



Soham Town Forum, P.O. Box 21, The Pavilion,
Fountain Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5PL

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Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th April 2006

Present

Robert Peacock (Soham Town Forum Chairman)	Shirley Blake (East Cambs District Council)
Rosemary Aitchison (Soham Town Council Chairman)	Peter Beer (Soham Town Council)
Colin M Fordham (East Cambs District Councillor)	John Palmer (East Cambs District Councillor)
John Kirkham (Soham Town Council)	Peggy Gibbon (Soham Town Council)
Anne Tuite (Soham Town Council / Ely Soham Dial A Ride)	Chris Scurrah (Soham On-Line)
Dan Schumann (Viva Youth Theatre)	Judy Heath (Viva Youth Theatre)
Lisa Hunt (Viva Youth Theatre)	Pat Dutton (Health for Life)
Androulla French (East Fens Directory/Markets)	Robert Barnes (SACT)
Lawrie Budd (Soham Life)	Lesley Bassenger (Resident)
Colin Palmer (Resident)	Sylvia Riley (Resident)
Sheila Rayner (Resident)	Maureen Hardingham (Resident)

Apologies

Alison Callaby (East Cambs District Council)	Donna Martin (Soham Museum Project)
John Powley (Cambridgeshire County Councillor)	Geoff Griggs (Soham Staploe Rotary Club)
Linda Homan (Soham Village College Youth Development)	
Louise Sarll (Soham Village College Youth Development)	

1.0 Notes of the Last Meeting

- 1.1 Notes of last meeting held on 23/2/06 were agreed as a correct record.
- 1.2 Budgens link footpath – query on disabled provision raised at last meeting. An update note to be circulated with the minutes.

Latest available update:-Footpath link is shown on approved plan together with a condition on the planning consent requiring footpath to be available at all times. The footpath at its narrowest part appears from the plan to be 2.2m, although there will be bollards provided at both the entrance and exit (details of these to be agreed as a condition of the planning consent) Case officer is aware of Forum's concerns.
- 1.3 Meeting advised that Kents Lane sign has received attention. Some concern expressed regarding the new road signage, both size of lettering and also road signs are only on one side of the road, (Bell Lane, The Paddock, White Hart Lane). Sign height also an issue (**Action – ECDC to investigate**)
- 1.4 John Kirkham raised the issue of house numbering and the requirement for houses to be numbered. Is there a leaflet advising householders of their responsibility? (**Action – ECDC to investigate**).

2.0 Soham Interpretative Art

2.1 Item deferred to next meeting in Donna Martin's absence.

3.0 Soham Market

3.1 Androulla reported that the area in front of Blue Donkey will not be available because they have concerns about liability issues. She would prefer to start the markets in August/September 2006 if possible. It was suggested that Bank Holidays be avoided due to the other events taking place nearby. She confirmed that the preferred day for markets is Fridays.

3.2 Details were circulated on a potential site in Market Street and on the type of stall which could be investigated, which would provide space for 16 stalls. The Highway Authority's consent will be required to use Market Street as they will wish to look at emergency access provision.

3.3 In respect of stalls it was suggested that traders could bring their own. Soham Comrades Club was also suggested as an alternative potential site. Androulla asked for guidance on frequency of markets envisaged and the meeting indicated weekly in order to maintain regular custom.

3.4 It was agreed that the first priority is to identify whether there would be interest from traders in a regular general weekly Friday market, before progressing other aspects of planning. It was agreed that Androulla should :-

a) Meet up with Alison Callaby to identify what is needed to progress the planning further (health and safety, liability issues, costings and likely income etc)

b) Explore the interest of traders in attending such a market. **(Action – AF).**

4.0 Project/Group Updates

4.1 **Newsletter 'Soham Life'** – It was reported that Geoff Griggs was awaiting articles and information to be submitted. Lawrie Budd to contact Geoff Grigg for further update. **(Action LB).**

4.2 **Festival** – Planning a Soham French week, linking closely with Twinning Association and Carnival, to take place Tuesday 23rd May 2006 - Saturday 27th May 2006. Publicity is being combined with the Carnival, and advertising sponsors are being sought. For 2006 Festival Committee are hoping to cover their own costs. Forum members offered to help in distribution of publicity flyers.

4.3 **Twinning** – Twinning week taking place in Soham Sunday 21st to Monday 29th May 2006 with signing of the twinning charter planned for 3.15pm on Monday 29th May 2006. Publicity to be circulated. Significant local enthusiasm for twinning in the town and investigating potential for links between the twin town schools. Information was provided about the events planned in the twin town Andrézieux-Bouthéon. Seeking to obtain TV coverage for Soham event.

4.4 **Community Transport** – Second AGM has recently taken place attended by over 90 people. Service comprises both dial-a-ride service and excursions. An application to the Lottery is planned to assist future funding. The scheme is keen to promote its availability and it was suggested that the Community Dial-a-Ride

bus be present at the Carnival to promote its service. It was noted that community transport will not be affected by the changes to concessionary fares on public bus transport, and that community transport is a specialist service offering a door to door service.

- 4.5 **Soham On Line** – Chris Scurrah reported that use of website is high, Soham events have been listed.
- 4.6 **Community History Museum** – Chris Scurrah noted the abolition of slavery funding initiative run by the Heritage Lottery and Soham's links with a famous slavery abolitionist. Local schools have expressed an interest and Viva have been developing ideas involving young people. These can be brought together for an event in 2007, and a bid for funding submitted to the Lottery. John Palmer queried whether in future, wheel could be replaced at Soham Mill as a celebration of Soham's history.
- 4.7 **SACT** – AGM held recently with a better attendance and SACT now have new Committee members. Also new co-ordinator for late night shopping.

5.0 Any Other Business

- 5.1 Details of training available locally in respect of use of ladders and step ladders and health and safety issues were given. Further details from Robert Peacock. The course is being run by Bottisham, Burwell and Soham Village Colleges.
- 5.2 Village Hall – Peggy Gibbon advised that a site is coming on the market which may be suitable for a village hall. She was also aware that S106 monies were becoming available and felt that this should be an agenda item for next meeting . It was commented that first step should be purchase of land before deciding on uses.

6.0 Dates of Next Meetings

18th May 2006
29th June 2006
10th August 2006
21st September 2006
2nd November 2006
14th December 2006

Notice of Meeting

Date: Thursday 18th May 2006, Time 7.30pm

Venue: The Pavilion, Soham

Agenda

	<u>Item Lead</u>
1. Present & Apologies	
2. Notes of Forum meeting on 6 th April 2006 together with any matters arising	All
3. Soham Interpretative Art	Donna Martin
4. Village Hall	Peggy Gibbon
5. Project/Group Updates	
• Newsletter – Soham Life	Laurie Budd
• Festival	Peter Beer
• Community Transport	Anne Tuite
• Soham On Line	Chris Scurrah
• Community History Museum	Donna Martin
• SACT	Robert Peacock
• Market	Androulla French
• Town Twinning	John Kirkham

Date of next meeting: 29th June 2006

Meeting Dates for 2006

Thursday 10th August 2006
Thursday 21st September 2006
Thursday 2nd November 2006
Thursday 14th December 2006

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