

# **TILGATE FORUM MEETING**

## **Minutes**

**Thursday 02 February 2017 7:30 - 9:15 Shackleton Road Community Centre**

Chair: Richard Handy

The meeting was attended by 31 people in addition to the guest speakers; this number included M.P. Henry Smith (part of meeting), WSCC Councillor Duncan Crow, CBC Councillor Francis Guidera, Community Development Officer John Dale and Nick Hagon, Manager of Tilgate Park.

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

RH welcomed all. Apologies were received from John Nower, Alan Gunn, Gary Mainwaring and Sukh Dryden. [Apologies were received later from Councillor Carlos Castro.] As before, the meeting was recorded to help with accuracy of the notes.

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting: matters arising**

Matters arising:

- 2.1 It was confirmed that the footpath to the play area in Chichester Close had been completed, following a request from the Forum.
- 2.2 Phase 2 of the work on the Golf Course is almost complete and we are hoping to get Dan Lucking to speak at the next Forum to give an update.
- 2.3 Bulb planting took place as scheduled on 19 November last in Shackleton Road, with 2,500 bulbs going in – thanks to everyone who supported the event with time, effort and refreshments.

The minutes from the Forum meeting held on 17 November 2016 were accepted, and are on the Tilgate Community Forum website.

### **3. Citizens Advice and what they do – guest speaker Maureen Wicks**

The Crawley Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is part of Central and South Sussex region which covers a large area down to the coast. The vision of CABs is that everyone gets the advice they need and every voice is heard. The other function of CAB is to collect evidence about common problems which keep arising, to request improvements via Parliament in national policies and practice. They have been going for 75 years. CABs consist of paid staff and many volunteer advisers, from a range of backgrounds.

The service is free and confidential and deals with welfare benefits, debt, housing, consumer issues, relationships, employment and much more. The Crawley CAB has links with Macmillan Cancer Support, Shelter, Crawley Homeless Prevention and money advice organisations, along with access to pro bono specialists. People getting in touch can expect to be given information, or a further interview or appointment, or signposting to another service.

**Contact Points:** The Crawley CAB is in The Orchard, 1-2 Gleneagles Court, Brighton Road, Southgate and is open Monday to Friday 09.30 – 16.00.

Advice Line – 0344 477 1171, where you may be referred to your local office: any local CAB is only able to offer advice to people who live or work within their local area.

Website: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) - information and also a self-help area.

Webchat and email: [www.cassca.org.uk](http://www.cassca.org.uk)

CAB also has a Facebook page and can also be reached on Twitter.

Funding is a perennial issue, as is computer equipment and attracting more volunteers. Volunteers receive full training and there is always a paid member of staff on site for consultation and help – email [volunteer@westsussexcab.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@westsussexcab.org.uk) if you are interested.

#### **4. West Sussex Mediation Service – guest speaker Nick Handley, Service Co-Ordinator**

NH began by informing the members that the West Sussex Mediation Service is nothing to do with WSCC – it is a charity that was started in 2000 by a Crime Prevention Officer in Horsham given the amount of Police time that was being spent on dealing with neighbourhood disputes. As with CAB, there are both paid staff and trained volunteers at work in mediation. All mediators in the community work in pairs and provide impartial, independent mediation in disputes.

Community Mediation includes: neighbour disputes; parking disputes; ball game disturbance; Leylandii trees; rubbish; smells; noise and/or pet nuisance; CCTV issues. These are free services as are Elder Mediation, Conflict Coaching and Intergenerational Mediation. Fee based services include Workplace Mediation and Family Mediation during divorce (now obligatory).

The mediators listen to both sides in a dispute independently then get the two parties together; the aim is to get a written agreement between the parties. The benefit of the service is its neutrality and its ability to empower people to resolve issues themselves; it is based on mutual respect. The solution is not imposed, but worked out by the people themselves. The service is cost effective as, if successful, it prevents costly legal disputes, although the outcomes are not legally binding. People can refer themselves or other agencies may refer them.

**Contact** county wide: 0300 200 0025 (inc. answer machine);

Horsham office: 01403 258 900

Twitter - @Mediation1 Web: [www.wsms.org.uk](http://www.wsms.org.uk) Email: [info@wsms.org.uk](mailto:info@wsms.org.uk)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/westsussexmediationservice](http://www.facebook.com/westsussexmediationservice)

By post: West Sussex Mediation Service, Park House, North Street Horsham RH12 1RN

**Vacancies:** A Volunteer Treasurer sought for the end of March 2017; also additional Trustees.

**Events coming up:** Charity Barn Dance Friday 07 April 2017 at Sullington Manor Farm, It's a Knockout Challenge 05 May 2017 at the South of England Showground with charity raffle on the same day;

Charity Choir Concert – 13 May 2017.

#### **5. Updates from Local Councillors**

DC – no further updates at present. In response to a query originating in West Sussex Connections DC replied that those streets mentioned in the newsletter as due to have pavements fixed are those that have already been done. From April 2017 more streets

will be done, some of them in Tilgate. He may know more about the programme by April. FG – reminded the members that it is Crawley's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Crawley Museum is also celebrating moving into new premises at last in The Tree; the re-opening is planned for June 2017. In response to queries FG will try to find out what is happening to the nearby building that Age Concern moved out of last year.

## **6. Update on Tilgate Park: Nick Hagon, Park Manager**

NH gave the members an update of all the work that is either in progress or planned. In brief, considerable effort is being put into the roads and pathways (resurfacing and mending potholes); new toilets are due in the Walled Garden at the end of February 2017; lake erosion work is on-going; the Barn will be for hire once heating and lighting are sorted.

A trial bus service from inside the Park at weekends, holidays and Bank Holidays will be piloted from the end of April 2017. This will be the No. 2 bus service. Queries arose about the bus trial and NH responded: safety issue – bus drivers are aware of the speed limit in the park, and that, as with all the delivery drivers, they must keep to it; NH described how the buses will turn around near Smith and Western.

Other queries were answered: the clay pigeon shoot on private land is having its licence reviewed, or has this already been done? Benches – are still on the list to be tidied up; Madagascar – ring-tailed lemurs are planned; the clock tower will be re-referred; the Heather garden is looking dismal – it is already on the NH "to do" list; the vandalised play equipment in the park will be replaced, but no plans to put a higher fence around the area; GoApe have been targeted by vandals too who have unknotted some of the equipment – NH has requested CCTV but this was refused as "not enough is happening in the park" apparently. Members aware of any vandalism in the park need to report it to Police. A suggestion was made for a Volunteers Working Party for the Heather Garden: NH will fix a day.

Concerning the emergent Friends of Tilgate Park group NH passed this to JD to respond: there are six volunteers for the Steering Committee and a further meeting on 21 February 2017 is due for possible committee members; JD is meeting with CCVS' Karl Parks to go through the constitution shortly; following this the first Community Meeting will be planned for spring. JD will pass the date of this on to the Secretary of the Forum for sharing with members.

NH finished his update by responding to the query about what to look out for in the park at the moment: Witch Hazel and Winter Box are in flower now and the daffodils will not be far behind.

## **7. Any Other Business and Raffle Draw**

7.1 Tilgate Parade: Dog fouling hidden under leaves caused one lady to slip on it and people are inadvertently stepping on it and tracking it into the shops. A Dog Waste bin on the Parade was requested, although the point was made that Parade residents may not wish this. FG will look into it.

7.2 Tilgate Parade: Dead shrubs in the borders – NH will pass this on to the South patch

Neighbourhood Maintenance Team.

7.3 Tilgate Parade: The fly-tipping of fridges etc. is still happening behind the Parade.

7.4 Traffic on the access road through the Park is still ignoring the "No entry" and speed limit.

7.5 4 prizes were drawn in the Raffle.

## **8. Announcements**

- Tree planting will take place at the "Triangle" in the Local Nature Reserve on the Golf Course land on Friday 17 February 2017 from 09.45.
- Tidy up and Litter Pick with The Beavers – meet 17.45 on Tuesday 28 March 2017 at the corner of Durham Close and Winchester Road.

## **9. Date of next Meeting**

RH thanked all for attending and reminded everyone of the next meeting:

**Thursday 23 March 2017** at the Community Centre in Shackleton Road, 7.30pm to 9.15pm.

Contact details:

### **Tilgate Community Forum**

Email contact point: [tilgateforum@gmail.com](mailto:tilgateforum@gmail.com) Website: [www.tilgateforum.co.uk](http://www.tilgateforum.co.uk)

**To raise issues about services dealt with by the County Council use:**

<http://love.westsussex.gov.uk>