

Minutes of Romsey Forum

21st June 2006 held at

Romsey Town Hall

Present:- Denise Amery, Steve Lees, Phil Sands, Rod Simpson, Mike Richardson, Julian Jones, Euan Russell, Helen Murray, Christine Watkins, Mary Hill, Jean Brent, Ernest Brent, Ron Dowling, Mark Viney, Brian Palmer, Shirley Rogers, David Barker, Sandra Smith, Phoebe Merrick, John Parker, Tessa Parker, Jane Weller, Marjorie Exall, Mary Ackerman, Mark Cooper (arriving late)

In the Chair: Jill Gethin. **Minutes:** Carolyn Nixon.

Item 1: Apologies:

Sandra Gidley M.P. Sarah de Sigley, Anthony de Sigley, Frank Ackerman, P Phillips, Roy Perry, Ian Bullivant, Michael Hedderley, Anthony Porter, Elizabeth Porter, Gill Roberts, Hal Sanchez, Jennie Polyblank, Karen Dunleavy, Tom Gould

Item 2: Minutes of the Romsey Forum 15th March 2006

These had been circulated electronically and in hard copy at the meeting. Mr D Barker asked that his name be added to the list of attendees. With this amendment, the Minutes were approved.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising

Item 4: Romsey Charter 2007

Cllr Julian Jones gave an update on the plans for the charter celebrations and distributed a list of the activities planned so far. A specially commissioned calendar, with pictures by locally based artists, Rex Trayhorne and Rob Johnson, would be available for purchase shortly, priced £10.

As the actual Charter Day falls on Good Friday, the celebrations are to be launched during the half term holiday in March, with the planting of a mulberry tree in the Memorial Park. 2 further mulberries will be planted later in the year, to commemorate a similar planting by King James 1st. A Town Crier for the year will be selected at the Mayor's Picnic on 2 July '06.

Cllr Jones emphasised that many events had been planned with the intention of involving Romsey children, both at school and during their holidays. Events will be held in the Memorial Park throughout the summer and the bandstand is already almost fully booked. All events will be detailed in the *Romsey Advertiser* and on the Charter Day website (www.hantsweb.gov.uk/romseytowncouncil/charter.html)

.Item 5:- Romsey Community Improvement Partnership

Jan Lefley, the Community Education Manager at Romsey Community School, explained that the newly created Partnership involved all the various agencies working with children and young people in the area. Romsey School had taken this initiative in response to the concerns voiced recently about the behaviour of a minority of young people in the town. By working together, the Partnership was looking at ways of combating the disaffection of some youngsters while providing more opportunities for leisure activities for all young people in the town. A programme of activities, including film nights at Romsey School, pool parties and arts and craft classes at the Rapids and SNAP discos with the police had already been planned for the summer months. A conference involving the Youth Council and other young people would be held in October, to plan future events.

The school was running a pilot programme aimed at young people who truant and staff would be keeping in touch with them through the holidays. At the same time evening sessions on positive

parenting were being held at the Abbey Hotel. Students in school were also being taught how to relate to disaffected pupils, while an application on behalf of the Partnership was going to the lottery for funding to employ a 'detached neighbourhood worker'.

In answer to questions, Jan Lefley spoke of the enterprise and citizenship classes held at the school and also explained about the alternate syllabus offered for those who did not wish to study languages. She pointed out that, on average, ten students in Year 11 were lost to schools each year. It was the aim of the Partnership to reduce that number to five.

Item 6:- Progress Report on *Look at Romsey* –

Phoebe Merrick reported that five of the area statements had been completed, Upper Cupernham and Winchester Hill was with TVBC for comment and the remainder were at the public consultation stage. A professional designer had offered his services to work on the final document but this could not be prepared until after TVBC Planning Dept had carried out a sustainability appraisal and consulted with the Council's stakeholders. It had been agreed that Romsey & District Society would hold a launch party for all those who had volunteered their services for this lengthy and detailed project.

Item 7 – The Waterways of Romsey

Phoebe Merrick then gave a slide presentation on Romsey waterways. This study had been prompted by the comments received from residents during the Look at Romsey project. It had become clear how much Romsey people appreciated the many waterways on which the town has been built and she had therefore prepared an illustrated pamphlet for the Lower Test Valley Archaeological Society (LTVAS). The slides were evidence of the many interesting walks which were available in and around the town. In her presentation, Phoebe made reference to areas where she thought improvements could be made on the various streams and the canal, particularly with regard to signage. She also referred to the promised upgrade of the footpath along the Tadburn Lake and hoped too that improvements could be made to the entrance to the Barge Canal by the Plaza Theatre. She recommended that people visit an exhibition on the waterways which would be held in the Parish Rooms during the Water Festival on August 19th.

Item 8:- Any other business:-

Improvements to Dukes Mill area: Cllr Cooper stated that planning consent had now lapsed and that it was up to the owner of the buildings to re-apply.

Planning notices: In answer to a complaint about notice of planning applications being displayed for many months, Cllr Cooper agreed to remind TVBC that their notices should be removed once they were out of date. However, he could not answer for owners of private property who failed to remove them.

Maintenance of flower baskets, tubs and brackets: Cllr Cooper agreed to pursue the matter with TVBC. *In response to his enquiry the following day, Mark Cooper was informed that the planters would be inspected as soon as possible by the contractor and that the brackets would be painted at the end of the season if it was thought necessary.*

90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme: An exhibition would be held in the Town Hall on 1st July,

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Romsey Forum – meeting dates for 2006.

All meetings are at the Town Hall and start at 7.30pm

20 September

22 November (*originally 27th but now changed*)