



Soham Town Forum, P.O. Box 21, The Pavilion,  
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## **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2006**

### **Present**

Robert Peacock (Soham Town Forum Chairman)  
Fiona Ross (Soham Town Council Chairman)  
Colin Fordham (East Cambs District Council)  
Peggy Gibbon (Soham Town Council)  
Anne Pallett (Soham Twinning Association)  
Dan Schunmann (Viva Arts & Community Group)  
Geoff Griggs (Soham Staploe Rotary Club)  
Sheila Rayner (Resident)  
Sylvia Riley (Resident)

Alison Callaby (East Cambs District Council)  
Peter Beer (Soham Town Council)  
John Palmer (East Cambs District Council)  
George Ginn (Soham Town Council)  
Chris Scurrah (Soham On-Line)  
Donna Martin (Soham Museum Project)  
Pat Dutton (Health for Life)  
Colin Palmer (Resident)  
Lesley Bassenger (Resident)

### **Apologies**

John Powley (Cambridgeshire County Councillor)  
Rosemary Aitchison (Soham Town Council)  
Androulla French (East Fens Directory/Markets)  
Anne Tuite (Soham Town Council / Ely Soham Dial A Ride)  
Linda Homan (Soham Village College Youth Development)  
Louise Sarll (Soham Village College Youth Development)

John Kirkham (Soham Town Council)  
Robert Barnes (SACT)  
Lawrie Budd (Soham Life)  
Debbie Bailey (Resident)  
Maureen Hardingham (Resident)

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## **1. Notes of Forum meeting on 21st September 2006/Matters Arising**

Notes agreed as correct. PG reported that she has made contact with Jo Fitzpatrick - Community Development Worker at Cambridgeshire Acre – she would like to attend a future meeting to speak both about village halls and her role within Acre. PG is also to attend a community planning evening. Update: AC has e-mailed Jo Fitzpatrick who will attend the January 2007 meeting.

## **2. A Children's Centre for Soham**

Hazel Belchamber, Sian Phillips and Lorraine Lofting from Cambridgeshire County Council attended for this item and introduced the proposal for a Children's Centre for Soham. Children's Centres are an important element of Government policy for the 0-5 age range and provide venues to link early years support/childcare/links to health. Cambridgeshire County Council has plans to create 22 centres between 2006-2008. Soham has been selected for a Model 2 centre – having considered size of the town, the existence of small pockets of deprivation and other statistics. More details in respect of Children's Centres are attached to the minutes.

Forum members highlighted their concerns in respect of the siting of such a facility –they were especially concerned about the Weatherall's Primary School as a potential host – given its location and that space was felt to be at a premium on site. All agreed that it should be a central facility and that there was scope for a central location. This would be beneficial for the town as a whole and would also further the town centre regeneration agenda. The Viva Centre, Church Hall and other vacant town centre premises were highlighted as potential venues.

There were also concerns raised as to how the centre would fit in with existing providers and the need to invest in these services rather than create a new service. It was also queried whether there would be funding in the long term to sustain the project – although it was reported that the project team would consider sustainability as part of the project development.

### **3. Mobile Warden Scheme Proposal**

Item covered under Viva Project Update by AC and DS

### **4. Market Update**

No update available AC to follow up with Androulla French.

### **5. Project Updates**

#### **i) Festival**

PB reported that plans for the 2007 were underway with the Festival Committee having agreed that the festival would have a year long focus. Monthly Folk Sessions are being held at The Fountain and Cinema sessions are currently being run on the last Wednesday of every month, with a Children's Matinee planned for after Christmas. Barn Dance planned for New Year. The Committee are also looking at a professional dance/music performance later in the autumn through ACT. PB flagged up that the Committee are likely to make a formal request for funding to the Forum.

#### **ii) Community Transport**

ESDAR going well with 3 new contracts for the next 5 years having been secured.

#### **iii) Soham On Line**

Twinning ceremony DVD produced.

#### **iv) Community History Museum**

DM suggested 'Soham On The Home Front' (SoTHF) as a future agenda item presentation. They are currently making a planning application for the location of the commemorative art. SoTHF book should be available at the Late Night shopping event. They are also currently planning a mini-museum day for local children.

The CHM annual open day followed a 'Soham on The Home Front' theme and was held at the Village College. Family tickets were distributed for free and the event was very well supported by the public and stallholders – 2 new committee members were also enlisted and £300 was raised. A Soham Pub Book, to be published mid 2007, is currently being compiled – all contributions welcomed. On 8th November the History Group are presenting a Talk by Mike Petty based on his Book 'Vanishing Cambridgeshire' at Soham Methodist Church Hall, Berrycroft from 7.30pm - Tickets £2.50 .

Interest in Olaudah Equiano is increasing with the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in 2007. Linda Homan has hosted a meeting with Dr Cary and it is hoped to undertake a large event to commemorate Soham's links with Slavery. There is a march planned to visit Soham in the Spring which will demonstrate penitence for Slavery.

## **v) SACT**

A Local Business Fair is planned for Saturday 25th November 2006 from 2.00pm – 6.00pm in The Pavilion – SACT are hoping that Soham Town Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council will take part. It was suggested that those who could not attend should provide information for a leaflet table.

RP asked for help for the Christmas Lights – Electric Poles 19th November 2006 – 9:30am start outside Brendas. Lights to be erected 25/26th November 2006 volunteers required 8:15am at Brenda'S Flowers on the first day, will resume on the Sunday where lights erected to. Cherry Picker will used. Please note jobs can be found for all abilities.

## **vi) Viva**

Youth Theatre/Arts: Currently rehearsing show for 60 children. New project 'Integrate' for young people with special needs now running weekly in Village College. Mini VIVA started 2nd November for 7-10 year olds and a similar session is to commence after Christmas at St Andrews. DS reported that he had followed up PG's report at the last meeting that the College Players was closing with a publicity campaign and 40 people have expressed interest and will be attending Viva on the 21st November 2006 with the view to taking part in a show after Christmas. Viva also took part in the English Touring Opera.

Youth Council: YourSAY meet weekly and have successfully completed their first project. Launch event held and a free bus transported those invited to Cambridge. Youth Council presenting to future meeting of Town Council.

Viva Centre: Very busy, they have obtained funding for a Community Nurse Project in partnership with Soham Staploe Medical Centre to enable a Young People Drop In. CRC are running basic skills and the community access points are up and running with a tutor. After Christmas Viva will be undertaking a joint Community Heritage Project with the Community History Museum. Art Classes for adults held in the evenings. Viva is also talking to SACT about running business breakfasts. One start up business has moved in to the centre and they are talking to business support services. Viva will also be taking part in the late night shopping event with an art display and a band performing.

Viva are also working with Care Network on the Community Warden Scheme and have made a bid for an Elders Club. AC reported that the Forum had been asked by Care Network to respond to a number of questions regarding the demand, potential and any concerns about setting up a mobile warden scheme. In the main members felt there would be a demand however they were concerned about subscription elements of any service. They highlighted that their view that a scheme was needed was based on anecdotal knowledge - although those present recognised that the demographic was getting older. It was also flagged up that Age Concern run similar projects in other locations. It was felt that the project Steering Group should consider affordability, the mechanism used to identify people, how best to integrate any new scheme with existing facilities - and the promotion of other services as well e.g. ESDAR community transport, existing voluntary scheme at the Causeway. Good communication, promotion and effective coordination were also seen as essential and George Ginn volunteered to represent the Forum on the project steering group.

DS also identified that he would be submitting a bid on behalf of the Forum to the Quality of Place Fund – Notice Boards had been identified as a priority for the town and members were asked about potential locations. It was felt that as a minimum - boards, of an adequate size, should be provided in a central, southern and northern location – around Townsend/Cherry Tree.

## **vii) Twinning**

AP reported that 15 French visitors would be staying with host families over the Late Night Shopping night weekend. This is not an official officer visit but the first informal visit. Plans for a school exchange are also being discussed. Next Twinning Meeting is in the Pavilion on Tuesday 28th November 2006 at 7:30pm followed by a pre-Christmas music event at 8.00pm.

## **viii) Youth Update**

### **Young Parents Group**

Commenced in March 2006. Established due to feedback during focus groups supporting need for young parents support. Collaboratively working with 1 Connexions and 1 East Cambs Family Project support worker.

Myself as lead worker following the Youth Service policies and guidelines. Young parents referred via ECFP and the Health Service. Young parents aged between 18 and 22 years. Total accessing service is 10. (9 female, 1 male).

Young people involved in planning of group activities and rule setting.

Activities relevant to curriculum so far have been:-

Parenting Skills

Relaxation techniques/ Baby massage.

Self Esteem/Confidence building.

1st Aid training. (7 accreditations).

Group discussions on various topics such as housing, benefits, training, employment, sexual health, relationships.

Other activities have included several craft sessions and general discussion sessions.

Crèche available for children allowing young parents 'time out', and the children interact with others improving their own social skills.

### **Active Citizens In School.**

50 young people involved in a young people led project. 42 Female, 8 male. Aged 12 – 14. More young people will be taking part later on in the project to help back stage and performance nights. Sessions running during and after school and some weekends.

Aim of project to put on a show for the community and fundraising. In doing so young people get an opportunity to try a new experience, improve own skills, improve confidence and self esteem, social skills, fun, team work, as well as providing a service for their school and community. Others will also benefit from monies raised.

Youth worker enables young people to plan and implement their ideas, reflecting on their action and achievement.

Outcome will be achieving an ACIS or Citizenship In Action Award, for voluntary hours they have contributed throughout the project.

Adequate supervision in place.

### **Youth Club**

Unfortunately due to lack of funding, youth club has had to close. Staff are currently trying to get funding to re-open hopefully next year. Between 20-30 young people used to attend the club on a Wednesday evening 7.00pm-9.00pm.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**

This is running really well. Linda Homan has a majority of year 9 students signed up for the next Duke of Edinburgh awards, which will start in 2007. The students are currently working on their skill and service part of the award.

### **ACE Drop In**

Advice Counselling and Educational drop in, restarted with new staff in October. Any age young people can access this on Tuesday's 3.30pm – 4.30pm in The Lode Centre.

### **Detached Youth Work**

This is currently not running due to no funding. Linda Homan and staff are trying to secure funds as this was a fantastic service for the young people and the community.

### **Other items**

Concerns raised re on-street parking and the impact that this was having on pedestrians and other road users, particularly in the Clay Street area. With more housing planned there were concerns that the situation would worsen and it was requested that this be flagged up to County Highways.

### **6. Dates of Future Meetings**

14th December 2006  
25th January 2007  
8th March 2007  
19th April 2007  
31st May 2007  
12th July 2007  
23rd August 2007  
4th October 2007  
15th November 2007

# Notice of Meeting

**Date: Thursday 14th December 2006, Time 7.30pm**  
**Venue: The Walter Gidney Pavilion, Fountain Lane, Soham**

## *Agenda*

	<u>Item Lead</u>
1. Present & Apologies	
2. Notes of Forum meeting on 2nd November together with any matters arising	All
3. Market Update	Androulla French
4. 2007 Business Plan & Forum Open Meeting Arrangements	All
5. Project/Group Updates (Brief Updates)	
• Festival	Peter Beer
• Community Transport	Anne Tuite
• Soham On Line	Chris Scurrah
• Community History Museum	Donna Martin
• SACT	Robert Peacock
• Viva Arts & Community Group	Dan Schunmann
• Town Twinning	John Kirkham
• Youth Update	Louise Sarll / Linda Homan

Date of next meeting: 25th January 2007

### **Meeting Dates for 2007**

25th January 2007  
8th March 2007  
19th April 2007  
31st May 2007  
12th July 2007  
23rd August 2007  
4th October 2007  
15th November 2007

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