

Blackfen Forum
Minutes of a General Meeting held at Our lady of the Rosary Church Hall
On Wednesday 14th October 2009

Present: Mr Kevin Cope (Chairman), Cllrs B Beckwith, A Beckwith, P Catterall and P Craske, Ms A Pitcher (Bexley Community Safety Partnership, PC C Bolton (Metropolitan Police), Dr G Ucyigit and Ms A Gardner (Both Bexley Care Trust) together with 29 members whose names are recorded on the attendance sheets.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs V Clarke, K Perrior and P Cammish, Mr M Brown (Blackfen School) and Mrs C Britnell (BVSC).

1 Minutes of last meeting (4th March 2009) were accepted as a true record.

2 Matters arising:-

(a) Recycling bins, Westwood Lane: A Pitcher stated that there are now fewer bins. There are no plans for the bins to be re-sited those in a poor state of repair will be renewed.

(b) Bus shelters:- It was suggested that a shelter with seats is much needed at the 132 bus stop (Eltham bound) in Blackfen Road opposite Boundary Road as this is much used by a number of elderly people. The secretary will write to TFL.

(c) Gloucester Parade Service Road: Lloyds Bank is currently pursuing the matter with their landlords and the freeholder. Responsibility is being disputed. No responses have been received from any of the other premises to whom letters were distributed.

(d) "Village" centre signpost: Cllr Craske reported that there is a possibility of funds being available for extra signage throughout the Borough, including town centre signs. The secretary will make further enquiries.

(e) Pedestrian crossing by the Oval: Mr W Wetten reported that he had attended a site meeting that morning with Council officers who had informed him that no alterations would be carried out. Cllr Craske stated that with a limited budget the cost of installing a refuge on the pedestrian crossing could not be justified as there was already a central street refuge on the Wellington Avenue side of the crossing.

(f) Disorderly behaviour rear of Blackfen Parade: Members stated that the alleygates were never secured and that groups of youths congregated on a regular basis to consume alcohol on the steps of the premises formerly occupied by T G. Baynes. PC Bolton responded that new tenants would be shortly moving into Blackfen Parade and he hoped that this would result in better control of the gates. The police are aware of the identities of the youths (who are quite a small group) and are liaising with local off licences to try and prevent them obtaining alcohol through "proxy" older buyers.

(g) CCTV: Cllr Craske stated that new control systems are being phased in over the year and that following that the siting of cameras throughout the Borough will be reviewed.

(h) Tree planting: The secretary reported that since the last meeting committee members had accompanied council officers on a "walk round" the shopping area during which about 10 possible locations where trees could be planted had been identified. It was hoped that planting would take place between November and March.

(i) Parked vehicles - Blackfen Road: As a result of complaints received relating to

obstruction and potential danger caused by parked vehicles the secretary had written to Cllr Craske requesting that a review of parking restrictions be undertaken in that section of Blackfen Road between Chester Road and Curran Avenue with a view to introducing additional yellow line markings at the more hazardous locations. The response had been that the request would be put on the list but no timeline can be given as there are many similar requests. Members drew attention to the need for similar action to be taken in relation to the section of Blackfen Road between the Penhill roundabout and the two entrances to Blackfen School. Mr I Hadley expressed his thanks to Cllr Catterall for his action resulting in additional yellow line markings to be introduced at the junction Lyndon Avenue and Westwood Lane.

3 Presentation by Bexley Care Trust - "Future Plans for Healthcare in Bexley".

Dr Gunen Ucyigit and Annie Gardner gave a very interesting presentation outlining the Trust's proposals to introduce three polyclinics into the Borough each providing a full range of primary care services on a 12 hour basis. The Trust very much wanted feedback from the general public to determine their needs and wishes. Two seminars would shortly be held to which the public are invited and the dates and venues will be advised to the secretary. The presentation prompted considerable questioning from the floor much of which was directed towards forthcoming closures at Queen Mary's Hospital. The speakers responded that this subject was not within their remit to answer.

4 Bexley Community Safety Partnership "Update":-

Amy Pitcher gave details of:-

Two "Have a say day" events recently held.

A forthcoming community safety week ("Not in my Neighbourhood") during which SNT officers would visit local schools and a "Have a Say" meeting will take place from 11am until 1pm on 4th November outside GPS Lettings, Blackfen Road, which hopefully will be attended by Bexley Council's domestic violence team.

Various youth activities including "Street Dance" at Sherwood Park Primary School, Drama Club at St James the Great Church, Ball Court League at the Green, Welling, and a "Summer Slam" at Marlborough Park and football coaching at Willersley Park during the summer.

She announced a new school initiative "Be Bright Be Seen" whereby 150 fluorescent bags will be distributed to new starters at primary schools.

She also detailed the progress of various local "Alleygate" projects.

5 Any Other Business:-

(a) Mr I Hadley expressed his concern over two recent incidents of "fly tipping" of heavy building materials and similar items that had occurred in the alleyway at the rear of Blackfen Road and Lyndon Avenue. The alleyway is not suitable for "alleygating" as it is in constant use by commercial units. He had reported the matter to the police but no action had resulted.

(b) Could arrangements be made for the "Community Pay Back" team to clear litter in that part of the alleyway behind Wellington Parade not protected by the alleygates on a regular ongoing basis? This is an eyesore on a direct route from the shopping centre to the supermarket. Amy Pitcher will make enquiries.

(c) The former scrap metal yard 2a Wellington Avenue. It was stated that conditions applied by the Council were not being complied with. Cllr B Beckwith will

investigate.

(d) It was noted that a new off-licence would shortly be opening at 267 Westwood Lane.

(e) Residents had recently complained to police about excessive loud noise from a party continuing into the small hours of the morning during the weekend. They had been advised that complaints should be directed to Bexley Council during office hours. This was considered to be an inadequate procedure as action was required at the time of the nuisance.

(f) The chairman reminded members that George Murrell was undertaking the role of secretary on an "acting" basis and that a volunteer was sought to fill the post on a permanent basis.

GGM/20/10/09