

TILGATE FORUM MEETING

Minutes

Thursday 23 March 2017 7:30 - 9:15 Shackleton Road Community Centre

Chair: Richard Handy

The meeting was attended by 38 people in all; this number included CBC Councillor Francis Guidera, CBC Councillor Carlos Castro, Community Development Officer John Dale and Manager of Tilgate Park, Nick Hagon.

1. Welcome and apologies

RH welcomed all and passed on apologies from Dan Lucking and Duncan Crow, County Councillor. [Apologies were also received from John Nower.]

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

2.1 CC pointed out that his title was missing in the last set of minutes – agreed and apology made.

2.2 The clay pigeon shoot that takes place on private land next to Tilgate Park has received a permanent license from CBC despite objections raised. FG stated that the shoot did not need a license to operate for any 28 days in the year anyway and felt that licensing the current level of operation (alternate Sundays 10 – 2 and 10 – 4 on any one day per week between Tuesday and Friday) meant that CBC could exert control on the situation.

2.3 The footpath repairs for Tilgate will be in Gainsborough, Loppets and Shackleton Roads.

2.4 Crawley Road Space Audit will start later in the year. Members of Tilgate Community Forum hope that residents in Crawley will have the chance to have their views recorded/taken into account.

[The meeting was recorded for reasons of accuracy.]

The minutes from the Forum meeting held on 02 February 2017 were accepted, and are on the Tilgate Community Forum website.

3. Urgent Care Centre (UCC): Vervan Nicholls from Crawley Hospital

VN gave members an update concerning the UCC. She is the Children's and Maternity Commissioner at Crawley Clinical Commissioning Group.

Piper Ward on the sixth floor is part of the UCC and has about 23 beds for intermediate care – a "step-down ward" (or "step-up ward") for anything not life-threatening and needing some level of in-patient care.

The UCC is not for life threatening conditions: patients with possible stroke, heart attack or other life-threatening condition need to attend A & E at East Surrey Hospital in Redhill.

The waiting area for young children has undergone improvement as planned and a new development, an innovative teenage waiting area, has been set up.

In addition, the staff at the UCC also have access to the Mental Health Crisis Team.

VN kindly took questions and the following emerged:

Waiting times are in fact lower than at A & E; VN confirmed that urgent care is something that is not life-threatening but needs medical assessment and/or possible treatment; X-rays, scanners etc are available; G.P.s have been made aware of the beds on Piper Ward – some

members are having difficulty getting to see a G.P.; the UCC would not turn you away if your case was not urgent, even if your GP could deal with it.

4. The Oaks: A Community School – Head Teacher Alan Gunn

AG and his Deputy Gary Mainwaring both attended to introduce themselves and to share their vision of The Oaks – a school that is engaged with its local community.

AG explained that they saw the school as very much an integral part of the community and they look for “community outcomes” for their pupils in their learning. Children need context and outcome for their learning. They would like the pupils to get involved in things that are already happening in their community such as the Forum's bulb planting last November. “Guerilla gardening” would be another opportunity to learn a sense of place.

AG stated that they would welcome ideas on what the local community would like to see them doing. An ideal additional link for both the school and the Forum would be for a Forum member to get involved as a School Governor – volunteers please! (Let the Forum Secretary know.)

AG and his Deputy took questions: they confirmed that the current funding situation for the school did mean that they have to think carefully about whether to replace staff; the school is not run by W.S.C.C. – it is part of The Kemnal Academies Trust; staff numbers total 60+; pupil numbers are 421 with 48 in Nursery; CC suggested the Learning Outdoors Project in conjunction with Tilgate Park Manager NH that he is involved with as a possibility for the pupils (this was welcomed by AG).

Finally AG invited Forum members to join in the school grounds clear up on Saturday 25 March, this coming weekend, between 9am to 12pm – all welcome.

5. Summary of work at Tilgate Golf Course – Forum Secretary Sylvia Handy

SH explained that the Golf Course Manager, Dan Lucking, is to attend the next Forum Meeting and in the meantime he has sent an update on the recent work that has been carried out. This includes path repairs, ditch clearing, chipping and tree planting on the Triangle. SH also confirmed that the special trees listed by residents are all still standing.

Comments on this were invited and a discussion ensued. One member stated that the locals are far happier with the recent work done compared to this time last year, and that the work of Gatwick Greenspace Partnership volunteers was great; it was agreed to send thanks to GGP from the Forum. Future action is centred on monitoring.

6. Updates from Local Councillors

FG: following a press report that the mosaic previously in the town centre was not being looked after, FG has discussed its re-installation in the refurbished town centre with Chris Mullins once work is completed. FG posted a photo of it on Facebook and the mosaic was subsequently seen in colour for the first time by the daughter of its late creator; she would be invited to its inauguration.

FG has viewed the new section in the Nature Centre (Madagascar) and praised it.

A burnt-out car was found in Tilgate Park – see below under 7.

CC: concerning the imminent extension of Metrobus route 2 into the Park, CC explained that a sign will come on in the bus at the right stop for the Park.

Gainsborough Road Playing Fields – work is progressing on this.

Crime in Tilgate: CC has had much contact with local Police concerning break-ins to houses and cars and robberies in Tilgate. Apparently a group of criminals is targeting new cars in

the area and crashed one stolen car recently. CC left handouts concerning crime prevention and gave statistics that demonstrated a significant increase in this activity locally: he has witnessed personally people going from car to car along a street (he called the Police). CC took questions concerning the numbers of Police in the area and whether Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) was being encouraged by Sussex Police; he suggested a promotion of NHW on Tilgate Parade alongside the Forum.

FG explained that the increase in council tax this year will go towards an increase in Police Officers, although we may not necessarily see more Officers on the streets. Walking the beat isn't the best use of Police now. But people should phone the Police if they see anyone trying cars.

Both local councillors are aware of, but unable to discuss, serious matters that the local Police are currently involved with.

7. Update on Tilgate Park: Nick Hagon, Park Manager

7.1 There are travellers resident in the park as from this morning, just near the toilet block at the car park. The Community Wardens have been contacted as has the WSCC Officer whose job it is to check on their welfare. Sussex Police have also visited, and NH has discussed with them why the travellers should move on (large events coming up at the Park), adding that they were nice people. Options for the way forward are under discussion and all involved are monitoring the situation.

7.2 The burnt-out car mentioned above at 6 did not have any number plates. The fire caused damage to the height barriers, grass, tarmac and fencing.

7.3 Other work that has taken place or is ongoing: 100 azaleas have been planted recently in the Remembrance Garden area – plaques in memoriam can be purchased; the extra toilets in the Walled Garden are nearing completion; work to re-surface and widen paths is continuing; speed bumps are planned for the Tilgate end of the access road next week; work on the lakes continues; a hoist has been installed for disabled adults to change/be changed in the toilets; the arena and stables will be ready to hire for events soon.

Diary dates for events in the park:

01 April 2017 – opening of the new Madagascar section in the Nature Reserve.

11 April 2017 at 7pm in The Barn – Inaugural Meeting of the Friends of Tilgate Park. JD spoke on this to say that there are currently five Acting Steering Committee members and elections are planned for this meeting. Future events may be planned and Forum members were encouraged to attend and take away flyers. This group is for the whole town and also for external visitors.

22 April 2017: Open Day for the pilot Metrobus service, no. 2 bus, that will extend into the park as from 29 April on weekends and bank holidays.

02 July 2017: Dog Show – as well as stalls and activities in the Walled Garden.

19-20 July 2017 at 6.30pm – NH is conducting tours of the Walled Garden at £8 per head as part of the National Gardens Scheme – NH brought booklets about the Scheme for members to take away. (The money gathered will go to charity.)

Questions were taken – the location of the Remembrance Garden was described; a report was made by FG that the travellers had just been moved on from a nearby site in Crawley and had left a mess; a query was raised – has the new access road opened the park up for travellers?

What to look out for in the park: daffodils, maple trees, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 John Baker from Citizens Advice said that they will help people with banks, and will be involved in research on banks and banking facilities.

8.2 Photos were on display of cars parked in local roads that were untaxed and had been clamped.

8.3 The recycling tip is charging for taking in construction waste (e.g. ceramic tiles), even if it is household rubble.

8.4 Information about Apetito was made available. Apetito now provide the meals on wheels services and they include a welfare check.

8.5 CC introduced Annie Flack from the Social Services Dept. of WSCC to briefly inform members about the pilots of a new way of working within Adult Social Care. One of the pilots is in Tilgate at Ashdown House at the back of Thomas Bennett school. It's a multi-disciplinary team, and so one phone call is all that's needed to find the support that is wanted – not multiple phone calls and transfers between Teams. The response to a call from an individual should now be much quicker. The pilots were initially planned to run until the end of April 2017 but may be extended until later in the year. If you don't want to phone, you can visit Annie at Broadfield Library between 10 – 12 every Wednesday. You can book an appointment by calling 01243 642121 or by emailing the Team at socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk The website for more information can be found at www.westsussexconnecttosupport.org

9. Announcements

The Beavers are doing a further tidy up and litter pick at 5.45pm on Tuesday 28 March 2017 – meet at the usual place of the junction of Winchester Road and Durham Close.

10. Raffle

The raffle was held and several lucky winners took home a chocolate Easter Egg. Thanks to the Treasurer for organising this.

11. Dates of next meetings – Forum Meeting and Committee Meeting

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

Committee meeting: Thursday 06 April 2017, at the Community Centre in Shackleton Road for members to observe and/or join the Committee, 6pm to 7.30pm.

Forum meeting: Thursday 18 May 2017, at the Community Centre in Shackleton Road, 7.30pm to 9.15pm.

Contact details:

Tilgate Community Forum

Email contact point: tilgateforum@gmail.com Website: www.tilgateforum.co.uk

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

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

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership www.gatwickgreenspace.org.uk/

Adult Social Care socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk www.westsussexconnecttosupport.org