

## Minutes of the Romsey Forum held at Romsey Town Hall, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Present: Stuart Bannerman, Dorothy Baverstock, Steve Beasley, John Bennett, Vera Brice, Lilian Brimelow, A & D Chillingworth, Mark Cooper, Glyn Darby, Greg Davies, Rosemary Dawkins, S, I & M Dickerson, Katherine Edmonds, Sarafina Wode Gabriel, Mary Greggains, Rosalie Hall, Diane Hargreaves, Martin Hatley, Jeff Hawksley, Jan Hudson, Peter Hurst, Ray Jenkins, Julian Jones, Barbara Milburn, Franc Pilkington, Roger Prescott, John Saluh, Chris Simpson, Frank Stokes, John Stone, P & S Tatham, Trevor Thorne, Ian Tripp, Judy Walker

In the chair: John Parker. Minutes: Sandra Smith

Speakers: Ray Alborough, Mark Edgerley, Graham Smith.

### 1. Apologies

Were received from Chris Barrington Brown, Ian Bullivant, S & A Derbyshire, Geoff Morris, Mike Perks, E & R Pratt, M & R Robinson, Frances Sweeney, Tim Sledge, J & C Tilley,

### 2. Minutes of the Romsey Forum held 16 June 2016

Proposed by M Hatley, seconded by M Cooper, the minutes were accepted.

### 3. Matters Arising

The speeds in Church Street had been monitored. M Cooper reported that before the works average speed was 17mph and afterwards 15mph.

The Riverwalk project was progressing well.

Devolution – The Town Council did not favour The HCC or Solent authority ideas which could lead to a push for more housing nor did they favour elected Mayors.

### 4. Election of Officers

Chairman: John Parker, proposed by M Hatley seconded by Peter Hurst.

Vice Chair: Julian Jones, proposed by John Parker, seconded by Mark Cooper.

Secretaries: Carolyn Nixson and Sandra Smith. All elected unopposed.

### 5. SO Lottery, Trevor Thorne. A local lottery for Romsey

Trevor Thorne introduced the new lottery designed for the SO post code. This is a not-for-profit local lottery aiming to support good causes, create jobs, support communities and make a difference. They are creating a Trustee Board. There is support from various organisations including So'ton City Council and Newsquest.

They have already launched scratch cards with a 1 in 5 chance of winning to be sold by retailers, charities and community groups. The income splits 30% for costs (15% Licencing and card costs and 15% marketing) while 70% goes back into the community as 20% to the retailer, 20% to good causes and 30% in prizes.

In the weekly lottery 60% will go back to the community.

Questions: on the morality of lotteries for those on low incomes. TT have thought of this and are working with Gambling Aware but want to create an income stream to help some vulnerable communities.

Q: How does the income create jobs? TT talking to Solent Business School whose research can create an Economic Strategy. TT says there is not one for the area. Spoke on the American idea of "strategic doing" where groups agree action on a monthly basis.

6. Proposed changes to parking restrictions. Ray Alborough, Transport engineer, TVBC A consultation is underway, with proposals online and an exhibition at the Former Magistrates Court. There will be a statutory consultation next, possibly before Christmas.

7. Planning Update. Graham Smith, TVBC (including an explanation of S106 and CIL processes)

The local plan has received a High Court challenge from the Barker Mill Trust on 3 grounds. The outcome could be that the challenge is quashed, or that it is partly successful, or that it is fully successful. In the latter case the plan will be sent back for reconsideration and then go back to the inspector. This could mean a higher housing requirement.

There are 2 appeals for housing development; one for 140 in Rownhams and one for 36 houses in North Baddesley. Both test the new Local Plan. At Abbotsford, Romsey planning permission for 46 units was refused. Gladmans have submitted a planning application for 350 units north of Valley Park.

CIL is the Community Infrastructure Levy and acts like a roof tax on new residential developments. It is based on floor space. In Romsey the charge is £140 per sqm. It is a long complex process and started to be implemented in August. It is Borough wide and non-negotiable. The money collected is to be spent on infrastructure. S106 binds land in particular ways that must be necessary, directly related to the proposal and fair. It is local and negotiable.

8. Town Centre Report. Mark Edgerley

The summer was very busy with reports of many overseas visitors. Footfall is up 11%. The Film festival is on at present. Retail developments include a new butcher's shop in The Hundred and a charity shop is closing and a new delicatessen will take its place. Coming events include the Antiques, Collectible and Decorative Fair 16<sup>th</sup> October in 5 venues  
9 November: Romsey Business networking Dinner  
26 November: Christmas Lights switch on and winter carols.  
3 December: Small Business Saturday. Chamber of Commerce in Town Hall.  
9 December: Late night shopping and lantern parade.  
19 December: Carols in the Market Place

Next year Romsey Festival will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July

In response to a question ME confirmed that there would be Christmas lights.

9. Five Minute Updates – there were none

10. Any Other Business

John Parker believed there was a plan to employ a replacement reporter for Ed Stilliard who has now left the Romsey Advertiser. He would try to get Ian Murray from Newsquest as a speaker.

Date of next meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016