

Minutes of the Kennington Community Forum Annual General Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 27 September 2016 at St. Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road, Kennington, TN24 9LL

Present: Core Group members: Chris Morley (Chair), Sandra Dunn (Secretary), Lee Robinson. Members of the community: Cyril Marsh, John and Madeleine Perriss, Graham Skinner. Michelle Byrne (Liaison Officer, ABC), Councillor Andrew Buchanan, Helen Brown (Home Start).

1. **Welcome:** Chris Morley welcomed those attending and thanked them for coming.
2. **Apologies** were received from Tony Bartlett, Chris Jackson, Ian Milbery, Mirielle Burden, Geoff Stanborough, Chris Woolgar, Cllrs Winston Michael, PCSOs Nikki Potter and Dan Brown, Peter Newson, Mike Paddy, Geoff Stanborough.
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 29 September 2015** were agreed.
4. **Chair's report**
 - 4.1. Our Forum continues to engage at very many levels and across diverse interests. This is demonstrated by the topics covered in our meetings and publications, and by the variety of speakers we have been privileged to welcome to our meetings. Over the past year these have included Gillian Batcheldor of The Live It Well Centre, Karen Little from The Marsh Wood Project, Helen Brown from Home Start, and Adam Roake for Orchard Farm. Our campaign for a Community Governance Review was successful, and we were delighted that in December 2015 the borough council consented to the creation of a parish council for our area which will be called Kennington Community Council. This will be vested from May 2019, and will include the current Forum area with the exception of Sandyhurst Lane, which transfers to Westwell Parish Council, but with the addition of Conningbrook Lakes. The long interval from approval to establishment of the new council presents many challenges, especially loss of momentum, but we will continue to press the borough council to work with us and develop the level of planning required for a successful launch.
 - 4.2. We remain actively engaged with ABC's Local Plan to 2030. This addresses housing, employment, retail, leisure, transport, community infrastructure and environmental issues such as adapting to climate change and ensuring high quality design over the next 15 years. We have continued to develop contacts with neighbouring parishes to understand their position on the plan and progress of their Neighbourhood Plans. The draft Local Plan was published for public consultation in July this year, and we submitted considered comments on matters ranging from opposition to large scale housing developments, inadequate cycle path strategy, omission of community facilities, and support for extension of the Green Corridor. We will continue to monitor progress, and intend to represent resident's views at the public inquiry that is expected to take place next spring.
 - 4.3. Kennington Summer Fayre was again delivered through the Forum, with Jill Britcher chairing the Fayre Committee. This year's Fayre was a highly enjoyable event, and in spite of torrential summer storms during the afternoon raised a commendable total in excess of £10,300 for local charities and voluntary organisations.
 - 4.4. We completed delivery of the Trim Trail at Spearpoint, and continue to explore options for restoration of our First World War Memorial and of the Jubilee Pump House in Upper Vicarage Road. Both of these are complex projects which require detailed consideration before we decide whether to proceed. We have supported the creation of an independent Friends of Bybrook Nature Reserve Group and are pleased that this is now beginning to deliver improvements. We are represented on Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group's

Community Network for Ashford North, and plan to be actively involved in consultation on the forthcoming NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

- 4.5. We are grateful for the support of Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council, Landscape Services, War Memorials Trust, and Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, and especially the residents of Kennington, for practical assistance and generous financial contributions which have been essential in bringing these to fruition.
- 4.6. We are indebted to Michelle Byrne, our Liaison Officer at ABC for her unstinting support; our PCSO's and Neighbourhood Policing team for their regular updates at our meetings; our Borough and County Members for their participation, advice and guidance; and especially the team at St Mary's Church and St Mary's Community Centre for welcome they extend to us both at the Church Hall and at this Community Centre, and for all the additional work they do to make us feel at home here.
- 4.7. I would like to thank all the members of the Core Group who have given their expertise and their time to make the Forum a success during the year. The talents of the committee members and their willingness to engage in open and honest debate enables the Forum to tackle a wide range of issues. I would especially like to thank our Secretary, Sandra Dunn, who excels in accurately reporting our meetings and in proofreading Kennington News. It is with great regret that three of our long-serving members have decided to stand down from the Core Group. Robin and Jill Britcher have downsized and have moved to north Kent – I'm told that a view of the Thames estuary is preferable to a view of Faversham Road – and with this we lose both our news editor and the chair of our summer fair. Chris Woolgar is retiring after many years' service as our Treasurer and this loss will be keenly felt. Chris has been exceptionally efficient in a role that is at the heart of any voluntary group, and, as well as being diligent in keeping the books, she has ensured our funds are put to good uses and has kept us safe through ensuring risks are identified and mitigated.
- 4.8. Our Core Team has worked exceptionally hard this year to deliver a wide range of activities, but with the loss of three key members we are in urgent need of new volunteers. In particular, we are in need of a new Treasurer. Chris is a hard act to follow, but the reality is that without a Treasurer there will not be a Forum. We are particularly keen to have a diverse range of voices on the Core Group, of all ages and backgrounds, and welcome new members who would like to become involved.
- 4.9. I look forward to another successful year for Kennington Community Forum.

5. Treasurer's report

- 5.1. In the treasurer's absence, the Chair said that it had not been possible to finalise the examination of the annual accounts in time for the meeting. The accounts for July and August were available plus draft accounts for the year. The closing balance was £7,507.77 compared to £17,994.17 at the end of year 2014-2015. The reduced balance was because of grants being paid out for the Bybrook Nature Reserve and the Spearpoint trim trail.

6. Election of the Core Group

- 6.1. Michelle Byrne took over the Chair and thanked Chris Morley for all the hard work he had put into leading the Forum. This was agreed by all.
- 6.2. As there were no new nominations she asked if the nominees could be considered en bloc.
- 6.3. Nominations had been received from Chris Morley for the position of Chair and Sandra Dunn for the position of Secretary. Nominations for the remainder of the Core Group were Tony Bartlett (Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association), Ian Milbery and Lee Robinson.
- 6.4. The proposal was carried with no objections.
- 6.5. Chris Morley thanked Michelle for her help in administering the election. He said that there were several vacancies, including that of Treasurer; the Core Group can have up to 12

members. There were a couple of people who had shown interest in joining the committee who were unable to attend the AGM. Co-options can take place throughout the year.

6.6. **Any other Business:** None.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm and was followed by the September Open Meeting.