

TILGATE FORUM MEETING Minutes

Thursday 15 March 2018 7:30 – 9:15 Shackleton Road Community Centre

Chair: Richard Handy

The meeting was attended by 41 people in all; this number included WSCC Councillor Duncan Crow, CBC Councillors Carlos Castro and Francis Guidera and CBC Development Officer John Dale.

1. Welcome and apologies

RH welcomed all. Apologies were received from Mavis Grech and Nick Hagon, Manager of Tilgate Park. As before the meeting was recorded.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

2.1 The story forms from Healthwatch were available for those wishing to report issues with local health services, and also copies of the briefing summarising our responses at the January meeting. If any member wishes to start a local Healthwatch group please get in touch with Forum Secretary Sylvia Handy tilgateforum@gmail.com for further details.

2.1 Update from the Men's Shed: they are now open on two days a week and are refurbishing a double decker bus which is parked temporarily outside the Shed.

The minutes from the Forum meeting held on 25 January 2018 were accepted and will be posted on the Tilgate Community Forum website.

3. Cybercrime – presentation from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Brian Aldred and John Wright MBE returned to the Forum to give members an update on cybercrime and online protection for your computer/phone. The sheer scale of the money involved in online fraud has ballooned to £193,000,000,000 which is more than the combined funding budget for NHW, the Police and the NHS.

Details of self-help websites to check if your email address has been offered for sale, to check your router, to prevent online advertisers from tracking you, a telephone number checker and a cyberware awareness site (www.cyberaware.gov.uk) were discussed and are in the handout for members to take away. In addition it was advised that seven specific points are considered, namely educate yourself, be mindful of what you do with personal data and your passwords, maintain a suitable firewall, install anti-virus software, keep computer software up to date, secure your home network and back up your digital life.

One important item to check is the security of your router as it is useless to have the computer secure if there is a possible access point via the router: JW likened this to leaving the back door of your home open. Also a video was shown to demonstrate exactly how quickly considerable personal detail can be stolen if Facebook settings are left open, from just a snippet of your personal information (a matter of seconds).

Other online risks were discussed, including clicking on “unsubscribe” on an email that is new to you, and also clicking on “decline” in the same situation (this is because “accept” and “decline” may have been swapped – the phishers are getting ever more subtle.) Telephone scams were also touched on and the advice here is “if it’s out of the blue, it’s not for you” – unsolicited cold calls are extremely suspect if you are encouraged or pressured into either giving personal data or buying something.

4. Tilgate Forum Parking Committee summary – SH and Jean Elmer

SH related the outcome of the meetings held over recent months. Three main issues emerged – there is simply insufficient parking in the Tilgate neighbourhood; the areas around schools are especially congested at peak times and compromise everyone’s safety and lastly Tilgate Park parking is inadequate on busy days and some local drivers routinely park on residential roads to avoid payment. Ideas and suggestions are contained in the Parking Committee report which will be added to the Forum website. The report has been shared with WSCC Councillor DC and has been forwarded to the Road Space Audit (RSA). Representatives of Tilgate residents are waiting for the invitation to have their say in the Audit process.

JE pointed to the suggestion of a roundabout on one particularly difficult bend near Desmond Anderson School – this has been forwarded by DC to West Sussex Highways Dept. It was confirmed that when the car park in Tilgate Park is full, people park anywhere and everywhere, often churning up many grass verges in the process. The on-going poor and damaged condition of the verges does not help the whole town’s reputation.

DC gave members feedback on the RSA, which is being undertaken not just to identify current issues but to ascertain possible future needs. Three priorities have been identified in the scoping document: – the need for town centre regeneration; parking in Manor Royal; residential parking in the neighbourhoods. DC said that Tilgate's parking is especially noted as problematic due to lack of space. There is no timescale for the Audit yet, but once the RSA is complete a report will be published.

A general discussion on parking took place and again members were advised to report to the Police any commercial vehicles parked obstructively or dangerously. The issue of garages came up again – and FG pointed out that use of upward space was an option to consider, such as parking decks accessible by a swipe card.

5. Updates from local Councillors and questions

5.1 CC – two issues have been followed up. Firstly the issue of food being thrown out for foxes next to the roadside in Salisbury Road appears to be unresolvable as there is no way of monitoring this. Secondly concerning the possibility of food waste bins – CC is still getting information on this.

CC also reported that his employer (a national bank) is running a “**Scam Avoiding School**” at the Civic Hall on Wednesday 21 March to test if people can detect scams, including whether an ATM is safe. Be at the Civic Hall for 9.30 – 9.45 and it should take about 45 minutes – everyone is welcome, wherever you bank.

5.2 FG – FG has received many texts about noise and disturbance at around 11.30pm in the main car park in Tilgate Park and has sent the information to Chris Harris and Karen Rham at the Town Hall – a response is awaited. One suggestion is to lock the car park after Smith and Western closes (Sainsbury's locked their car park after similar issues) although one member reported that the noise etc. often starts earlier in the evening. Currently CCTV has not been considered as an option.

5.3 DC – DC spoke of the Boundary Review. The number of councillors at Crawley Borough Council may be reduced to 36 (from 37) due to a new ruling from the Boundary Commission. There is a possibility that one of the options to manage this would split Tilgate Borough Ward into two (East Tilgate and West Tilgate) – and each be added to its neighbouring Ward (Furnace Green and Broadfield respectively). If you are concerned about this please contact the Boundary Commission before 9th April and state that you do not want this to happen, giving reasons. This was discussed and it was clear from a show of hands that all those members present were unanimously **not** in favour of splitting and thus fragmenting the Tilgate Ward. Several members voiced concern at the prospect of half a neighbourhood competing for attention and resources against an intact community, potentially losing out and losing a sense of community. An email to the Boundary Commission from the Forum might be very useful to express the views of the residents present tonight. For information go to: [Boundary consultation](#). To email individually: information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk before 9th April.

6. Update from Tilgate Park – news from JE on behalf of NH

Spring has almost sprung. Camellias are starting to flower despite the hard frost and snow; daffodils and crocus are getting into their stride; the spring snowflake (looks like a large snowdrop) is coming into flower so there is plenty to look for.

The new area of the Nature Centre, The Americas, is coming together and will be open on 7th April; new animals are arriving almost weekly. In addition to the 15 trees planted earlier in the season, more will be planted at the end of the month. Trees and shrubs will be planted in the Americas section, some of them recognisable, which shows the diversity of the plants we grow in this country. The Walled Garden is participating in the National Garden Scheme on the 23rd and 24th May, from 6.30 pm onwards, with guided tours around the Garden and part of the park. (Hopefully Rhododendrons and azaleas will be in flower.) Path resurfacing is taking place at the moment; areas involved are the east exit from the Walled Garden, the lake path, areas near Go Ape and the back of the depot.

Swan Update: the adult swans are still busy driving the juveniles off and also nesting too. There are signs around the main lake asking dog owners if they would have their dogs on a lead in this area only. It is recognised that most dog owners have their dogs under control, but with the incidents last year with wildlife and the concern caused to other park users, some action had to be taken. This is a request and asks people to have some common sense while walking around the park with their dog. Thanks to all the park users for their cooperation.

There will be some tree work taking place soon around the Rec Huts as a number of the trees in that area require remedial work. Inflatables will be up, weather permitting, in the

Walled Garden arena in due course and Wipe Out inflatables will be back too. This time Wipe Out will be based in the paddock, south of the walled garden. Tickets for the Wipe Out can be obtained via their web site.

Suggestions were made concerning areas specifically for dogs, such as a dog paddock where dogs can run free safely and wildlife can be protected and also a splash pond just for dogs. However, it is recognised that the bottom line is that the swans are kept safe.

7. Future events and activities

- *Peace Garden volunteers Saturday 24th March 10.30am
- *Heather Garden volunteers Wednesday 28th March 10.15am
(Meet at the Walled Garden in the park for both days.)
- * Litter-picking with the Beavers Tuesday 24th April 5.45pm
(Meet at Durham Close/Winchester Road junction)
- * Friends of Tilgate Park – the last meeting was cancelled due to severe weather and will be re-set as soon as possible.

8. A.O.B.

No items were raised.

9. Next Forum and Committee meetings

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

9.1 Committee meeting:

Thursday 12 April 2018 at the Community Centre in Shackleton Road, 6 – 7.30pm:
for those members who would like to attend the committee meeting, and also for those who might be interested in joining the committee.

9.2 Forum meetings:

Thursday 17 May 2018 at the Community Centre in Shackleton Road, 7.30 – 9.15pm
Thursday 12 July 2018, venue as above
Thursday 13 September 2018 – AGM, venue as above

Contact details:

Tilgate Community Forum

Email contact point: tilgateforum@gmail.com

Website: www.tilgateforum.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tilgateforum/>

To report potholes: <http://love.westsussex.gov.uk>

Neighbourhood Watch: enquiries@sussexnwfed.org.uk

For the **Crawley Boundary** consultation: [Boundary consultation](#)