

Tilgate Community Forum AGM

Thursday 19th September 2019, 19:30 Tilgate Community Centre

1. Welcome and Apologies. Richard Handy as Acting Chair welcomed everyone and gave apologies from John Dale, Nick Hagon, Jennie Withall, Brenda Young, Ignatius Fernandes, Henry Smith. [Both John Dale and Nick Hagon were stood down by Crawley Borough Council because of the pending by-election in Tilgate.] 38 people attended.

2. Minutes of July meeting accepted as correct, no matters arising.

3. **Annual report** on speakers & activities over the year given by RH. Topics covered included Crawley's history, Nature conservation, Modern slavery, Tai Chi and St. Catherine's Hospice. We have also had a quiz night with supper, helped with the gardens in Tilgate Park, and planted daffodils outside the Men's Shed.

Committee members' activities were listed. RH also congratulated Lindsay & Liam on the birth of their second son and new home in Forge Wood. Lindsay is stepping down from the Committee.

Financial report: £520.07 in the bank at the start of the financial year (September 2018). Income £122.70 from the raffle. Expenditure £256, including £127.12 for insurance, refreshments and stationery and £128.88 for website. This leaves £366.77 in the bank, and £20 in petty cash.

4. Election of Steering Committee members

In the absence of John Dale, David Withall agreed to chair the election of the Steering Committee.

Nominations received -

NAMES	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
Betty Atkins	Richard Handy	Mick Atkins
Alan Drummond	Sylvia Handy	Lindsay Thompson
Jean Elmer	Sylvia Handy	Sue Shropshire
Don Garner	Richard Handy	Ron Spraget
Sylvia Handy	Jean Elmer	Jean Parsons
Richard Handy	Jean Elmer	Sue Shropshire
Jim Leggett	Sylvia Handy	Jean Parsons
Liam Richmond	Sylvia Handy	Sue Welch

5. RH returned to chair the rest of the meeting. He requested members to complete the survey form to help the committee plan the future events.

6. Nev Feist, of **Gatwick Aviation Museum**, gave an entertaining and lively account of his experience as a navigator on the Shackleton aircraft.

7. **Update from Tilgate Park.** Jean Elmer read the report from Nick Hagon in his absence. He mentioned the ongoing tree work, Bollywood filming, and the news that swans have returned to the lake.

8. Councillors' updates

Cllr. Duncan Crow spoke of the mink disappearing from the lake as traps put down had turned up empty. The Oaks School Ofsted inspection still rated it a "good" school. Hawkins Road - damage to pavements has been repaired and potholes will be filled shortly.

Cllr. Francis Guidera - mentioned the loss of Cllr. Petts. FG is covering for his seat. He told us Kate Wilson is our new Head of Community Services. She has a long involvement in Crawley. FG had arranged a meeting with her at Tilgate shopping parade, where quite incidentally the aroma of marijuana drifted around, and this was noted. He requested a patrol of two PSCOs twice daily and the situation along the parade had improved. It was then reduced to one and he wants this to be later in the evening. He was asked about CCTV and said the large camera did not work. Petty theft from cars is everywhere, and thieves can now use electronics to open car doors.

The car park in Tilgate Park has metal flaps being installed to prevent cars entering the car park late in the evenings. A member asked for extra parking signs for overflow parking when there are big events in the Park.

9. RH gave the names of all candidates standing in the forthcoming by-election including the two who were attending the meeting. No party political statements were allowed in the meeting.

10. Raffle drawn - winning tickets 138, 139 & 135.

11. Any other business:

a) Cliff Charman from the South Patch team said that they would be in Tilgate the next week, and they are working to improve the footpath at Cheals roundabout, and the clearing of the gutters along Weald Drive.

b) Donations to Open House mentioned by Ron Spraget can be brought to the November meeting (eg. tins or packets of dried food). Ron Spraget warned members about the car park problem at the Red Lion Handcross. The computer where you record your car registration does not give clear instructions about filling in information. (The NEXT button is not obvious.)

c) **Wild flower patch:** Don Garner asked for members to help with preparing a wild flower patch in Durham Close. He is liaising with the South Patch team, and a date for this will be decided. [Please let the Secretary know if you can help.]

Dates for the diary:

Volunteers for Tilgate Park Peace Garden: 2nd and 4th Saturday each month 10.30 am (next is 28 Sep)

Volunteers for Tilgate Park Heather Garden: 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month 10 am (next is 25 Sep). Meet behind Walled Garden cafe for both gardens

Next Forum meeting **Thursday 14th November** 19.30 - Speakers:

Stuart Smith, Head of Thomas Bennett Community College

Dianne Dodsworth, Waste and recycling adviser.

Contacts: Gatwick Aviation Museum <https://gatwick-aviation-museum.co.uk>

Tilgate Forum www.tilgateforum.co.uk <https://facebook.com/tilgateforum>