

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

3) Chairman Report

The chairman said that he expected our current yearly funding of £9100 would be reduced buy some 2-3%. A final decision is awaited from the council.

The play equipment discussed at the last meeting has been installed in Balstonia Park. The original litter bins have been removed but no replacements fitted.

A small Basket ball and Football frame have not been installed. The chairman has been in contact with the "Playbuilder" team who fitted the new equipment, but they were unable to give him a definitive date or time scale when the missing items would be installed.

The chairman reported that the new play frame has broken and the "Playbuilder" team have been informed.

The Children's Christmas party was a great success with many people complimenting the organisers. Regrettably some 10-12 presents remained after the event as residents who said they would be attending, failed to show on the day. The policy to "pay-on-the-door" possibly does not give the same commitment as



those who paid in advance. The Vice Chairman said there were also some other bits and pieces left over from the event.

The Children's entertainer, apart from being cheap, was very good value for money as he gave a good performance and kept the children amused.

The 'Party in the Park' reported in the last meeting notes, was again a great success with good weather and big crowds combining to make the overall event very successful.

4) Treasurers Report

The Treasurer said that the accounts for the period up to 5th March 2010 were available. Accounts for the Party in the Park and Children's Christmas Party were also available.

The Treasurer continued to say that our current bank balance is £1030.96

The allocation made to the forum for the year 09/10 was £8600 + £570 expenses

The council paid the bill for locking the park from April 2009 to March 2010, directly to the security company, saving us paying the VAT.

The insurance was also paid direct by the Council.

thus:-

£4913.00	Paid to our bank account
£255.00	Insurance
<u>£3431.60</u>	Locking Park April 2009 to March 2010
£8600.00	Total allocation for 2009/2010

The monies left over from previous years when the allocation was paid in full and projects did not go ahead has been used in part to do some more fencing in Balstonia Park.

The Treasurer suggested that with cuts in funding this year, we may have to limit our spending on the "Party in the Park" event to £3000.

One committee member suggested that we may have to reduce spending at the Children's Christmas party or increase the ticket price from £1.00 to £5.00.

The Chairman suggested that the committee should review how the Christmas Party is funded and administered. A report will be presented at a future meeting.

5) Police Report

Given by PCSO Christine Hope and covered the period from the 2nd October 2009 to 4th March 2010
Sgt. Lee Stannard has moved from the Corringham West area. Sgt. Neil Morgan is one of two part time officers that will be taking over the role.

CRIME	NUMBER	REMARKS
Violent	10	1 ABH, 6 Assault no injury (4 Domestic) 1 Harassment, 2 public order
Arson	1	
Burglary from Dwelling	13	
Burglary other	6	Garages and Sheds
Criminal Damage	40	7 broken windows, 2 Graffiti, 8 walls, 18 vehicles
Drug cultivation	1	
Drugs possession	2	
Fraud	1	Making off without payment
Theft of pedal cycle	1	
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	5	
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	3	
Theft other	1	
Vehicle interference	1	

This amounts to a total of 85 crimes compared with 74 for the same period last year. The number of burglaries has gone down for this year, it is 13 compared to 21 for the same period last year.



Following a discussion about teenage problems, one resident questioned the police policy on the action taken to people found drinking in public places, and in particular, Balstonia Park. It was said that names are taken and the alcohol is confiscated. The Corringham Town centre area and Balstonia Park/Rose valley area are designated alcohol free zones. The Chairman said that more police presence should be available in and around the park area between 07:30 to 08:00pm when drinking activities and abusive noise can be heard from people in the park. Patrolling during daylight hours would not apprehend the culprits.

Following on from an emotive, uncontrolled discussion, PCSO Hope suggest that a way forward would be to designate one of the Homesteads areas "3 priorities" as "Anti Social Behaviour in and around the Balstonia park area" In the event of problems, complainants should ring the PCSO's mobile number or the Police non-emergency number if the PCSO's were not on duty. Being an area priority a quick response should ensue. The numbers are available on the Homesteads Community Forum web site. The assembled members agreed with this approach.

6) Future Spend Allocation for year 2010/2011

Following a very brief discussion the following spend allocation for the coming year were agreed.

- Maintaining Balstonia Park security – Locking the gate.
- Party in the Park
- Children's Christmas party
- Lock up garage for storage
- Top up insurance
- Expenses

7) Any Other Business

PCSO Christine Hope said she was a member of the local Remembrance Day Committee. She said the forum had supported and been in attendance at the war memorial service in the past. Also local cub and scout groups had helped previously. Christine asked in principle if the forum would consider making a donation to help with the printing of hymn and service order sheet for the yearly event. The meeting agreed in principle to make a donation. The exact amount is to be agreed later.

Tony Sharp handed out leaflets from NGAGE.

- ❖ One leaflet had the slogan "Make sure you register, make sure you vote" Very important in the coming nation and local elections.
- ❖ The other leaflet described a conference in Grays next week with the slogan "Your money, their budget-but were does it go?"

8) Next Public meeting and future events

The next public meeting is Friday May 7th 2010 at Hardie Hall, Hardie Road, Stanford-le-Hope

- ❖ Other Public meetings for the coming year

August 6th 2010
November 5th 2010
March 4th 2011

- ❖ The Party in the Park event is scheduled for July 24th 2010
- ❖ The Children's Christmas Party is provisionally set for 12th December 2010, but hall availability needs to be checked. This date will be conformed or otherwise at the next public meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm

