

**Blackfen Forum**  
**Notes of a meeting held on 9th July 2008**  
**At Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall**

**Present:** Mr K Cope (Chairman), Clr B Beckwith, P.C. C Bolton and PCSO I Kaye (Met Police), Sgt D Viggers (Army Cadets) and 24 members whose names are recorded on the Attendance Sheets.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors N Betts, P Catteral, V Clarke, C Robinson (Neighbourhood co-ordinator), C Britnell (BVSC), M Brown (Blackfen School) and C Andrews

**1 Minutes of last meeting** (27th February 2008) had been previously circulated. It was agreed that they were a true record.

**2 Matter arising:-**

(a) Hanging baskets - The secretary has received a response from Bexley Council to the effect that only five of the Borough's shopping centres have floral displays. These are funded by the Council and unfortunately the Council does not have the financial resources to extend this to other areas. The secretary was asked to pursue this further as it was understood that the traders might be willing to contribute to the cost.

(b) Re-cycling bins - Despite repeated requests since March 2007 the promised re-painting and tidying of the bins has failed to materialise. This has been brought to the attention of ward councillors and a response is awaited. Comment was made that since the traffic island was enlarged, persons depositing rubbish are now driving on to the pavement to access the bins.

(b) Bus shelters - The matter had been taken up with TFL through the GLA representative. The outcome was that as the locations for both shelters provided vehicle access points for local businesses the provision of shelters would not be viable. This led to discussion regarding the inconvenience and potential danger to pedestrians caused by vehicles driving across and parking on the pavements. The secretary responded that Councillor Catteral had agreed to accompany him on a "walkround" in order that the problems could be identified and solutions sought..

**3 Funding:** The secretary explained that funding for the year 2007/2008 had been received from Bexley Council under the Forum Grants Scheme. This scheme has now been withdrawn. An application has been submitted for a grant under the Council's "Corporate Small Grants Scheme". The future of the Forum will very much depend upon whether or not this application is successful as the Forum has no other source of income. Thanks are due to Our Lady of the Rosary Church for allowing the use of tonight's venue at a greatly reduced charge, and to Premier Autocentres for providing photocopying facilities. .

**4 Presentation:** Smartly turned out Army Cadets from 106 Provost Detachment, Royal Military Police (based at Old Farm Road East) gave a short presentation outlining the many and varied activities that the unit provides for young people. This proved interesting and drew applause from the members.

**5 General Policing Issues:** PC Cliff Bolton outlined recent initiatives undertaken by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and responded to questions and comments from

members. Mrs J Harley drew attention to recent "road rage" incidents in Sherwood Park Avenue resulting from traffic diversions. Mr W Wetten pointed out that the view to approaching drivers of the pedestrian crossing in Wellington Avenue by the Oval was obscured by trees thus putting pedestrians at risk.

**5 Any Other Business:** Several members commented upon difficulties now experienced since the alterations to the central island at Westwood Lane by Lyndon Avenue. These included difficulty in emerging from Lyndon Avenue, long delays to southbound traffic at peak hours and southbound traffic passing on the wrong side of the island.

Mr F Healy informed the meeting that he and others were opposing a planning application to demolish bungalows at 409/411 Blackfen Road and to redevelop the site as flats. Other similar applications have recently been granted where nearby bungalows (423 and 421 Blackfen Road and others) have been demolished and replaced by flats or houses. This he considered is changing the character of the area and is contrary to Bexley Council's policy regarding multi height complexes.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.10.pm.

.....Secretary

.....Chairman

GGM/20/7/08