

Minutes of Romsey Forum  
Held at Romsey Town Hall, 30 March 2017

Present: J Adams, S Bannerman, N Beasley, J Bennett, I Bradford, V Brice, L Brimelow, I Bullivant, D Chillingworth, Cllr. M Cooper, G Darby, R Dawkins, R House, J H Jones, S Lees, J Lodder, G Massie, C Nixon, Cllr. R Perry, M Piggin, F Pilkington, E & R Pratt, F Stokes, P Taverner, J & C Tilley, J Walker, J & S Welch.

Chair: John Parker. Secretary: Sandra Smith

Speakers: Mark Edgerley, Town Centre Manager, Phil Taverner, TVCS, Hannah Anderson *Speaking Space*, Ian Bradford *ROMDAG*.

1. Apologies: Clive Collier, Barbara Milburn, B & F Sweeney.

2. Minutes of the meeting 1 December 2016

Clarification to item 6.7, Nightingale Lodge. Cllr Perry stated that the shortfall was not due to Government and HCC cutbacks but the Government had reduced the rents which could be charged.

Correction to item 7 from Phoebe Merrick. The Corn Exchange building is 150 years old not 250.

With these amendments the minutes were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

The Riverwalk project continues with help from Young Farmers and Sparsholt College students. There was a suggestion that a handrail by the dog steps would be useful.

Romsey Advertiser: Ian Murray has now left. We will try to get the new editor to talk to the Forum.

Market Place: MC reported that option 1 was chosen. Likely dates for the development were January 2018 for Bell Street and January 2019 for the Market Place.

Test Valley councillors: It is proposed to reduce the numbers to 42. The Boundary Commission is looking at ward boundaries. One suggestion is to expand the town wards to take in some of Romsey Extra and to allocate the rest to contiguous wards (see TVBC website). Final proposals in October.

Romsey Future: will report at the next meeting.

Nightingale Lodge: 6 of the 54 apartments would be for sale and that plus a subsidy from TVBC will set the development back on track after the funding shortfall.

Devolution: currently in abeyance but proposals will probably come back.

The Corn Exchange: was sold to Tom Hanslip (the developer of Oxlease)

4. Planning report. Notes from Graham Smith, TVBC Planning.

An application for 46 homes at Abbotsford, Braishfield Rd (file ref 16/03103/FULLS) – between Ganger Farm and Abbotswood – will be heard by the Southern Area Planning Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> April. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> application on this site with the previous one being refused by the Council in September 2016. The developer is appealing the earlier refusal.

To date there have been a total of 729 dwellings completed on the Abbotswood site. There is a current planning application for the local centre (file ref 17/00571/FULLS) which includes six retail units and a mix of other uses including offices and residential. Residents may have noticed construction starting on land at Baroona, Cupernham Lane and land adjacent to the Luzborough Public House.

TVBC officers are providing initial guidance on Romsey Town Design Statement

5. Look at Romsey updated.

Romsey Neighbourhood Plan Group has worked with TVBC and consultants to get local input into the planning process. This can be done through the Neighbourhood Plan, Design Statements or Parish Plans. The Neighbourhood Plan is on hold as much of it is in the Local Plan so the group are now feeding into the next Local Plan.

JP briefly explained that the original Look at Romsey (13 volumes) was adopted in 2008 as a supplementary planning document. The planning group are updating it. A questionnaire has already been distributed,

walks will be organised in different areas and there will be consultations, exhibitions etc. Abbotswood will have to be added and at a later date the Whitenap development. The updated version should become a new supplementary planning document.

*The questionnaire is available online at:*

*[www.romseytc.org.uk](http://www.romseytc.org.uk) or [www.romseyextra-pc.org.uk](http://www.romseyextra-pc.org.uk)*

#### 6. Town Centre Report Mark Edgerley

ME brought leaflets – the Town Council Newsletter, Romsey Festival, Arts in Romsey and one on the Antique Fairs. The Farmers Market continues to be popular with new traders coming. There will be some Teenage Markets in the Town Hall for traders age 11 – 29 years. One will be on Beggars' Fair day. On May 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a Business Fair. On 14<sup>th</sup> May an Art, Design, Homes and Interiors fair.

Romsey Lions have done a litter pick up and the station volunteers will clear the area round the station. There is less litter than last year.

There had been some minor problems with social disorder in the town centre but an increased police presence seems to have sorted this.

JP reported that there had been a series of burglaries in the Woodley area which ceased when 1 individual was arrested. There had also been criminals apprehended at Mottisfont on 29<sup>th</sup> with police vehicles and helicopter involved.

7. *New Agenda Item.* The Chair added items under the heading Making Romsey Friendlier Safe Place scheme: Phil Taverner from TVCS outlined the scheme where shops and businesses taking part display a yellow sticker. Vulnerable people can have a card with 2 contact numbers. If they need help or support they approach stickered businesses and get help. 10 shops taking part include Waitrose, Santander, Café Nero and Rum's Eg.

Dementia Friendly Romsey: Ian Bradford of ROMDAG wants to make Romsey a dementia friendly town. Following the Dementia Festival (the first in the country) the action group has some participatory sessions. It also offers short, informal, interactive dementia awareness sessions which are useful for businesses especially in service industries. Romsey Abbey is taking calls. The aim is to make life better for both people with dementia and their carers. Dementia Awareness Week is in May. The next event will be at Hillier's in September.

Makaton: Hannah Anderson from Speaking Space, Alex Kelley Ltd. HA explained that Makaton is an aid to language used to assist those with learning difficulties, often with autism, and many groups with communication difficulties. It comes from both British Sign Language and natural signing and body language. Hannah taught the audience to communicate with voice, face and sign for Hello, How are you and Cake. If more people understood and could sign it would support speech and help promote understanding. Those with communication difficulties would be able to communicate with people other than parents and carers. The scheme launched in February and is slowly building. Business staff have come to sessions from boutiques, tearooms, Waitrose and the Library. They can display a sign showing they are part of the scheme. At the end of her talk Hannah got the audience to repeat the signs. Almost all could sign Hello and How are you and everyone had learned Cake. There is more information on [makatonfriendly.org.uk](http://makatonfriendly.org.uk) and Facebook.

#### 8. Updates

There was a brief update from Richard House of Romsey Cycle Hub. Information can be found on Facebook and the website [romseycyclehub.weebly.com](http://romseycyclehub.weebly.com)

9. Any other business – none.

Date of next meeting - 22 June 2017