

Homesteads Community Forum Public Meeting Notes

8th May 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), Mike Farman (Secretary)(MF), PCSO Christine Hope (CH), Nadine Gardner-Holt (NGH)

Councillors: None present

Thurrock Council: Sharon Pritchard

NGAGE: None present

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

Public members: 26 people attended and signed the register

Apologies: Suzanne MacPherson, John Everett, Natalie Warren, Ray Griggs (RG), Sgt Lee Stannard

2) Approval of notes of previous Public Meeting

The notes of the previous public meeting (AGM) were approved following an amendment to the crime statistics. Robberies should be changed from 17 to 1 and Burglaries from dwellings changed from 1 to 17. The secretary agreed to change the previous minutes.

3) Police Report

The police representatives had another engagement to attend so the police report was brought forward from the published agenda.

It was reported that 42 offences had been recorded in the Homesteads Forum area since the last meeting in February

CRIME	NUMBER	REMARKS
Violent	9	
Domestic violence	5	
Robbery	0	
Burglary from Dwelling	5	
Other Burglary	5	From Shed & Garages
Criminal Damage	8	
Theft	2	
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	5	
Theft of pedal cycle	1	
Drug Production	1	
Vehicle theft	1	Car

It was reported that the crime committed in the period January to April this year was less than that recorded last year.

Motor vehicle theft is on the increase.



The Homesteads area (Part of Corringham west) has a new police sergeant, Lee Stannard. Unfortunately he could not be present this evening as he had a prior commitment

A resident asked about the number of Graffiti Tags that have appeared in the area and what was being done. It was reported that it was mainly two tags being repeated and two people had been arrested in connection with the offences.

4) Matters arising from last Meeting

- a) Balstonia fencing update. Funding has been agreed to complete the extra fencing in the park. A new project has been launched to add netting from the main gate towards Rose Valley. One resident is unhappy with additional netting and claims not to have been consulted. This is disputed by the Homesteads Committee. The plan to add more play equipment to the park may make the additional netting more acceptable. The Chairman has asked other neighbours and they are happy with the current arrangements. The Chairman is to suggest to residents they resolve and agree what is wanted among themselves.
- b) Play frame. The chairman is to attend a meeting with other forum chairs to discuss what is wanted in parks across the borough. The Chairman said £35k will obviously buy more equipment. He is awaiting more details about the planned meeting.
- c) Park Locking. The park locking cost has been reduced by £750 by the council paying the bill saving the VAT.

5) Chairs Report

The Chairman said that at the AGM we omitted to ratify the Garage locking cost for a further year. Residents agreed with a show of hands to continue to pay for the garage locking.

6) Treasurers Report

At 8 May 2009 the Homesteads Community Forum balance in the bank stands at £2630.80
Operating costs at the moment stand at approximately £780 which leaves approximately £1850

Our budget for the coming year has been cut to £8600 + £570 administration. Park locking Party in the Park Children's Christmas party and Garage locking amounts to a cost of £7380

Updated Children's Christmas party costs were provided. The total cost of the Party was £517.68.

7) Presentation

We had a talk and viewgraph presentation by Thurrock Council's Sharon Pritchard, Waste & Recycling Education Officer to inform us on the waste and recycling changes that will affect residents next year.

Sharon said the purpose of her presentation was to increase awareness of recycling. 30 million tons of waste is produced in the UK each year. It cost Thurrock £7 million pounds to dispose of its share.

Currently Thurrock recycles 33% with 67% going to landfill. It is estimated that Thurrock could recycle 60%. Thurrock has to meet EU set targets for recycling. Land fill will eventually be full and will therefore not be available. We pay a landfill tax of £48/ton so it is clear we need to send less waste to landfill.

Currently we have in Thurrock a 2 weekly green sack collection with the collection sent to either Rainham or Pitsea for conversion into a soil improver that is sold to residents or given free to allotment holders.

Some residents have a brown bin in place of the green sack where garden refuse and kitchen waste is also recycled into a soil improver.

The fortnightly blue box collection is sent to Rainham MRF where the plastic paper and glass are separated. The glass can be crushed and used as a bunker material in place of sand
The weekly green bin waste goes entirely to landfill.



Some flats in the borough have metal, red and blue bins.

Sharon continued to say that the VEOLIA Civic Amenity site at Linford will accept many material and objects. Bulky waste is accepted at the Linford site, free of charge but there is a chargeable service through the council for collection of bulky waste from residences.

Items in good condition that can be reused should be offered to local charities such as St Luke's, Salvation Army, Lady McFadden and British Heart Foundation. 2nd Generation, at the old BATA site in Linford, will accept most furniture. FREecycle will take any unwanted items. Info available on the internet. All libraries will take unwanted books and CD for re use.

Thurrock council is building a new reuse centre in St Clements way, West Thurrock and expects it to be operational late summer 2009. No general waste will be accepted at this site. This is with a grant, funded by the Thurrock Thames Gateway, of nearly 1 million pounds.

Sharon said the plan for the future is to provide each resident with 3 X 180 litre wheelie bins with a weekly collection.

A Blue wheelie bin for dry recyclables as with the current blue box scheme.
A Green/Black wheelie bin for landfill waste. Needs to be reduced to a minimum to reduce the landfill tax paid.
A Brown wheelie bin for kitchen and garden waste.

Sharon concluded by saying that the weekly collection of residual waste would not allow any side waste to be accepted for landfill. All waste must be contained within the wheelie bin

Residents had a number of questions.

One resident said that it would be difficult to accommodate 3 bins on their property. They asked why no option on bin size was available?

Sharon replied that more options may be made available to residents but it was intended to provide all properties with a standard size 180 litre bin for residual waste.

Another resident asked for smaller containers for smaller households' partially for recyclables.

Another resident asked why Thurrock did not have a scheme where residents sorted the recyclables into various boxes before collection. No answer was given.

Sharon did say that in 2010, the waste collection contract was up for renewal. Thurrock Council receives no financial gain from the contractor for the materials recycled.

A resident asked when the bins would be available.

Sharon replied the new bins programme would be rolled out mid September.

One resident said they had called the Call centre to ask about collections as they had not received a collection diary.

Sharon said the centre received up to 1000 calls about bin collections and was the most general complaint.

Council budget cuts had prevented the production of collection leaflets

The Chairman thanked Sharon for the presentation

8) Any Other Business

The chairman reminded residents about the Party in the Park event on the 25th July. He asked if any resident wanted to help in running of the event particularly setting and clearing up.

9) Next Public meeting 10th July 2009 at 7:30p.m. Hardie Hall, Hardie Road, Stanford-le-Hope

The meeting closed at 8:20pm

