

## Homesteads Community Forum Public Meeting Notes



3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008 at 7.30 pm Hardie Hall, Hardie Road, Stanford-le-Hope  
[www.homesteadscf.org.uk](http://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), John Evans (JE), Mike Farman (Secretary) (MF), PCSO Christine Hope (CH).

**Councillors:** John Everet, Pauline Tolson

**Thurrock Council:** None present

**NGAGE:** None present

**Police:** PCSO Christine Hope

**Public members:** 10 residents attended. 19 people signed the attendance register.

**Apologies:** Clr. Suzanne MacPherson, NSO Jac Sears, Wendy Mayo, Beverly Evans (BE) Nadine Gardner-Holt (NGH), Sally Griggs (Treasurer) (SG), Ray Griggs (RG),

### 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 forum has received a reply from Clr. Sue McPherson. "I can confirm that the council will not be locking up the park. Although we have approached the portfolio Holder and presented the petition unfortunately we have not been successful. I agree that this is indeed a blow for not only the Forum who have fought for this but also for the residents who live in the Homesteads. I will continue to ask for this to be considered for next year's budget."

The chairman said there is no evidence to support any anti Social behaviour in the area hence there is no remit for the council to fund the park locking. Locking the park keeps down the anti social behaviour.

John Everet said that councillors look to the forums to spend the money allocated on interests and requests from residents. Although he had not discussed this with Sue McPherson in his opinion as the £11K we received had been previously used to fund the gate locking we should continue. He added that Council Tax increases this year had been held to 2.6% so the council had less money but residents had more. The Forum should therefore pay for locking the park.

The chairman said if the concept was now to look after ourselves, then why were we ask to raise the petition? Many residents vocally gave their support to which John Everet said he would report the disquiet in the meeting to the council.

Pauline Tolson said that if the Forum wished to continue locking the park it was our choice provided we had the support of the residents.

Tony Benson said the Forum would continue to lock the park. Although the Park was the property of Thurrock Council the forum paid for the locking and for the improvements in the fencing to the benefit of residents who backed onto the Park. It was Sue McPherson who suggested the petition in the first instance.

The chairman repeated that money is not available from the council to lock the Park.

Carol Sharp supported the decision to continue to lock the park gates.

One resident suggested that the police were to blame for lack of control in the park. This was not supported.

Following lengthy ongoing discussion over the past 11 months the Forum now considers this matter closed.

- b) Balstonia Park fencing update. A new approved contractor has completed the palisade fencing and netting previously agreed.



Two more quotations for top netting have been received. No more Palisade fencing is required.

Top netting from Rose Valley end – 28metres X	£45.40/metre =	£1271.20
Top netting Andrews Close end -32.5metres X	£45.20/metre =	£1475.50
	Total price	£2746.50

This leaves one section of 68.5metres to do in the middle. The residents have not been asked for their views. If required it will cost an additional £3100

- c) Play Frame quotation. This is for the younger children and is currently to be situated at the Rose Valley end of the Park. No specific piece of equipment can be found but one can be custom fabricated from parts. It was suggested that one could be found via eBay on the internet. Some residents are not happy with the proposed sighting as it will increase the noise. There is no plan to move the existing fixtures in the park. **Ongoing.**

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

The Chairman said that this years Party in the Park was the best ever event the forum had arranged. This may have been due to a number of contributing factors. The event was arranged for the beginning of July and not August as in previous years. The weather was good, the best for days. The Yellow Advertiser publicity and the Homesteads estate leafleting one week before may have also contributed to the success. In the past people came and went but this year they stayed and the event could have continued beyond the 4.00pm finishing time. The jazz band had a particularly good time. It was commented it gave the event a Village fete atmosphere. It was estimated that at least 4000 people attended with more than 400 there at any one time.

It was commented how well behaved the children were with parents helping make things with their children in the craft tent

The chairman thanked Christine for her help in the Craft tent, the face painters and Burger stall operatives. He also thanked Sue McPherson and her dance troop.

The chairman concluded by thanking all helpers and residents for making it the best event ever. And it was all free

The park locking is changed from 21:00 hrs to 20:00 hrs with the darker evenings approaching.

#### 5) **Treasurers report**

Sally sends her apologies for being on holiday again.

She requests that if anyone has any outstanding bills/invoices for the Party in the Park event to let her have them.

Assuming that she has all the bills, the overall cost of the event was £2948.60

A full detailed account will be available for the next meeting.

The bank balance stands at £6864.78 as of the 14<sup>th</sup> September. This includes payment for park gate locking to the end of August and garage rental to the 14<sup>th</sup> September

#### 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.

The figures below are from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to 2<sup>nd</sup> October2008

A total of 322 crimes had been reported.

71 were classed as violent crime which includes domestic violence.

33 burglaries from dwellings

7 other burglaries

24 thefts of motor vehicles

17 thefts from a motor vehicle

1 robbery

79 Criminal damage

1 Racially aggravated crime

By way of comparison the following areas had less crime

Orsett 267

Corringham East 117

Stanford 262

East Tilbury 144



All these areas are much smaller than areas than Corringham West.  
Crime in Corringham East, Corringham West and Stanford are considered very low

In Orsett over the same period there have been 3 robberies, but Corringham East had none. The last reported dwelling burglary was 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Tony Benson reminded residents to ensure their front doors were locked with a key and not to just rely on moving the handle to the 'locked' position. Doors left in this condition were easy to break into.

## 7) Correspondence

The forum has received an email from a resident who is concerned about speeding in 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. PCSO Christine Hope said she and NSO Jac Sears had previously monitored traffic speed in the area. When a beat surgery is held in an area, a speed indicator device is deployed. Those motorists that exceed the 30 mph limit are stopped and given suitable words of advice.

Part of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue would be included in the Branksome road traffic calming measures scheme up to as far as Dunstable road. As this was at a Public Consultation stage the council could make no comment. The time scale of the consultation was unknown.

John Everet spoke about the Traffic calming measures in Branksome Avenue. The recommendation is for a speed activated sign and improved road markings and this should be implemented. Following more site monitoring further signs may be needed. The signs do not record the speed and vehicle identification.

Two options were proposed

Option 1 Vehicle activated signs and 'SLOW' road marking and centre hatching along the length of the road.

Option 2 Vehicle activated signs and four mini roundabouts. One at the Aldria road junction.

The final configuration is still under discussion. The final cost will not be known until the plans are finalised.

He said resident participation had been good and the scheme was included in the 2008/2009 budget. He concluded that the Aldria road roundabout would not be included as it was not safe practice. He felt the council would probably opt for option 1. The resident who raised the issue concluded that nothing would be done on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue between Southend road and Dunstable road and would remain a high speed area.

John Everet agreed to find the cost for a speed activated sign

**Post meeting note.** The cost of the illuminated 30m.p.h speed indicator sign is £7000

## 8) Any other Business

### a) Dropped curbs in Southend road One Tree Hill area

A resident asked the purpose of the dropped kerbs either side of the bridge in south end road. Christine said these were called 'Jug handles' and are for cyclists to dismount and cross the road to use the path over the railway bridge. Safest way to cross the bridge.

### b) Thurrock Safer Partnership

The chairman has recently been involved in trying to obtain additional outside funding for the Balstonia Park fencing. He has had meetings and filled out the necessary forms and email them to the Council Safer Partnership Group. A reply has been received in relation to the application which said that before it could be given full consideration; more additional information is required with a cut off date of the 4<sup>th</sup> September. A decision was made by the committee that this amounted to unnecessary bureaucracy and we would not proceed with the application.

### c) Children's Christmas Party

Tony Benson asked if any resident wished to join the committee to help with running the forthcoming Children's Christmas party. One resident volunteered. The date for the party is still to be finalised.

## 9) Next Public meeting

No date was set for the next public meeting

The meeting closed at 8:50pm

