

Shadoxhurst Village Forum

Notes from the Extraordinary Village Forum meeting held in the Pavilion on Tuesday 8th August 2017

- To maintain the quality of life for all in the village
- To generate issues that could be put to the Parish Council
- To re-kindle 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

17 villagers attended the meeting.

Cheryl welcomed everyone to the extraordinary forum meeting.

2) Freedom Of Information Response

Cheryl then informed everyone about the response received from Ashford Borough Council regarding the recent FOI request. The response and associated papers were circulated for those who hadn't already seen them.

After discussion, it was felt that the response and information given were inadequate and incomplete, and that this was very disappointing. Dennis said he was not at all surprised by ABC's response. After decades of him trying to work with the Council, trying to get them to take responsibility for, and deal appropriately with, urgent enforcement issues, they had constantly failed to do so. He had invested a huge amount of time and effort providing ABC with relevant information over the years, all to no avail. Both his, and his family's, health and quality of life had suffered as a result. David told us that lack of enforcement is an issue for many Parish Councils. We are trying to gather evidence, select problem sites and they will be presented to ABC for action.

It was agreed that Cheryl will contact Mark Chaplin and ask him to complete the FOI request. She will also contact the FOI officer to tell them the request has not yet been completed. Another FOI will be sent to the planning inspectorate to find out the number of ABC planning appeals lodged with them and then withdrawn over the last two years. Information could then be used later to compare councils.

3) Village Events

3.1) Shadoxhurst Harvest Fete 30/9/17

Volunteers were requested for cake making! The more the merrier! We intend to sell some whole cakes on a cake stall, and have others to slice up and sell with teas and coffees in the café. Let Cheryl or Carol know if you can help.

3.2) Race Night

Cheryl will contact Terry about organising the Race night. This will be on 10th February 2018

3.3) Quiz Night

Apparently our dates clash with the end of the month King's Head pub quiz night. It was agreed our village hall quiz night would be re-scheduled for January 13th 2018.

4) Local Plan Consultation

There is a display about this in the Pavilion. David has some forms that can be used if you don't want to respond on-line. The pub field site application is not on the August planning committee agenda. There are still issues that need to be resolved. We still have time to comment / object. If it is allowed, we are trying to have planning conditions that lessen traffic disruption during construction.

5) Date of next meeting

The next forum meeting will be in the Pavilion at 7pm on Thursday 14th September 2017