

Minutes of the Romsey Forum 16th March 2005

Attendance: 38 residents including Madalene Winter, Steve Lees, Chris Amery, Henry Maddick, Elizabeth Porter, Anthony Porter, Alan Wiltshire, Marjorie Exall, Diane Hargreaves, Ian Bullivant, Jan Gray, Mike Gray, Geoff Morris, Kate Clark, Sally Leach, John Mason, David Pugh, Sarah Pugh, Mike Arney, Julian Jones, Jill Gethin, Phil Banks, Frank Akerman, David Bibby, Mary Akerman, Carolyn Nixon, Sue Hough, Paul Gardner, Pete Moody, Pat Watkinson, Tessa Parker, John Parker, M.L. Ryder, Hal Sanchez, Tom Gould, Brian Palmer, Julian Gee.

Chairman: Phoebe Merrick Clerk to the Meeting: Mark Cooper.

Item 1 Apologies: Brenda Langton, Neill Beasley, Jill Roberts, Anthony de Sigley, Sarah De Sigley, Sandra Gidley M.P., Caroline Nokes, Euan Russell, Denise Amery.

Item 2 Minutes of the Romsey Forum 8th December 2004. Approved and signed as a correct record.

Item 3 Matters Arising: (a) British Legion Building. It was reported to the Forum that the new building had a significant number of problems and that the matter had gone to the High Court.
(b) Look at Romsey:- "Old Town" and "New Town" questionnaires wanted in please.

Item 4 A presentation was given by Mrs Madalene Winter, Head of Planning at TVBC relating to the South East Plan consultation. She gave a Powerpoint presentation outlining the reason for the plan and the plan options. (appended to these Minutes in Forum Minute Book).

Guildford based SEERA encompassed 74 local authorities. TVBC only had one representative. Housing growth numbers were estimated on the basis of a 3% p.a. economic growth rate producing a demand for 32,000 more homes p.a. in the South East Region. The South East Plan included Sub-regional Strategies. Planning in Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) was our local sub-region and included Romsey and southern Test Valley. PUSH estimate for housing requirement 2006-2026 was 79,000 (3,950 p.a.) at 3% economic growth rate and 400 additional hectares of employment land. This is the lower estimate. Between 47,000 and 56,000 houses would be on committed or brownfield sites and 23,000 to 32,000 on greenfield allocations. This would have a major impact on southern Test Valley where PUSH could be seeking 7,500 houses up to 2026. TVBC's position was that the PUSH targets could not be achieved because of infrastructure and transport constraints and TVBC was opposed to a Special Development Area (SDA) in southern Test Valley.

A number of detailed questions followed.

Item 5 Peter Armstrong of Test Valley Borough Council gave a presentation on the Friends of Romsey War Memorial Park and on the Botley Road cemetery.

Item 6 Dates of future Forums:- 8th June 2005, 7th September 2005, 30th November 2005.

Item 7 Any other business

(a) Romsey Brewery Site. Mark Cooper gave list of the pros and cons of the latest Planning application. Chris Amery reported that the RDS was minded to broadly support the application this time.

(b) Future topics. September meeting; Fishlake Meadows housing application. Review of Romsey Conservation Area (Anne-Marie Lomax). November meeting:- Inspectors Report on the Borough Local Plan, South East Plan update.

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