

TILGATE FORUM MEETING

22nd November 2018 7.30pm Tilgate Community Centre.

Minutes

The meeting was attended by 41 people in all; this number included WSCC Councillor Duncan Crow, CBC Councillors Carlos Castro & Francis Guidera, and Nick Hagon, Manager at Tilgate Park.

1. **Welcome** and apologies – The Chair, Richard Handy, welcomed all. Apologies were received from CBC Development Officer John Dale and Jim Leggett. As previously, the meeting was recorded.

2. **Minutes** of previous meeting and Matters Arising.

The roles chosen for the new Steering Committee were announced, and postholders were pointed out. The minutes from the meeting held on 13th September 2018 were accepted.

3. **Nick Bell**, Director of Capital Appeal at St Catherine's Hospice gave an in-depth talk on the current situation of the hospice. The hospice vision is of a world where everyone can face death informed, supported, and pain free.

Staff and 1000 volunteers help deliver services including counselling and therapies and support for carers too. Patients may be suffering from illnesses such as Motor Neurone Disease, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease or cancer. St. Catherine's has far outgrown the need in the 35 years it has been there, and the buildings are no longer fit for purpose. Currently it only has eighteen beds for in-patients and one family room. However, the bulk of the care is given in people's homes. It is the only hospice serving Crawley, but its catchment area includes 6 Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Only one third of those who could benefit from end-of-life care, are currently receiving it at St. Catherine's.

A few years ago they had a legacy of £6m and a donation of 5 acres of land, and this has enabled the planning of a new St Catherine's at Pease Pottage. To start there will be 24 in-patient rooms with en-suite and in time 48, a bigger day hospice, dedicated counselling rooms and improved family space. The site will also have around 615 new homes, a primary school and community centre. Ground breaking will commence either late 2019 or early 2020.

An appeal for £5 million is needed to fund the new hospice. Various fund-raising events such as the Dragon Boats on Tilgate Lake were mentioned.

The future of the Malthouse Road site is not yet decided.

Following questions from the floor - a bus route would be in place from the town centre, and a small convenience shop would be included.

4. **Cliff Charman and Christian Threader** from Crawley Borough Council's South Patch Team explained that the team covers Tilgate, Southgate, Furnace Green and the A23, looking after shrubberies, grass verges and K2. Their work also covers fly-tipping and unsocial behaviour. The 13 members of staff have tried to keep the grass under control in Tilgate, despite the abnormal adverse weather this year which produced warm, wet conditions. It is hoped things will improve, and indeed they have managed 6 cuts this

year. Tilgate Parade has been re-planted with Sarcococca, a fragrant winter-flowering plant, replacing the Hebe.

Questions from the floor:

- Cars parking on greens; there is no law against this and the team has no authority. But they can leave stickers on the offending cars.
- A request for the dog bins to be emptied more frequently: this will be passed on.
- Request to keep the paths clear of leaves: they will be clearing leaves now that the cutting season is over.
- Also a request to cut back verges encroaching on cycle paths: this will be done next year with a new machine.
- A Salisbury Road lamppost and Tilgate Place were pointed out as in need of attention.
- One resident asked if the Council could increase the manpower to get a good job done.

5. Nick Hagon - Manager at Tilgate Park. Update on Tilgate Park

NH said how successful the 11th November Armistice event had been.

Cars are parking on the grass and this is creating more work. Some of the Park's lights have been failing. The leaves are contracted to fall by the end of the year, and these add nutrients to the ground.

Bulb planting in the next few weeks – just ask if you would like to join in.

CBC is running Christmas events in the Park for the first time, with the Magical Christmas starting on Friday 30th November. (It is necessary to book to see Father Christmas - most Saturday & Sunday dates are full but there are a few gaps for Fridays.)

Speed bumps are now in place in the car park to deter anti-social behaviour.

NH demonstrated that life and colour are still in the Park with several types of shrubs.

Request from the floor for labels on trees: NH is planning these.

Any news on the vandalism of the chain sawed tree? none forthcoming even though a photograph had been shown in the newspaper.

6. Updates from Councillors.

CC thanked NH and his team for the magnificent work they do in the Park even though they are so undermanned.

He is trying to get the Crawley Observer to publish the events going on in Crawley by the end of the month previous not afterwards.

He realises that although CBC have everything on their website it is not widely used.

He then went on to the subject dear to his heart - Food Waste, plastic bottles and drinking fountains in the town and what we can do.

CC then introduced Denise Rowley from West Sussex County Council who works to avoid food waste. She explained that food in rubbish was not going into landfill. It goes to the Anaerobic Digester, and the resulting product goes as topsoil to a site in Warnham.

FG reported on the meeting at The Barn regarding the anti-social behaviour in the Park's car park. [This meeting was led by Council officers and has been followed by action.]

There is now a timer which turns off the car park lights at midnight and this has proved to reduce the disturbance but not totally. More speed bumps have been installed, and the next step is closing off part of the car park at night.

The follow-up meeting is Thursday 13th December at 6.30 pm in The Barn.

FG was very pleased to announce that a huge overgrown area at the back of Boswell Road had been cleared and congratulated the team that did the work.

DC told us the Pothole season is upon us. He requested that if we find any potholes to e-mail him or report to lovewestsussex. The Government is giving West Sussex £6.1m for

resurfacing the County roads. Following questions: how will this be allocated across the county? DC replied wherever it is most needed.

Flooding at the bottom of Titmus Drive and the Parade car park which was flooded for two or three days was queried. Probably a blocked drain.

Open House – will it be funded? DC said probably the Council will put some money in with various charities.

7. Future events: Don Garner asked members what they would like in the way of social events eg Race night, fish and chip supper night, Quiz night, bingo.
Bring any ideas for a social event to the next meeting in January.

8. Raffle was drawn, and prizes included squashes donated by the Walled Garden.
Meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

Next Forum meeting 24th January 2019.

Dates for the diary:

Volunteer gardening: Heather Garden Wednesday 28th November and Wednesday 12th December at 10 am; Peace Garden Saturday 8th and 22nd December 10.30 am.

Magical Christmas at Tilgate Park: from Friday 30th November (see tilgateparkchristmas.co.uk)

Contacts:

St. Catherine's Hospice: www.stch.org.uk

Potholes etc. love.westsussex.gov.uk or duncan.crow@westsussex.gov.uk

www.tilgateforum.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.co./tilgateforum>

email: tilgateforum@gmail.com