

North Willesborough Community Forum



Open Meeting and AGM – 10th February 2016 - Meeting Notes

Willesborough Baptist Church – Hythe Road

The doors opened at 6.30 - the intention was to display details of the M20 Junction 10a scheme but Highways England (HE).did not bring any plans. Salvatore Zappala of HE was on hand to answer questions.

Councillors George Koowaree (North Willesborough and KCC) and Gerald White (Highfield) were on hand for any questions/problems.

Councillor Alex Howard sent his apologies. Councillor Jeremy Adby did not make an appearance.

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm by Chairman of the Willesborough Community Forum, Ian Stevenson (ICS).

Law and Order

Due to her shift patterns, PCSO Katie Scott was unable to attend. ICS had received a report.

The main item was that burglaries were still ongoing, despite the identification of some of the perpetrators. The burglaries happened during the day while the occupier was out - residents were advised to install protection devices such as alarms and CCTV. Information can be obtained from the police and via:

PCSO Katie Scott: katie.scott2@kent.pnn.police.uk, or call 101.

M20 Junction 10a - Presentation by Salvatore Zappala of Highways England

The presentation explained the main reasons for the need for J10a:

- Growth in and around Ashford.
- Junction 10's inability to cope with this growth.

The proposed scheme would build upon the preferred option from 2008 and provide:

- A new all-directions motorway junction at 10a, 700meters east of J10.
- Removal of Folkestone facing motorway access at J10 to help it function better as the A20/A2070 crossroads. (London facing access at J10 would remain as is).
- New dual carriageway link road from J10a to Bad Munstereiffel Road.

During the presentation there were many interruptions and much discussion from the floor - it was clear that there was some feeling that the scheme did not adequately cater for locals' needs. The segment eventually finished after one hour.

Before Salvatore left he stressed that the scheme was not necessarily cast in stone - all comments received as part of the consultation phase would be considered as part of the Inspectorate's approval process.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that a follow-up session would be a good idea, to allow residents to discuss and formulate their comments. This has been arranged for 9th March.

Hythe Road Pedestrian Crossing

John Goodman took the stand to make the case for a pedestrian crossing near The Windmill Inn, particularly in view of the planned growth in Ashford, and urged people to sign the petition, either at the new Post Office at the Premier store on Cradlebridge Drive or via himself (jdgoodman@hotmail.co.uk or 07802 180697). John also informed the meeting that he had arranged a press photo shoot for 3.30 pm on Friday 12th February opposite the Windmill Inn.

Local News and Updates

Planning

The following was reported:

M20 Junction 10a	The Community Consultation is in progress and will finish on the 17 th March 2016.
Sevington Development (U19)	An Outline Planning application had been submitted and the comments period was over.
Blackwall Road South (U5)	Still no decision.
White Horse pub	Work ongoing.
Rear of Waltham Close	New plans for only 23 houses (from 26).
Highmead House (Part of U14)	New application, taking into account comments from the Appeal. Also, a separate application has been made for the junction between the A20 and the proposed new road to the rear of the WH Hospital - this will facilitate finalisation of the plans for the Highmead House project.

Councillor Reports

Gerald White - Highfield

- GW announced that he would be making a walkabout of the Highfield ward at 10am on Saturday 13th February and that any interested parties were welcome to join him.
- GW announced that he was part of a team looking at the viability of Council Mortgage Scheme aimed at first time buyers in the 20-30 age group - more news would come as things developed, or not.

George Koowaree - North Willesborough and KCC

George (GK) gave the following updates:

- The consultation over the plans for Lees Road under the motorway bridge (double yellow lines v one way from Cornes Close) is ongoing and finishes 14th February. There were concerns from the floor that the consultation questionnaire may not have been sent to the correct addresses - GK assured the meeting that this was only a preliminary consultation.
- GK spoke about the process for getting a pedestrian crossing installed - it seemed rather complex and also seemed to involve counting people trying to cross a road without knowing where they were trying to cross. An opinion was expressed that the powers that be seemed to prefer spending more money on reasons why there shouldn't be a crossing than what it would cost simply to install it. GK assured us that there were sound reasons behind the decision process and that he would do what he could to ensure one was installed on Hythe Road.

The Future of The Forum

Given the fact that North Willesborough lost its bid to become a Civil Parish, the meeting was asked its opinion on the future. The options were:

- Wind up the Forum.
- Re-group with a view to another bid to be parished in 2 years.
- Something in between.

The view from the floor was that the Forum should not be wound up. Several, but not all, attendees felt that another parishing bid may be a good objective.

In anticipation of this response ICS outlined the steps taken by the Forum Steerco so far in the year:

- A new logo.
- New name (North Willesborough Community Forum) primarily to differentiate from South Willesborough and Newtown which will be parished).
- Improved presence on Facebook.
- Getting younger people involved and on the steerco.

Attendees were asked to communicate any ideas they may have via info@north-willesborough.org.uk, bearing in mind that the Forum has no funds and no income.

AOB

Steerco Vacancies -There are vacancies for a Treasurer and Secretary.

Speedwatch - Always looking for new volunteers.

HGV's in Boys Hall Road/Church Road - A resident had provided photographs of the damage done by HGV's:



Boys Hall Rd/Sevington Lane



Grass bank outside William Harvey pub

George Koowaree stated that KCC had changes the signage. It was suggested that that clearly wasn't enough. Matter to be taken up by the Steerco.

The meeting concluded at 9.45pm. The next Open Meeting will be on the 11th May 2016.
