

Tilgate Community Forum Minutes
Thursday 3rd February 2022

Welcome from the Chair, Richard Handy, and apologies from Cllr. Michelle Morris, Jennie Withall, Yvonne Seetayah, Eileen Towes, Barbara Bennett. The meeting was recorded to help with the minutes.

Minutes of November meeting were agreed. Trees for Tilgate Park from the Forum: see Park update below. A possible daytime Forum meeting was proposed following the survey last September and members' preferences were requested for a coffee morning or afternoon tea. There could be books or videos swapped. The most popular meeting time was Wednesday morning, and a coffee morning was preferred to afternoon tea. A venue will be investigated.

Katrina Broadhill, from Healthwatch, which is an independent champion of health and social care, asked residents what they have experienced. This will be part of a national survey, with anonymised responses. The pandemic has been a very busy time, and it has highlighted inequalities. It is time to look at making services equal for all.

Katrina told us that Sussex commissioners are looking at Crawley hospital, and checking that it's fit for the next 10 years. She said an Advice Hub would be good.

Resident: Blood pressure should be checked free of charge by a chemist. (She has had to pay.)

Resident: Prostate check is difficult to get, but should be routinely checked. It is hard to get past the front line of the surgery.

Katrina said that the pandemic has hastened some technology which was in the pipeline. There has been a massive vaccination programme, but G.P.s have had to put aside health checks to prioritise the vaccinations. She said that vaccination capacity at present was greater than demand – but that there has been a high vaccination uptake in Sussex.

What do we want from our hospital? The vaccination buses visiting local areas have been successful – could they do more eg run simple tests?

Resident: we need to get other problems dealt with, now Covid is under control.

The NHS has a huge backlog, and we need to know where we are on the waiting lists. Could private hospitals help? Recovery is planned for March.

Cancer treatment has continued through the winter – it has not stopped.

A resident pointed out the waste of temporary hospitals which were not used.

Crawley hospital was very busy, with an A & E etc. but was then downgraded. Cllr. Mwangi said that the Pharmacy has now gone from the hospital.

A resident pointed out the growth in population, and newly built areas meaning increased demand for hospital care. A new hospital should be considered.

Katrina asked us what we need, and to make our voices heard.

Katrina has sent contact details for *Non-emergency patient transport service*:

<https://www.scas.nhs.uk/our-services/non-emergency-patient-transport-service/sussex-nepts/>

Who is eligible for nepts?

The NEPTS service is only available to eligible patients. You are considered eligible if:

·Your medical condition is such that you require the skills and support of NEPTS staff during or after your journey, and/or it would be detrimental to your condition or recovery to travel by other means. Or:

·Your medical condition affects your mobility to such an extent that you would be unable to access healthcare and/or it would be detrimental to your condition or recovery to travel by other means.

·You may also travel if you are the recognised parent or guardian of a child being transported by NEPTS.

You are not eligible if:

·You are attending a primary care service, such as a routine GP or health centre appointment

·You are not an NHS patient

·You require transport outside England, Scotland and Wales

See [here](#) for Community transport information from W. Sussex.

Access to doctors' surgery: Katrina has re-opened the survey for Tilgate Forum: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TilgateForumAccesstoDoctorsSurgery/>

Information and advice is available from Healthwatch:



healthwatch
West Sussex

Just ask...

We listen to your experiences, provide advice and information, and connect you to organisations that can help.

Your health and social care consumer champion

Call our information line Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm (except Bank Holidays)
0300 012 0122.

Leave your feedback online at our Feedback Centre. You'll help us improve local services.

Visit: www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk or email helpdesk@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk

Tilgate Park Update from Sabrina Gant:

Nick's trees are in, and a date will be made with us for planting. (Christian Threader is dealing.)

Sam Gaule, Head Gardener, is leaving this month, and will have to be replaced.

The new woven fence to protect the borrow pit conservation area is good. It is not finished yet.

Dogs off-lead: consultation is planned which may cover larger area, following an off-lead dog's attack on another dog which was on a lead.

The zoo/nature centre was inspected in January, and ~~so now it is licensed~~. [Correction: the zoo/Nature Centre in Tilgate Park was **re-licensed** following inspection, not licensed for the first time.]

Question on avian flu: Sabrina told us not a lot could be done, but tarpaulins were used over some aviaries as protection. There are also foot dips at the entrance to the zoo. She advised that wild birds shouldn't be touched if we find them.

Question asking if there was still a problem with mink: Sabrina said not since last year.

Diet and health notes from Richard Handy. (See attached handout.) Richard said that he began to question the health and diet advice which we are generally given, and he shared the findings from books which he has read. (He reminded us that tobacco was accepted by medical professionals for many years, before they acknowledged the dangers of smoking.) These books recommend a low carb, high fat diet, and say that cholesterol is actually good for us.

Some residents expressed scepticism and queried the relevance of this talk. Richard asked that residents do not take his word for it, but do check out some of the books for themselves.

[Henry Smith M.P. was unavailable to give his update]

Councillors' Updates

- ◆ Cllr. Duncan Crow told us about the proposed *Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points* in community spaces. West Sussex wants our views on where they should go. They will probably start in car parks. There will be a map of these charge points. One resident said that the current cables are not up to it, if charge points are on the residential streets for a number of cars. Another resident saw a problem with a roadside charge point parking space, if it was parked on by a non-electric vehicle, or if an EV was parked there overnight. A charge point in the B.P. garage was suggested. Residents can state their preferences online. See: <https://www.connectedkerb.com/west-sussex-chargepoint-network>
- ◆ There was a question on the new Highway Code, which is in force, but not yet published. Duncan advised that it was online.
- ◆ A resident requested that new lines be painted in the Parade car park.
- ◆ A resident asked what was happening in the town centre. Duncan advised searching West Sussex County Council online for *Eastern Gateway*. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roadworks-and-projects/road-projects/the-eastern-gateway-scheme/>
- ◆ A resident who was injured on an uneven pavement in Boswell road was told that $\frac{3}{4}$ " [change of level] was the "intervention level"; this should be reported and repaired.
- ◆ Cllr. Maureen Mwangale reported that car dealers and a beggar on the Parade had been dealt with. Also that truck damage in Hawkins road will be repaired.

The Raffle was drawn, and prizes won.

Future dates:

- ◆ Next Tilgate Forum meeting Thursday 31st March 7.30 pm
- ◆ County Local Committee open to all Thursday 3rd March, Crawley Library 7pm (to find out about the work of West Sussex County Council)
- ◆ Volunteer gardening Heather Garden, Tilgate Park, every Wednesday morning from 10 am. Bring gloves and a drink.
- ◆ Volunteer gardening Peace Garden, Tilgate Park, every Saturday morning from 10 am. Wear boots, gloves and warm clothes, and bring a drink.
- ◆ Litter pick, Tilgate Park, first Sunday of the month from 10 am. Meet at Walled Garden.

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www.tilgateforum.co.uk