

Minutes of the ROMSEY FORUM

Romsey Town Hall, 7.30pm Thursday 19th March 2015

Present 38 people. In the chair John Parker, minutes Sandra Smith.

1 Apologies were received from the Mayor of Test Valley, Sandra Gidley, Barbara Milburn, Carolyn Nixon, Darren Paffey, Ian Richards, Julian Jones, Sally Leach, Rev Tim Sledge, Denise and Chris Amery, Dorothy Baverstock.

2. Minutes of the Forum of 20th November 2014 were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Item 5 Future Management of Fishlake Meadows. *Dave Tasker has provided notes clarifying and expanding on his report which are appended to these minutes*

Item 6 Youth in Romsey: HCC will fund a greater proportion of staff time than reported at the November meeting

4. Local Police Reorganisation Chief Inspector Kory Thorne, Test Valley District Commander, Hampshire Constabulary, outlined the changes in Hampshire and IOW caused by budget reductions. £55 million was cut between 2010–2014 and £25 million is to go by 2016. Further cuts are anticipated. As Hampshire is already a low cost authority they will be hard to find. Personnel cuts have been mostly middle and senior management, 700 staff have been lost, 400 of them police officers. Further savings have been made by selling some of the estate and others by reorganising back office functions in collaboration with other services and developing a multi-agency safeguarding hub.

The boundaries have been changed to be in line with Local Authority boundaries. 14 districts will be headed by a Chief Inspector or Superintendent. There will be partnership working and commissioning to meet local priorities. Andover and Romsey will be in the same area with North and South sectors. The south sector will have 1 Inspector, 4 Sergeants 8 Constables and 10 PCSOs working in neighbourhoods. Calls from the public go to the Hampshire Resolution Centre for assessment by experienced officers.

Questions: Feedback on Resolution Centres? KT A satisfaction survey showed 60% completely satisfied and 40% fairly satisfied after about 5 m.

Who is based at Romsey Police Station? KT a Sergeant, 8 constables and 10 PCSOs.

Where does Hampshire Alert fit in? KT this is a messaging system on social media and is much quicker than a newsletter – example, a message about missing catalytic converters got a response in 15 minutes from a member of the public who had seen them.

Future of neighbourhood Watch? KT does not want to see changes but the alert system will replace newsletters.

5. Romsey Future Andy Ferrier, TVBC Corporate Director gave an update on the project which involves people in the community in planning for development. There are people from various local organisations, Councillors at different levels of local government and representatives from Romsey & District Society, the WI and other local groups. Different work streams had looked at topics and AF provided a chart showing ideas. A co-ordinating group is contributing these to the strategic vision but it is not just future strategy. Some ideas are already being taken forward: the teenage market, various improvements in the Park and around the Abbey and Old Magistrates Court. There was £10,000 of government funding for the Rendez vous project. The co-ordinating group will continue to meet and would consult over the summer months on a vision document. There will also be an annual public meeting.

6. Planning Update Graham Smith, TVBC Planning Policy

The revised Local Plan hearing is over and the update is now with the Inspector Mr Ware who is writing his report. Some modifications to the plan have been identified. There will go to the Council then to the Inspector. It is hoped that the report will be before the council in October and then can be adopted as Test Valley Local Plan.

Gypsy and Traveller document: Needs have been surveyed and 3 possible sites identified, 3 in Wellow and 1 in Timsbury. The first consultation finishes 20th March. There will be another.

Plans in consideration: Ganger Farm, Cupernham Lane, Whitenap (Luzborough). It is anticipated that the Halterworth application will be appealed by the landowner. The Solar farm application may also be appealed.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): at the end of May another inspector will report on this.

Questions:

Cycling strategy – where are we? GS the Cycling Strategy is a supplementary planning document. There are several which are under consultation which need more work before the final documents are ready in May or June.

Parkers Farm (320 houses between the M27 and Rownhams Church) – re appeal on the grounds of non-determination? There were a number of reasons for refusal. The developer has resolved these e.g. by more open space. However at appeal other parties may still object. Natural England has concerns about the impact on the New Forest.

7. Romsey Christmas Lights. Mark Edgerley, Romsey Town Centre Manager. The budget for the lights in 2015 is around £20,000. The Town Council has reduced its allocation from £8,000 to £4,000. There are some reserves but the shortfall is around £6,000. Plans to raise this include sponsorship of the central Christmas tree, tickets for upstairs view of switch-on, charge for wall mounted trees and £10 for “twinkle” bulbs. Some councillors have donated their ward grants. Romsey Extra Council is making a donation and The Chamber of Commerce is raising money. On TVBC website you can vote for a grant from the Community Partnership Fund. Kai Drake has a fundraising team. He outlined his ideas and gave out a leaflet. Fundraising will launch on 28th March with a table top sale and a quiz.

8. Nightingale Lodge update Peter Rush HCC.

Handouts and a site map showing the layout were available and the project was outlined. The developer is a housing association, Family Mosaic. There will be 54 apartments, many 2 bedrooomed, with patio or balcony. All will be social housing – 42 for rent, 12 for purchase or part purchase. There will also be a day centre run by HCC. Allowing for planning process completion is expected spring 2018.

Questions: Is there provision for mobility scooters? PF yes, both a store and charging points. Flats are designed to take wheelchairs, hoists etc.

How many staff living on site? Support services will be commissioned from family mosaic, staff numbers will be according to need.

Integration of health and social care? Treatment room for use by health professionals, nursing staff will visit, hospice at home is possible.

If extra services are needed will rent increase? The price of care will be the same as in the community at large.

Dementia care? Only in the early stages, specialist accommodation needed later.

Will there be a qualification? Flats will be allocated through TVBC's housing process. They are for people with housing need plus social care needs.

9. Any other business – none

Date of next meeting 18th June 2015. Note this is a change of date.

Notes from Dave Tasker, TVBC, clarification and expansion to **2 Minutes** and **3 Matters Arising** from Item 5 Future Management of Fishlake meadows from 20 November 2014.

Bullet point 1 With regards a “sandy beach being possible” I said to the forum that this suggestion had already been put forward (via the Romsey Future working groups) and the purpose of early engagement with residents of Romsey was to receive feedback (such as this) in advance of preparing a more detailed management plan.

Bullet point 2 the question was “is the Council planning to engage with World of Water” – my response in essence was that we needed to ensure we get proposals for the management of the land to be transferred right first, but that (in due course) we will want to engage with neighbours regarding the impact of said proposals. (The response in the minutes says something quite different)!

Bullet point 4 I would split this in two...

- Transfer of the site may take 2 years (or less or more)... transfer to TVBC is likely to be ‘upon commencement of development’ to land to the East of the Canal.
- We will be developing a detailed management plan for the site, hence seeking to canvass public opinion now, but we will also need to undertake further technical assessments (e.g. tree / arboriculture, hydrology) to complement existing ecological data.

Update on Fishlake Meadows - the 6 week community engagement activities have concluded. Alongside colleagues from HLOWWT, EA, R&DS, we have hosted 4 guided walks of the site attended by well over 100 residents – (130 signed in attendance plus one or two friends and ‘stragglers’)! We have also had material displayed at the Town Hall and FMC with leaflets to take away, and provided options for responses (website, email, online forms, drop in at reception, post etc.). We also attended the town centre on the last 2 Saturdays for ‘drop-in Q&A’....

All in all, lots of questions and good discussions... We have had somewhere in the region of 40 responses so far, and we continue to urge people to ‘let us know what they think’ in whatever way is most convenient. We, along with the other members of Romsey Waterways partnership, will be evaluating responses and compiling a feedback briefing (which I will share with Romsey Forum once completed).

Other matters arising:

War Memorial Park

- Work will start on the replacing the kiosk w/c 16 March and will take approximately 18 weeks to complete. The park will remain open throughout as will the temporary kiosk and toilets 😊
- The landscaping scheme to the entrance to the park has been approved and work has now started. Visual access to the war memorial is already vastly improved and works will be completed in good time for unveiling of the war horse and what will hopefully be a very busy summer.

Youth in Romsey

Plans for the new facility at Romsey Sports Centre were discussed at the last meeting. HCC have been leading on the tender process and bids are currently being evaluated. Once a contractor is appointed the programme of works and timescales for construction will be confirmed.