

Minutes of Romsey Forum

31st March 2010 held at Romsey Town Hall

Present: David N Barker, Diane Hargreaves, Robert Grime, Richard Jordan-Baker (Broadlands), Julian Jones, Cllr Mark Cooper, Geoff Morris, John Blackmore, Cllr Roy Perry.

Speakers:, Behrooz Vaezi (assisted by Sheila Clark), Steve Lees.

In the Chair: John Parker. **Minutes:** Carolyn Nixon.

Item 1: Apologies:- Sandra Smith, Cllr Sally Leach, Cllr Caroline Nokes, Sandra Gidley MP, Cllr Ian Hibberd (Mayor of Test Valley), Ian Bullivant, Brian Stokes.

Item 2: Minutes of the Romsey Forum 18th November 2009

These had been circulated electronically and in hard copy at the meeting. Agreed as an accurate record.

Item 3: Matters Arising. None

Item 4: Behrooz Vaezi, Area Director (West) Hampshire Adult Services

Mr Vaezi stated that his area covered New Forest, Eastleigh, Romsey and Winchester and that his office base was in the Former Magistrates' Court in Romsey. He introduced his presentation with some comparative population statistics. This showed that Test Valley was very much within the average for Hampshire in terms of growth and of numbers of people over 65. The New Forest had a larger population and a larger number of people of 85+. It was expected that by 2018 there would be 18,000 people between the ages of 65 and 84 and it was predicted the number of cases of dementia would rise by 17.5% between 2008 and 2015.

The emphasis, both in social care and in health, was now on 'personalisation' – supporting individuals to find out their needs and the best way of meeting them. The development work, which HCC had been doing on this, had been reflected in the Government's White Paper.

It had also been acknowledged that people who did not expect to receive financial assistance from the local authority did not therefore seek other guidance and support until they reached crisis point. Mindful of this, services such as the Well Being teams had now been set up which were available to all and which provided early intervention and prevention. Community Innovations teams had also been set up to give advice and support. Free crisis care was also now available.

The interface between health and social care was still proving difficult to manage but services such as the 'welcome home' from hospital were now available. However, access to services out of normal working hours was still problematic. Adult Services was trying to introduce extended hours but this was dependent on finding staff willing to work shift patterns.

Mr Vaezi was keen to encourage the availability of local services to provide for local people, as this was a more sustainable way of working but he acknowledged the difficulty of balancing the safeguarding of services with making efficiency savings.

In accepting the thanks of the meeting, Behrooz offered to make a copy of his presentation available to any member who wished to look at it on-line.

Item 5 : Steve Lees, Head of Planning Policy and Transport, TVBC

1. Progress on Core Strategy

TVBC currently working on the revised Core Strategy, which will set the planning policy framework for the Borough to 2026 and will identify the areas where housing required by the South East Plan should go. Public consultation on first draft, Sept-Oct 2010 ; on revised

version, June -July 2011. Examination, Feb 2012, with a view to adoption in July 2012.

2. Town Access Plans

Test Valley Access Plan, for rural areas, is currently out for consultation, with a view to adoption in June 2010. Romsey Town Access Plan is currently in preparation, bringing together work done by *Look at Romsey*, Romsey 2020, community street audits and the technical work done for the Core Strategy. A workshop to take place in May 2010, where interested parties can have an input to the emerging draft. Public consultation on a draft in late summer 2010. Agreed Access Plans can then be used to inform future investment decisions and secure developer contributions. Romsey Street Parking Review to tie in with the Access Plan.

3. Abbotswood Development

Outline permission has been granted and the Section 106 agreement signed. Preparation of the site has begun, with the removal of roadside trees at new access points. Planned to start Sandy Lane access, June 2010 and Braishfield Rd access in August '10. First occupation expected in 2011. Problem of how best to keep public informed when most of key projects, such as off-site road improvements, will be triggered by occupations. Until building begins and rate of completions estimated it will be difficult to say when Section 106 projects will happen but TVBC staff will be involved in checking when triggers reached.

It has already been agreed that, on-site, there will be: play areas/open/ recreation spaces; provision for a local centre, community hall and a community worker; landscaping around and within the site and a managed nature conservation area. A £5m contribution to education will be administered by HCC and £6-700,000 will be made available for public transport to serve the site.

Examples of planned off-site highways improvements, funded from Section 106 contributions, include junctions at :Cupernham Lane/ Winchester Road; Braishfield Road/ Winchester Road; Jermyns Lane/A3090; Fishlake Meadows/A3057 and Sandy Lane/Cupernham Lane.

Consultation will take place through the planning process and other public exercises. Updates will be posted on the website and a formal programme will be circulated. Other suggestions as to how to keep residents informed would be welcomed.

In response to questions, Steve Lees stated that drainage of the site was the responsibility of the Environment Agency and that the developers would need to be warned of the necessity of securing the site from access by travellers.

4. Ashfield Railway Bridge (junction A3057/A27, nr Broadlands)

Network Rail was planning to re-build the bridge, as part of up-grading the lines from Southampton to the Midlands. Likely to take place in late 2011 and could take three months. HCC to supervise but TVBC will need to carry out the traffic diversion orders. Possibility of a cycle link to be included under the new bridge and down Lee Lane had been suggested to Network Rail but they would not fund it. No compensation attached to the work.

Item 6 : Any Other Business

Romsey Bypass : David Barker wished to draw attention to the illegal parking of vehicles on the Bypass verges. Cllr Perry stated that the police were aware and that consideration was being given to installing 'dragon's teeth' at certain places, to deter such parking.

Next meeting Wed 16 June 2010, 7.30pm, Romsey Town Hall
Followed by, 15 September, 17 November