

Minutes of the Romsey Forum

15 March 2006 Romsey Town Hall

Attendance: Chris Amery, Denise Amery, David Bibby, Mark Cooper, Catherine Cox, Michael Cox, Marjorie Exall, Tom Gould, Jan Gray, Mike Gray, Mary Hill, Julian Jones, Phoebe Merrick, Barbara Milburn, Geoff Morris, Helen Murray, Brian Palmer, Tessa Parker, Mike Richardson, Gill Roberts, Shirley Rogers, Brian Welti, Laurie Welti.

Charles Benson, David Hough, Simon North, Tony Wall, Evan Russell *Broadlands Game Fair*
Phil Easton, Laura Taylor, *TVBC Refuse Collection*, Christine Cole *TCM*

In the Chair: Jill Gethin

Clerk to the Forum: Sandra Smith

1) Apologies

Frank Akerman, Neil Beasley, Ian Bullivant, Karen Dunleavy Sandra Gidley, Michael Hedderley, John Mason, Peter Phillips, Jennie Polybank, Nigel Richardson, Councillor Simpson.

2) Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted

3) Matters Arising – none

4) Election of Vice Chairman

J Gethin noted that following the last meeting Julian Jones had volunteered to stand for the post of Vice Chairman. Proposed by M Richardson, Seconded by G Morris, the meeting approved.

5) Election of Secretary

J Gethin noted that following the last meeting Carolyn Nixson and Sandra Smith had volunteered to share the post of Secretary. Proposed by M Cooper, seconded by D Barker, the meeting approved.

6) Broadlands Game Fair (28-30 July 2006)

An overview of the Game Fair was given by David Hough. The fair was first in Romsey in 1984 and last here in 2002. The fair is a very large event bringing both benefits and challenges to the area. Although it brings business to the local economy, in 2002 it also brought major traffic problems, particularly on the A 3057. Tony Wall gave an in depth explanation of the plans for traffic management. Around 25000 cars are expected in a three hour period. There would be 6 car parks and 6 entrances. Traffic from all over the country would be directed to Broadlands by different routes. To avoid problems in the town centre from those entering the town from the north traffic will be routed via Cupernham lane and a system of linked traffic lights will be used.

7) Fortnightly Refuse Collection

Philip Easton gave a presentation on the ABC project – Alternate Bin Collection. The reasons for the change included high cost, low performance level and low rate of recycling. The new system, which is operated by more than 100 councils, was the only option that could achieve 30% recycling rates. Help would be available for the disabled or elderly and there was a choice of bin sizes. Households would be encouraged to take more responsibility for their own waste. The capital cost of the change will be over £3 million with revenue costs of around £347,000. Expected savings would be around £700,000.

Trials of the system were being held on two rounds, one urban and one rural. Concerns have been expressed about smells (and flies and maggots due to waste being stored for longer) and whether the size of bins would be adequate. In the trial areas there has been a high level of understanding of information about dates and contents. Recycling participation previously 65% has gone up to 90%. Questions were largely concerned with more general recycling issues and included loss of recycling sites, recycling batteries and what can be recycled by the council.

8) Healthcheck for Market Towns

Christine Cole gave information about the progress of the healthcheck. In the initial stage four working groups had had completed four workbooks giving an overview of the following aspects of the town.

Environment

Social and Community

Transport and Accessibility

Work and the Economy

There are 32 market towns in Hampshire but not all were seeking funding. £1.2 million was available as Grants from SEDA for projects that would develop the market town. These would require 50% match funding. Romsey's participation started in Oct 2004 and has been renamed "Romsey 2020, a partnership for the Future" The group is chaired by Jill Gethin and is preparing a vision for the next 20 years using evidence collected by the working groups.

9) Any Other Business

Hampshire Water Festival would take place in Romsey 19th August. Questions were raised about parking and sites for caravans.

Suggestions were requested for topics of interest for future meetings.

Councillor Cooper offered to brief the Forum on the white paper on reform of local government

Meeting closed 9.15pm.

<p>Romsey Forum – meeting dates for 2006. All meetings are at the Town Hall and start at 7.30pm</p>		
21 June	20 September	29 November