

Shadoxhurst Village Forum

Notes from the 5th Village Forum Meeting held in the Pavilion on Wednesday 7th September 2016

- To maintain the quality of life for all in the village
- To generate issues that could be put to the Parish Council
- To re-ignite community spirit and engender friendship
- To build a social feeling in the village
- To suggest things that will bring people together
- **With a Vision to create and develop a positive community spirit.**

1. Welcome

Thirteen villagers attended the meeting. David Ledger chairing the meeting welcomed everyone and there was a brief introduction of those present.

2. Discussion following the last public meeting

A summary of the notes from the last meeting had been previously circulated and there was no further addition to it.

3. Village Updates

a) Highways Issues

David brought everyone up to date that our speed restriction work was still moving forward having briefed our Ward Member and we would soon be lobbying KCC. Aline Hicks, our ABC Ward Member said that Warehorn had to carry out a traffic survey before they could proceed. This cost in the order of £1,000. She also said that Bethersden had a speed gun which they can lend or hire out. It was also reported that they had used a mobile GATSO camera, although only issued warnings to drivers caught speeding.

b) Coffee Club

David reported that attendance was picking up now weekly and thanked Val and Colin and (Sheila not able to be here) for their stalwart help each week.

c) CPR Training

A dozen or so villagers attended this yesterday afternoon and it was well received. There was also a demonstration of a defibrillator. There will be a further training opportunity, probably an evening in the coming weeks.

4. Phone Box

BT have put a notice in the phone box to say they will close the line which has little use. Following some discussion it was thought that in spite of being used for emergencies and Zoe had reported

they have been without a phone line now for 6 days, it was suggested that the phone line be removed but keep the box which does have an electrical supply and if the village had a defibrillator there would be a bit more central and residents could keep a better eye on it. Plus if removed, an alarm sounds and there would be plenty of neighbours to check it. We were told yesterday that BT would probably sell it for a £1. It was agreed that we ask if anyone has used it in the last 12 months. Zoe also said that one of her neighbours had tried to use it but the line was not working and she questioned how long that might have been for, if the service was down, then no wonder there had been little use.

5. Pride in our Village

There was a discussion about ideas for raising this wider. We did ask last time if there were any tatty corners that need to be addressed, no one has put any forward so far. It was mentioned that there had been a Facebook discussion on the subject of Michael, the man who does all the litter picking and whether he should be given something as a reward. Someone has spoken to his Sister and the answer was that he didn't want any recognition.

It was reported that work has started on repairing the planters in the car park. The first was emptied this week and the box was taken for repair to the base. There was a request for sponsorship of them as three of them had been previously sponsored by the Gardening Club, which stopped meeting a few years ago.

The lack of footpath on Tally Ho Road was mentioned as being dangerous to walk, and the verge on the field side is not usable.

6. Fund Sourcing Experience / Knowledge

A call was put out for anyone to help with seeking funding for projects. Rob stepped forward and said he could help with putting business cases together. There is a source of funding through the Community Chest (Michele Byrne).

7. Finding a Chairman and Secretary for the Village Forum

In spite of a request, no one came forward. The subject will be raised again when the Forum is further established.

8. Forum Facebook Page

There was a discussion about possibly setting up a Forum Facebook page. David reported that he tried to establish an album for people to post good pictures of the village, but in the ensuing discussion, there was one who used bad language and refused to remove it. The page has no admins or moderators and is a free for all. It was suggested that someone from the Forum accept the admin role, although it was suggested that it needs two or three as there may be some disagreements at times. David said he felt it inappropriate that he took such a role. He felt it also needed to be an inclusive site not an exclusive site. It was agreed that it would not be good to set up a Forum page at

the moment. It was suggested that as the man in question knows so much of the village's history he be invited to the next Forum meeting.

9. Agenda Items for future meetings

There was a discussion about future events including holding a children's party at Christmas, and perhaps investigate having a fireworks display next year. Peter said there will be a Gang Show in the village hall in January which he is helping with, also he does discos if we wanted to hold one.

10. Any other business

David reported on a meeting he attended with Aline today and mentioned the following:

- a) Ashford Borough Council have now brought their grounds maintenance work back in house and are establishing a working company so that they can tender for other work. They are taking on some of the Highway land and the main Ashford roundabouts.
- b) Lorry Parking is being proactively dealt with by ABC including enforcement of certain parts of industrial estates favoured by foreign drivers. However they have to be careful that they don't exclude parking to such an extent, that lorries then start parking in residential areas.
- c) The East Kent NHS Trust will be consulting on proposed changes this Autumn. Make sure you have your say.
- d) Devolution is back on the agenda and there is consideration proceeding that Ashford, Canterbury, Shepway, Dover and Thanet Councils may all one day combine into one very large Council. It is early days
- e) Broadband, if there is a subject guaranteed to get everyone animated....it is Broadband. The meeting today heard from Kate North at ABC who is working with KCC as part of the delivery of fast (BT) broadband to the majority of dwellings. The PC is also in discussion with ABC.
- f) Cars parked on pavements is an issue with prams trying to pass. There is also still an issue with parking at the bus stops which have been altered for buses to lower and have wheelchair etc access. There were suggestions that the bus stops should be more clearly marked and perhaps have double yellow lines.

11. Date of next meeting

Date not set but will likely be in mid/late October. David thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.