

FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT FORUM held in The Guildhall, Faversham on Tuesday 9 January 2018

1. WELCOME

The Mayor, Cllr Campbell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Sally and Sasha of Say No to Plastic Week in Faversham gave a brief presentation. This is taking place between 18th and 24th February. Everyone is becoming aware of the affects plastics are causing to the oceans and how it is getting into the food process. They felt some grass root action was required to encourage people over a 7 day period to not use plastic bags, to buy vegetables free of packaging and not to use plastic straws etc. The aim is for 2000 people to join, including local shops. They are aiming to offer fun and enlightening challenges and hope that people will pick up new habits. Four teams have been set up, including Media, Retail and two Community teams. If anyone can support a team, offer financial support, or a venue, please get in touch.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Juliet Beasley, Cllr Simmons, Cllr Cosgrove

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING from 10 October 2017

The Minutes were agreed.

AE asked whether the KCC Community Warden had been replaced, but there is no news. COJ asked that local quad bike MOTs were checked as they had advisory notices marked not for road use. He will provide Kent Police with the registration numbers.

4. UPDATE FROM KENT POLICE

Inspector Craig West introduced himself to the meeting as he had just joined Swale District as the new CSU Inspector. He has 16 years in the police, half of that in the CSU. The current focus is on children, slavery, burglary and domestic abuse.

Operation Paris – season disorder during the summer on Sheppey. Specials attended the Christmas Light Switch on. Reports of anti-social behaviour at the Rec, the dispersal order was used once although there was no one to disperse at the time. Kent Police has been consulted in the regeneration works for the Rec on how to reduce anti-social behaviour, including lighting and fencing. Operation Kindle for HGV parking has

produced 839 fixed penalties in 2017 with 17 vehicles being immobilised and 23 summons issued.

Concerns were raised regarding commuter parking around Brenley Corner and Homestall Road. Although it was agreed that the problem would just be moved to a different area and that car sharing should be encouraged. It was also agreed that there was a lack of lorry parking. CW agreed to speak to KCC.

It was asked whether lighting and CCTV at the Rec should be increased. Architectural liaison officers had been consulted with regard to the skate park. CW was also asked how the police works with Medway CCTV. Could temporary cameras be placed on buildings at the Rec?

Operation High Street targeted retail thefts and anti-social behaviour up to the Christmas period.

Rural update – Doddington, Throwley and Stalisfield had seen a slight reduction poaching and hare coursing. Local and rural officers had been undertaking stop checks and searching vehicles.

Twitter updates can be found @kentpoliceswale. Report non-urgent crime to 111 or 0800 555 111.

5. KCC'S BUS FUNDING REDUCTION CONSULTATION

Lots of concern was raised regarding the potential loss of bus services, particularly to rural areas. Examples were given of people travelling from villages would have difficulty accessing hospitals following the proposed changes.

JB confirmed that a petition with over 1500 signatures was being taken to KCC the following day. He felt it would affect the prosperity of the town. AE reported that the consultation had been put on hold. It was noted that there had been a report in that day's newspaper saying Mathew Balfour had been sacked and had been replaced by Mike Whiting. Formal details had not been received.

Arriva Click which is funded by KCC is being trialled in Sittingbourne and it was questioned why it couldn't be in Faversham.

Concern for school bus passes was raised and how these would be affected. Buses were still cheaper than the train, but if services were cut it would cause problems. AE stated that school children would not be affected as KCC had an obligation to provide transports. Boughton school children were having to catch earlier buses since services were changed

recently. It was also noted that late night buses to Canterbury had also been cut.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Paul Carter on behalf of the forum asking him to take personal charge and reduce the councillors' allowances by 15%. Transport needed to be provided, many people with other issues, such as mental health, would not be able to access services. This was seen as a short term answer to KCC's financial problems.

6. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Wealden Wheels a community transport business was set up by a number of parish councils 15 years ago, when they also were losing a number of public bus services. The operation has one paid member of staff and a number of volunteer drivers. It is a membership organisation and does not run scheduled routes. They operate under a Schedule 19 licence for pre-booked journeys.

Membership is £10 a year and journeys cost £1.50 per mile. Each of the original parish councils provide grant funding every year.

This service was a huge impact on the community, which had no local train station. Tim Lee, Chairman, offered to provide support and advice to any group thinking about setting up a similar service.

7. RED ZEBRA

Jack Packman, formally our KCC Community Warden, introduced Red Zebra, a social prescribing service. Originally three charities, now merged into one service covering Canterbury and coastal areas and villages.

They provide a non-medical solution helping people to be socially active, alleviate loneliness, anxiety and isolation. Someone can die from loneliness as quickly as from smoking. Red Zebra accepts self-referrals, referrals from GPs- there is no discrimination.

There is a database of activities, support will last as long as required. The service is not a replacement for medics.

8. NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE PARISHES

JT reported that they had received no support from SBC over the Gate Services regarding enforcement. Apparently there is a change over period in the planning department.

There was nothing further to report regarding the East Kent Recycling application.

Opening times for Faversham Police Station were requested.

Sheldwich noted their concerns for the potential loss of the 666 service.

It was generally agreed that there should be a public meeting if the bus consultation goes ahead.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An update on the War Memorial Garden project was requested for the next meeting.

Present:

Jack Packman	Red Zebra
Fiona Keyte	Red Zebra
Amanda Saunders	Selling
David Woollett	Selling
Ted Wilcox	FTC
Josh Rowling	
Jack Bright	
Maria Newman	
Ian Newman	
Bill Harbour	
Tim Lee	
Graham Sivijer	
Vernon Port	
Janet Triren	
PC Emma Willson	Kent Police
Insp Craig West	Kent Police
P J Andrews	Luddenham Parish Meeting
Peter Flower	FTC
Colin Woods	Newnham Parish Council
Roger and Janice Ely	
Chris Oswald-Jones	
Jeff Tutt	Dunkirk Parish Council
Jack Wahlbery	Selling Parish Council
Killara Burn	
Clare Weston	
Simon Weston	
Alison Eardley	
Shiel Campbell	FTC
Louise Bareham	FTC