

TILGATE FORUM MEETING Minutes

Thursday 17 May 2018 7:30 - 9:15 Shackleton Road Community Centre

Chair: Richard Handy

The meeting was attended by 44 people in all; this number included WSCC Councillor Duncan Crow, CBC Councillors Francis Guidera and Geraint Thomas (who is Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability), CBC Development Officer John Dale and Nick Hagon, Manager at Tilgate Park. Also in attendance were three visitors from Talk Broadfield, attending to see how the Forum operates.

1. Welcome and apologies RH welcomed all. Apologies were received from CBC Councillor Carlos Castro, Don Garner, Robert Edwards, Malcolm Fearnside, Carole and Roland Etherington, Jane Kirkham, Donna Smith, Peter Halata, Chris Cowell. Patch Team Leader Cliff Charman was also due to speak but had to cancel unavoidably. As previously, the meeting was recorded.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

2.1 RH reported that concerning the Boundary Review at 5.3 in the last minutes, there has as yet been no response to the Forum from the Boundaries Commission concerning the outcome. DC informed the meeting that the Commission is due to report draft recommendations on 05 June 2018.

2.2 The minutes from the Forum meeting held on 15 March 2018 were accepted and will be posted on the Tilgate Community Forum website.

3. Looking after Tilgate's green patches – Nick Hagon standing in for Cliff Charman

Given his history with CBC NH was able to sketch out the changes in the ways that green patches are looked after in the own. There has been a shake-up in how staff, machinery and equipment are organised and how they work in the management of green patches in Crawley to make this operation more efficient and effective. There are now 5 Patch Teams covering South, East, West, North and central Crawley – Tilgate is part of the South Patch. Existing and also new staff have been grouped together in multi-skill and multi-task teams e.g. staff who deal with litter, grass cutting and strimming are together in the same Team now. Alongside the Teams is a small tree work team based at the same location.

This year there has been an unavoidable delay in the first grass cut given the wet conditions – had it taken place in the first week of March as planned, ruts in the ground and ripped up grass would have been the result. GT above agreed with this. All the Patch Teams are working to remedy the situation. NH admitted that parking on grass verges does make grass cutting more difficult.

NH took questions and confirmed that there are different machines for grass cutting, so there should be no problem in dealing with the longer grass; the aim is 7 grass cuts per year; some areas are deliberately left uncut for wildflower meadows and due to bulbs. GT said that extra parking spaces may work short-term, but they are very costly and encourage more parking and damage long-term. NH said grass cutting has a higher priority than tending to shrub beds; staff who have pruned shrubs straight across may have done this for other reasons e.g. housing staff may have done this; staff who cut the shrubs have “a certain amount of knowledge” although may not have a formal horticultural qualification.

GT said that shrub beds are a priority for next few years, and there is to be a consultation on

them for residents – so look out for this.

A query about Gainsborough Road Playing Fields led to JD undertaking to get an update on the situation concerning the trees in cages and the car park et al.

NH also suggested that if any resident is interested in looking after a piece of shrubbery or a shrubbery bed, then please get in touch with CBC to discuss.

4. Healthwatch: health and social care in Tilgate - follow up with Katrina Broadhill Service Manager

KB returned to the Forum to re-emphasise this service and remind members that information is needed, as before, about the experiences that they have with their local services. To ensure that local people can join in, KB left a poster to go up in the Community Centre to encourage as many residents as possible to join the Big Health and Care Conversation on 14th June. (1 - 4pm at the Charis Centre.)

Update about a new service: “Pathfinder West Sussex for Mental Health and Wellbeing” which is an advice, information and signposting service.

KB recalled the issues raised by members last time she spoke in January 2018. Advice is to discuss with the pharmacist in the first instance if these are on-going; one member reported a good result after doing that. In addition, given some national confusion about who to consult about which health issues, there will be an imminent change in national advice, due to come out in April 2019.

Further issues reported during the meeting involved GP appointments for people who need to get to work - one Forum member had been unable to access the local surgery for his appointment at 8am (along with 20 others) as the front door was not opened until 8.15am. It is difficult to compare what happens in Tilgate with other areas as each GP surgery is a private business, with a contract, albeit on a national basis.

Extended hours should be a feature locally next year as all Commissioning Groups must offer this. It is also vital that patients are actually made aware of both extended hours and of precise opening times. One member reported that in one surgery that offers extended hours “no-one knows what the extended hours are and extended hours appointments are not routinely offered”.

KB also reported that some practices have capped their list of patients and will not take any more if they do not feel able to practise safely with additional patients. If this occurs, the advice is to contact NHS England. There is a shortage of GPs nationwide. Paramedics will be brought in to help.

One member reported that his doctor was part of a hub, where other surgeries can help with appointments.

FG highlighted a possible gap in local planning for extra housing as in his experience health services have never been taken into account when planning more housing.

Further forms were left for members to take away and complete.

Healthwatch West Sussex can be contacted with any relevant issues: tel. 0300 012 0122

website: <http://www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk/> (an online form can be completed)

facebook: @healthwatchwestsussex

twitter: @healthwatchws

postal address: Healthwatch West Sussex, Billingshurst Community Centre, Roman Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH149QW

5. Updates from local Councillors and questions

FG: RH introduced FG for his last attendance at Tilgate Community Forum. FG is leaving the UK with his family for a new life in the USA, after working hard for Tilgate during his time as a Councillor. Members expressed their thanks with much applause.

There was nothing specific to update, although FG is still working on residents' issues. Following a special mention for GT, FG wished Tilgate and Crawley the best for the future and RH wished him well on behalf of the Forum.

DC: Pavement re-surfacing: pavements in Scott Road, Cook Road, Livingstone Road, Garrick Walk and Bligh Walk will be done this year and DC will try to ensure that the pavements in Oates Walk, adjoining Scott Road, were also done in response to a member's further plea, given the high level of wheelchair traffic.

Road re-surfacing – one member has been trying to get agreement for Livingstone Road itself to be re-surfaced and a petition of residents was organised to this end. It appears that the threshold for funding was not reached by the scoring system used by WSCC – the road scored 366.5; every road has a score apparently. (There appears to be no indication of whether this is a high or low score though.) DC is aware of the issue but as yet has not received a copy of the WSCC response to the member, so will look into this.

[CC's Update submitted later: Investigating parking requests CC found costs roughly £30k per bay, and as WSCC takes most of tax money, even if CBC could action improvements, it just can't afford the cost. Grass verge cutting: as with neighbouring councils, wet conditions have made it a struggle to keep up. CC has also been looking at the food waste question.]

6. Update from Tilgate Park – NH

6.1 NH brought in specimens of the handkerchief tree, drimys and hawthorn in bloom for members and reported that the park is currently full of colour, especially the candelabra primulas in the Peace Garden.

6.2 Events in the park:

- 20 May 2018 Bark in the Park Spring Dog Show in the Walled Garden 10.00am – 5.00pm. Entry charge £1.
- 23 and 24 May 2018 National Garden Scheme Spring Open Evenings. 6.30pm – 9.30pm in the Walled Garden. Charge of £7 on the door (cash) each evening, most of which goes to charity. Wine, talk and tour.
- 29 May 2018 – Friends of Tilgate Park Meeting at 7.00pm in The Barn. Speaker from Warnham Nature Reserve in Horsham.
- 01 and 02 June 2018 Open Air Cinema (Luna Cinema) on the front lawn. The Greatest Showman & Pretty Woman being shown. For more information/cost see <https://thelunacinema.seetickets.com/event/the-luna-cinema-presents-the-greatest-showman/tilgate-park/1208155?pre=thelunacinema> for 01 June or <https://thelunacinema.seetickets.com/event/the-luna-cinema-presents-pretty-woman/tilgate-park-crawley/1208156> for 02 June. Otherwise call 01293 521168.
- 09 and 10 June 2018 EAT Food Fest 11am – 6pm both days. Tickets £6, children free. For more info and/or tickets go to <http://www.eatfoodfest.co.uk/tilgate.html> or call 07557 159965 (Root and Prosper).
- 23 and 24 June 2018 - Race for Life - 10k run and 5k run on 23rd from 11am and Pretty Muddy course on 24th with a staggered start from 10am onwards. Various prices to enrol. See <https://raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org/find-an-event> and search "Crawley" for more details or call 0203 4259350.

6.3 Antisocial behaviour in the main car park: A security firm was engaged to visit for a

number of nights in the last 2-3 weeks to manage this. Other measures to discourage nuisance noise/activities involve extending speed ramps in and around the car park and replacing/extending a lost barrier to make a smaller gap. NH has been in contact with the local Police about the situation and to let them know what is happening.

6.4 Heavy traffic to and from the park on the latest Bank Holiday (07 May): it was exceptionally busy on this weekend. There seem to be three distinct waves of people: early morning, lunch time and early evening. A review is to take place to look at how to reduce the impact of this for the locality. In answer to a query NH stated that local residents can have traffic cones back in order to place them on their driveways to discourage visitors from parking across them. Such a large number of visitors also led to overflowing litter bins.

7. Any Other Business and future events

7.1 Tracey Davis from The Oaks Primary School Road informed the members of fundraising events and other activities to which the local community is invited as follows:

08 June - Comedy Night, 7.30pm for 8pm start. Entry £7. Bring your own drinks, snacks (and rubbish bags to fill up with your bits and take home would be good too).

23 June – Clean-Up day from 10am–12 pm. Help clean up the school grounds.

30 June – Summer Fair 12pm – 3pm

Also: a small select group of pupils will join the Heather Garden work party in Tilgate Park

7.2 Peace Garden volunteers Saturday 26th May at 10.30am

Heather Garden volunteers Wednesday 23rd May at 10am

(Meet at the Walled Garden Tilgate Park for both gardens.)

7.3 Data Protection GDPR 2018 – in line with the imminent additional legislation concerning data protection, RH informed members that the Forum plans to continue emailing members the minutes of meetings and information about local events unless they do not wish this. If a Forum member does not want to receive any emails from Tilgate Community Forum after 25 May 2018, please let the Secretary know – see contact details below. Members who have not attended for 12 Forum meetings will have their details taken off the Forum database and email list.

7.4 The Assistant Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer will be stepping down from her role at the AGM in September 2018. This is an essential role in the Forum and needs a replacement. Please have a think about who might be interested in supporting the Forum in this role – perhaps it is you!

7.5 At the next meeting we hope to have a speaker from Thomas Bennett and The Kemnal Academy Trust (TKAT) to speak about the cuts planned there by TKAT for later this year.

8. Raffle and Future Forum Meetings

Many thanks for the donation of a large cake brought for the raffle by TD above (won, with much laughter, by FG). RH thanked all for attending and gave future meeting dates.

8.1 Committee meeting:

Thursday 14 June 2018 at the Community Centre in Shackleton Road, 6 – 7.30pm for those members who would like to attend, and for those who are interested in joining the committee.

8.2 Forum Meetings:

Thursday 12 July 2018 at the Community Centre in Shackleton Road, 7.30 – 9.15pm

Thursday 13 September 2018 - AGM, venue and time as above

Thursday 22 November 2018 - venue and time as above

Contact details:

Tilgate Community Forum: Email contact point: tilgateforum@gmail.com

Website: www.tilgateforum.co.uk Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tilgateforum/>

Healthwatch West Sussex www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk