

FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH
ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
HELD AT FOXEARTH VILLAGE HALL ON 11th. July 2015

Present:

Cllr C. Cox (Chairman), Cllrs K. Robson, M. Posen, P. Cox & Kevin Money (Clerk) and 27 residents

Apologies were received and accepted by the Council from Cllr Clayton, Cllr Finch (Essex County Council), Cllr Parker (Braintree District Council)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the Councillors to introduce themselves.

Approval and signature of the minutes of the Annual Electors meeting held on 16th. April 2014

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mary Waite's name was on the minutes as seconding an item from the floor. This was an inaccuracy. Once this amendment had been made Clive Waite proposed the minutes. The Chairman then signed the minutes as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Report from the Chairman

The Chairman, Cllr C. Cox, said that her report would take the form of remarks regarding an update and matters arising from the Annual Meeting held in April 2014. The Chairman thanked the previous Chairman and all out-going Councillors for their past services to the community.

Flooding: Negotiations are still on-going with ECC Highways regarding the possibility of by-passing the current drainage system along The Street (currently via a private Victorian brick culvert which is no longer fit for purpose). Engineers have undertaken various camera surveys of the system during the past year which has revealed further collapsed areas of brickwork which are causing blockages in various parts of the culvert. Some of these have been cleared but the entire system is very fragile. A replacement system to convey water from the highway gullies was being considered but was dependent upon funding and other legal issues. There is on-going monitoring of the situation and the Parish Council's Flooding Working Party will continue to lobby for a solution to the problem.

Footpaths: David Busby & Mary Waite were no longer able to continue with their roles as Parish Paths partnership (P3) representatives for Foxearth & Liston. They were thanked on behalf of everyone, for their excellent work over the last few years and their services in helping to keep the footpaths clear and well-marked. A volunteer Footpath representative(s) was now needed to take on the responsibility for continuing their excellent work and ensuring that the footpaths are monitored and kept clear.

Speedwatch: Traffic through the village of Foxearth (The Street) continues to be monitored on a regular basis by a group of willing volunteers. On average, there are 200 vehicle movements per hour during the day. There is concern that this would be exacerbated if the proposed housing development at Stafford Park goes ahead. Thanks were expressed to Peter Routley, for organising the volunteer rotas & general administration of the system. More volunteers would be welcomed with open arms!

Stafford Park: A planning application had now been received by BDC and there is to be a special public meeting, immediately following the first part of the Public Forum of this year's Annual Village/Elector's Meeting to enable members of the Parish Council present to hear to the views of parishioners and to receive comments for onward transmission to BDC Planning Dept., as part of the consultation process.

Watchbox: A reminder that any local incidents were posted on the noticeboard along with advice on security & other relevant matters. There had been relatively few incidents in our immediate area during the last year but all were advised to be vigilant, especially regarding false pedlar licences. Of immediate note was a local spate of dog thefts in surrounding villages.

Grass Cutting: Thanks were again expressed to Nick Barker for continuing to ensure the grass verges were cut near Liston Church. Concerns had been raised earlier regarding damage to verges in Liston, caused by large goods vehicles and careless parking on the green by the church.

Solar Farm Project: There had been a recent meeting of the Upper Stour Valley Renewable Energy Joint Committee and public meeting, attended by our previous Chairman Clive Waite, at which it was announced that the application for the proposed solar farm project had been withdrawn.

Public Forum

The Chairman, Cllr C Cox, explained that this part of the meeting would be in two parts. The first to discuss any items, other than the Stafford Park Proposed Development. The second, after a short refreshment break, was specifically to discuss matters pertaining to the proposed Stafford Park Development.

The residents were then invited to raise & discuss any general local issues.

Vandalism in Liston & Foxearth continues to be a problem. The Police have been alerted.

There has been graffiti removed by BDC/ECC on road. The culprits are known but not brought to task because of comments and verbal abuse.

Footpaths: Keith Robson offered to take on role of P3 Footpaths representative.

Mr. D. Smith was concerned with leaves and vegetation on the footway by The School

Broadband: Mark Posen, as elector, expressed concern with poor telecommunication in the village.

He would like the Parish Council set up a working party to look into improvements in the systems.

Discussion should be focused on upgrades to broadband and mobile services in Foxearth & Liston.

Liston Church could have a broadband mast erected on its tower. This may generate an income for the Church.

Community activities: Phil Cox advertised the forthcoming Bocking Concert Brass performance in Foxearth Church and possible VE/VJ Day Celebration Dance in the village. He felt there needs to be more social cohesion in the villages.

Highways: Mark Posen felt concern at traffic speed etc. in the villages and subsequent road issues.

Judy Ivy (Liston) was also concerned by speed and signage issues. Potholes were being surveyed by Phil Cox and reported to BDC for action. He reminded the villagers of the process for any individuals to report on line.

Street Name Signage: Alan Fitch raised the issue of provision of a name plate for the private road leading to the Rectory. Mrs. Cox reminded all of the previous discussions with ECC regarding this. Parish Council to look into the issue at next meeting. Mr. MacMillan (Liston) advised everyone of BDC portal link for re-naming of streets.

Noticeboard for Liston: It was suggested that a provision of a noticeboard by Parish Council, but Mr. W. Binks (Liston) said Liston residents would sort it out themselves.

There was no more questions / comments from the residents at this point and the Chairman then closed this part of the forum for a refreshment break at 11.15.am.

Public Forum Meeting (part 2)

To discuss matters relating to Stafford Park development, Planning Application:

Present:

Cllr C. Cox (Chairman), Cllrs K. Robson, M. Posen & Kevin Money (Clerk) and 29 residents

Apologies were received from Cllr. P. Cox who had to leave the meeting

After welcoming newcomers to the meeting, the Chairman, Cllr. C. Cox opened this part of the forum and invited comments from the floor.

After a lengthy discussion between residents and Councillors the summary of what came out of the meeting was:-

- (1) The application contains many anomalies and incorrect statements, which can be construed as misleading.
- (2) The application does not fulfil the requirements necessary for a Sustainable Development, as per government and regional guidelines.
- (3) The Traffic Management assessment is flawed and gives an incorrect interpretation of the real situation vis-à-vis traffic movements and the suitability of local roads for the number of households

proposed. There is no public transport in easy walking distance, the traffic plans proposing routes A,B,C are not feasible and will:

- (a) Erode existing verges;
- (b) The peak traffic estimate is some 2.5 times higher than the peak when it was a factory and for much of its economic life the factory was served by a railway line. Add to the average hourly vehicle movements along the former B1064 (currently 200 per hour) as evidenced by vehicle movement logs as part of the weekly Speedwatch monitoring exercises in Foxearth;
- (c) Will affect a protected lane;
- (d) Will add to the bottlenecks for traffic using the bailey bridge (temporary) at Rodbridge, which has single carriageway with priority from Foxearth & Liston & Borley directions;
- (e) The 2 bus stops shown as being in Foxearth are only for school buses and 2 (weekly service) 'shopper' buses to Sudbury (only allow 2hrs in Sudbury before return).

(4) The application does not take into account the BRLP 78 Countryside and BRLP 79 Special Landscape Areas policies. The proposed site is not an 'urban' brownfield site and does not have the appropriate infrastructure for such a proposed 'New Neighbourhood'. The site was not included in the BDC Site Allocation Plan and is currently on a recognised Flood Plain area.

(5) The proposals infer that, although in Essex, the new housing will be a satellite for Suffolk and therefore have no benefits for Essex villages.

Following extensive consultations with parishioners in Foxearth & Liston, the overwhelming view is that the majority of residents are opposed to the development, as currently proposed. The Parish Council wishes to draw your attention to the many objections already received by BDC from both individuals as well as local & national bodies.

(6) The hydrology report is very equivocal with unquantified risks downstream on the Stour.

(7) There is concern how the local schools will cope with such an influx of families

(8) The contamination that requires remedial action was there when the developer purchased the site. Indeed there was significant concern that BDC and the Environment Agency had not enforced action before now. Some residents had heard suggestions that IFF had provided a bond to cover the costs of decontamination and felt that BDC should investigate this.

(9) Residents fully accept that more houses are needed and that brown field sites should form a significant share of sites. However brownfield usually implies an urban site and much policy, including the latest White Paper from the Government, caveats brown field sites with the word 'suitable'. The residents consider the site wholly unsuitable for residential development and suggest that the developer look again at a proposal within the existing B8 and B2 planning permission.

(10) The application site falls outside the spirit and the perceived definition of a brownfield site

(11) The development is in a sensitive natural environment with protected species (otters, newts etc.) and of high environment value

(12) The NPPF on brownfield site states "not to permit development on sites of High Environmental value"

The Chairman then thanked everyone for their valuable input and asked if there were any more questions from the parishioners. There were no more questions so the Chairman then closed the meeting at 12.50pm and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Signed.....Date: 21st. May 2016