

TILGATE FORUM MEETING

Thursday 13 July 2017 7:30 - 9:15 Shackleton Road Community Centre

Chair: Richard Handy

The meeting was attended by 31 people in all; this number included WSCC Councillor Duncan Crow, CBC Councillor Carlos Castro and Nick Hagon, Manager of Tilgate Park.

1. Welcome and apologies

RH welcomed all. Apologies were received from John Dale, Jane Kirkham, Alan Gunn and Jean Elmer. DC above passed on apologies from Henry Smith MP and from Francis Guidera CBC Councillor. As usual the meeting was recorded to help with accuracy of the notes.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

There were no matters arising.

The minutes from the Forum meeting held on 18 May 2017 were accepted, and are on the Tilgate Community Forum website.

3. Recycling and Waste prevention – Rachel Carruthers WSCC

RC gave an update and news about this service and explained the process of recycling in the county.

As 32,000 tonnes of recycling in West Sussex is put in the wrong bins by residents, the “Think Before You Throw” campaign has been launched; consistently accurate recycling by residents could help save a significant amount of money that WSCC could spend on other services.

CBC has a statutory duty to collect rubbish whereas WSCC has the duty to dispose of it. To this end the County operates a state-of-the-art recycling facility near Ford. Tours can be taken of the facility and RC can help to organise this.

Advice was given and questions answered; for example, contrary to what members thought, those black plastic trays that ready meals are bought in *can* be recycled in West Sussex, but not the plastic film on the top. Coffee pods are non-recyclable as they fall through the machine and contaminate other items. A surprise - blister packs made of foil/plastic can be put whole into the recycling bin. More detail about what can be recycled, and where, can be found on the website for this service: <http://www.recycleforwestsussex.org/>

RC related that many other items can be recycled at a local Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRS) – e.g. shredded paper packed in to a cardboard box can be taken there (shredded paper also makes a good addition to compost heaps, helping to balance the mix.) Not everything is recyclable – e.g. Pyrex items melt at a different temperature to other glass and pose a Health and Safety risk to recycling workers, eg plastic bags cannot be sorted, so they are thrown out – whatever is in them.

RC reported that WSCC rate of recycling is increasing (there is only one landfill site left in West Sussex) and that new initiatives are under way: a contract to recover energy from non-recyclables by burning at a purpose-built plant is in progress. Members who want to keep abreast of news can sign up for a monthly email, and also check out Facebook.

Concerning Reduce, Recycle and Re-use, RC stated that currently WSCC does not sell items suitable for re-sale arriving at the HWRSs but is considering options. An alternative suggested by RC is to consider Freecycling where unwanted items are given away, and

membership is free. See <https://www.freecycle.org/>

4. Debt Problems – Norman Page from Christians against Poverty (CaP)

NP explained the service, of which there are two layers. Firstly, there is a service that offers a free course on training in budgeting skills, organised on a nationwide basis, which teaches people to look after their money and helps them to get a grip on their finances. Secondly there is the Debt Centre, for those who are in deep debt. This may include home visits with food parcels and negotiation with secondary creditors on your behalf. The most needy families are taken on holiday for five days each year, something that they could not begin to afford.

NP explained that CaP is a charity and that it receives no government funding, but can accept donations from interested people and also from those who have been through either the training or the debt support system.

In addition to the above there is recognition at CaP that addiction of one sort or another can lead to family debt. As a result, the CaP Release course has been set up for people with addictions in order to provide opportunities for them to develop the tools to help themselves. For this course, no financial information is required.

NP provided leaflets for members to take away and information can also be accessed on the website as follows: <https://capuk.org/> or phone 0800 328 0006.

5. Parking Committee - feedback from Sylvia Handy

SH reported back on the above, explaining that a brief for the group has been established, concerns have been discussed and that specific problem areas have been identified including: parking outside The Oaks School; congestion in Winchester Road, parking at K2 and the stadium; parking for visitors to Tilgate Park.

Participants queried whether the Community Wardens could spend time with them to look at the issues arising. Possible solutions have been aired – make some roads one way; grasscrete some areas to facilitate off-road parking. The next meeting will look at prioritising solutions and looking at a possible way forward. More people are welcome to contribute.

6. Updates from local councillors

CC – CC gave feedback on the Metrobus information system that advertises Whistler Close as the stop for Tilgate Park. The company is apparently awaiting new software to afford better accuracy as buses now continue into the park itself at weekends/Bank Holidays (as a pilot).

A new sign to Tilgate Park has been put in.

Anti-social behaviour – please contact the Community Wardens about this, not the Police.

Concerning the building next door to the Community Centre – this has been taken over by the Men's Shed organisation.

Charitable event for firefighters – 15.07.17 at 7pm in the High Street: The Black Tie Club has organised this and it includes a fire engine on show.

DC – DC reassured members that the leaflet received by many residents about a planned incinerator was not relevant locally, but referred to Warnham, near Horsham, some miles distant, and that despite the fact that his email address was on the leaflet he had nothing to do with the plan. In fact, the plan for the incinerator in Warnham has been withdrawn.

The Pease Pottage Stink – as before, this is an industrial site governed by the Environmental Health (EH) Department. Contact The EH office to make a complaint about it if necessary. This site is actually where St Catherine's Hospice is moving to (including a small, new housing estate) and it is possible that The Stink will cease longer term.

Unemptied Dog Waste Bins: these are not part of DC's remit but he will liaise with Francis

Guidera CBC Councillor, who has raised the issue with CBC already.

7. Sage Counselling: Sue Shropshire told us about this service which is for people with limited mobility. There is a small charge eg £10 for 6 sessions or £5 for fewer than 6.

8. Tilgate Park – update from manager Nick Hagon

As usual NH kindly gave us an update on what is happening in Tilgate Park.

19 and 20 July – wine, canapés and a tour at the Walled Garden as part of the National Garden Scheme.

Friends of Tilgate Park – next public meeting is planned for 6pm 25 July in the Barn.

NH has plans for involving local schoolchildren from The Oaks school in the Park.

Swan attack by a dog in the park – the swan has survived but options need to be discussed including that of dog owners maintaining control over their dogs in the park.

Delivery lorries to the park are still driving too fast. If members see a speeding lorry or van, please take the number plate and details from the side of the van and send to NH.

In response to a query, NH confirmed that the Remembrance Garden for the spreading of ashes is ready to go. Call him to discuss your needs.

9. Any Other Business

SH showed Nomination Forms for members of Tilgate Community Forum to take away.

Please help to keep the Forum running and consider joining the Committee; nominate someone else or ask someone to nominate you. The voting for Committee members will take place at the Annual General Meeting in September 2017 (see below – date of next meeting). The Forum needs more Committee members to keep going!

10. Announcements

- If you'd like to sew a square for the town's birthday, you can join the project to celebrate Crawley's diversity every Wed from 6-7 pm at DABCEC next to St. Francis School, Southgate. The finished quilt will be on show at Crawley Museum.
- Next Parking Committee 6pm Monday 31st July in Holy Trinity church foyer, Titmus Drive.
- Next Heather Garden working party 10am Wed 9th August, then Wed 13th Sept.
- Triangle working party (Local Nature Reserve on the Golf Course) Bramble-bashing 10:00 - 14:30 Friday 11th August
- Sew'n'Beads Craft Fair 12.00 – 16:00 Sat and Sun 19th-20th August

The **raffle** draw also took place. (Prizes were donated by members.)

11. Next meetings: RH thanked all for attending and reminded everyone of the next meeting dates:

Forum meeting/ Annual General Meeting: Thursday 14 September, at the Community Centre in Shackleton Road, 7.30-9.15pm, with soft drinks, tea, coffee and sandwiches.

For those members who would like to attend the next Committee Meeting, this is due to take place on **Thursday 10 August** at 6.30pm at the Community Centre above.

Contact details:

Tilgate Community Forum

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

For County Council services: <http://love.westsussex.gov.uk>

For recycling: <http://www.recycleforwestsussex.org/> and <https://www.freecycle.org/>
For help with debt: <https://capuk.org/> or phone 0800 328 0006.