



Soham Town Forum, P.O. Box 21, The Pavilion,
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Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2007

Present

Robert Peacock (Soham Town Forum Chairman)
Colin Fordham (East Cambs District Council)
Peggy Gibbon (Soham Town Council)
Peter Beer (Soham Town Council)
Donna Martin (Soham Museum Project)
Julie Webb (Resident)
Dawn Laver (Resident)
Shirley Jugg (Resident)
Maureen Hardingham (Resident)
Colin Palmer (Resident)

Alison Callaby (East Cambs District Council)
John Palmer (East Cambs District Council)
George Ginn (Soham Town Council)
Chris Scurrah (Soham On-Line)
Jacky Hibbert (Resident)
Tim Webb (Resident)
David Dawkins (Resident)
Elizabeth Jugg (Resident)
Sheila Rayner (Resident)

Apologies

Fiona Ross (Soham Town Council Chairman)
Rosemary Aitchison (Soham Town Council)
John Powley (Cambridgeshire County Councillor)
Dan Schunmann (Viva Arts & Community Group)
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)
Maureen Dwyer (Soham Town Council)
Anne Pallett (Soham Twinning Association)
Geoff Griggs (Soham Staploe Rotary Club)
Robert Barnes (SACT)
Pat Dutton (Health for Life)
Sylvia Riley (Resident)
Lesley Bassenger (Resident)

1. Notes of Forum Meeting on 8th March 2007 & Matters Arising:

Typing Errors : Louise Sarll and Linda Homan, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Community History Museum paragraph 2 – But thanks to George Ginn for research Soham Chronicle Part 2, Bettley-Cooke and Prof Carey should be Dr Carey

2. Planning for Open Meeting:

Community Lounge, Lodeside, Soham Village College 19th April 2007 from 7:30pm 9.00pm. Focusing on Youth Provision. Speaker Invites to Dan Schumann RE: 'Quality of Place' and Linda Homan for Youth Update. Potential for Young persons display. Refreshments to be provided wine, cold drinks and nibbles. Open Forum and AGM. Nominations a week before AGM to AC. News Item on Website. Publicity in Papers. CS to double-check the room booking. AC to write to all project leads and ask them for a '3 minute' highlights of the year.

3. Project Group Updates (Brief Updates)

i) **Quality of Place** - Suggestions for Noticeboard locations: piece of land outside the Co-op, wall near the Post Office, outside the bus shelter near The Fountain, Library, at the new Shade development, at The Cherry Tree near bus shelter - recycling there. Notice boards in the Car Parks, The Viva Centre and at the Staploe Medical Centre.

ii) **Market Update** - No Update

iii) Festival - Arts in Cambs on Tour in the large hall in the pavilion 'You don't need to know that' 12th April 2007. A small intimate production, suitable from 10 years upwards. Festival Committee request £250.00 to £300.00 from Forum. £300 in Festival funds at present. Choral concert planned for the autumn in one of the larger halls – CS suggested the church. PB was commended for planning the event – check with DS timings for staging. In the round performance. DD will have a word with community college at Ely re staging. CF proposed £300 and JP seconded. Majority carried.

iv) Community Transport - No Update

v) Soham On Line – Online Poll on St. Andrew's Church Hall site uses and 325 votes 50% 50% between community hall and housing – comments page as well. As Web-editor CS has remained impartial but the comments have been very interesting. Community hall should be a regular agenda item for the foreseeable future. Olaudah Equiano publicity gathering apace.

vi) Community History Museum - Pleased that the planning application has been submitted 3 weeks for an indication. 2nd June 2007 event to go ahead regardless of planning status as there is a Plan B. Planning meeting held last week to decide food, music and entertainment stalls etc. Difficult to organise as delayed by various issues. A buffet for invited representatives and museum display in The Pavilion Hall 2. Free public event in The Pavilion Hall 1 and traditional stalls on the recreation ground - an old style 1950's Fete – with music and vintage vehicles and involving local businesses and groups. Talk to be held on 14th March 2007 by Professor Chisholm who has been researching the local watercourses, interested in old west river and watercourse along the old watercourse at Prickwillow, Methodist Church Hall, Berrycroft from 7.30pm. New storage organised of 1930's 40's 50's 60's donations from Viva.

DM working with LH on Lottery Heritage Initiative (LHI) funded project 'Soham at the time of the Abolition'

DM working as part time history co-ordinator for the project. Planned events as follows - Thursday 15th March 2007 The Cafeteria, Lodeside, Soham Village College from 7.30pm – refreshments in the form of hot meals and a talk on freed African slave - Olaudah Equiano by Dr Brycchan Carey.

Friday 16th March 2007 Community Lounge, Lodeside, Soham Village College, 7.30pm - Talk by Mac Dowdy on 'Soham at the time of the abolition' an illustrated introduction and briefing for the activity weekend. Saturday 14th April 2007 and Sunday 15th April 2007- Activity weekend 2 mornings/ 2 afternoons. Mac Dowdy has started surveying and individuals will be given a proforma to complete for a certain number of buildings, weekend will be documented and a book produced for 4000 households.

On 2nd June 2007 - Procession to War Memorial just before 2.00pm and blessing at the unveiling of the new plaque then procession to St. Andrew's Church with a service and then to The Pavilion. Everything will start on the Recreation Ground from 2.00pm. Everything is free and prizes for the best 1940's style stall.

The money for the project cannot be used for a statue but it has been suggested whether there was scope for a stained glass window and a statue at the new bridge and Arts Council England to be approached. DD asked if any Black groups have been approached.

A special service and ethnic choir re-enacting the marriage of Olaudah Equiano and Sussanah Cullen planned for 17th April 2007 at St. Andrew's Church from 7.00pm – several linked events planned Young people in the town are exploring human trafficking and parallels with past history.

vii) SACT - AGM 27th March 2007 in The Pavilion AGM at 7.00pm and then followed at 7.30pm by opportunities to meet with local businesses. Suggestion for A5 hand fliers in the shops. Currently recruiting exhibitors at present. CS updated that after February 2007 half term Susannah Lewis will take up the position of new Community Education and Business Centre Manager at Soham Village College.

viii) Viva Arts & Community Group – Viva Youth Theatre (16 and under) have started rehearsing for 'The Wiz' for a production at The Shed in Cambridge. Viva Youth Theatre (16+ years) will go to The Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2007.

ix) Town Twinning - Anne Pallett now Chairman and Peter Beer Vice-Chairman. Busy programme of exchanges beginning 2nd-4th April 2007 when a school party from Andrézieux-Bouthéon, France will come for a three-day visit to Soham Village College. On 15th April 2007 a Soham team will be participating with four runners and a manager in the 'Eurofoulle' European 10km & 5km International Race in Andrézieux-Bouthéon. This will be the third year that Soham have fielded a team at the race.

At the end of June 2007 a huge carnival will be held at Andrézieux-Bouthéon and music and drama students from Soham Village College will attend and perform. The Twinning Association will send a group of 10 people to host an English pub with folk music and 2 people to show English bowls.

It was noted that the events were largely self-funding, people pay travel and hosting is free in people's homes. No council money being paid although in the start up year there was a civic programme, for a large event in France they are paying for a lot of our representatives to attend. PB reported that contact with a town in another country broadens horizons of those who participate and it reaches all kinds of interests. There was concern muted that people have commented that it is for schools or an elite group – this was refuted as membership is only £3 and they would love more people to join – open to all interests and individuals. It was suggested that more about twinning should be published on the website and in the parish magazine.

x) Youth Update - None

4. Any Other Business

AC asked for information on graffiti and litter that could be fed into the Neighbourhood Panel. The following was noted:-

- Vandalism of bus stops under the CCTV cameras,
- General issues with street cleaning at the moment.
- Problems around the Soham Town Rangers Football Club
- Public footpath along Brook Dam Lane along to East Fen Common – filthy.
- The pond by the Old Mill bridle path into Wicken.
- New road out to Triangle Farm on Angle Common.

Other concerns were related to CCTV – A resident in Churchgate Street has given up ringing the police RE: vandalism of bus shelters etc. Have there been any arrests from the CCTV footage – it is time that a report comes back. If info is all on tape why isn't it being acted upon. Request update from Julie Buck, Police and CCTV representatives. Could another trip to the CCTV Control Room in Cambridge be organised.

Care Network: AC provided update about the launch of the new 'Soham Warden Scheme' for elderly people not in sheltered housing planned for 22nd March 2007.

Community Hall Update: Residents feel that the battle has been won to sell the hall but community campaign still ongoing. Planning permission has been submitted for 50 car park spaces and upgrades to the hall by a private group of people. The campaign is going ahead and it was suggested that interested parties submit their objections to the community strategy. It was also noted that no applications have been submitted by the potential purchaser. Group commended for their efforts to secure site. It was noted that the hall was built by public subscription and should remain as a public facility.

It was suggested that the building was not beyond repair. Queries raised about the Section 106 monies and there was a strong concern about ensuring that the monies are spent in the town. Concern that monies are being sucked out of the town and spent elsewhere.

Suggestion that Clay Street should become one-way system. DM has heard that the development at Lion Mills is about to be passed on the basis that Clay Street is one way from Red Lion Square. There was concern that buses will not be able to access the college and that highway issues will arise from on street parking.

5. Date of Next Meeting

19th April 2007

Open Forum

Notice of Open Meeting

Date: Thursday 19th April 2007, Time 7.30pm

Venue: The Community Lounge, Lodeside, Soham Village College, Soham

Agenda

	<u>Item Lead</u>
1. Quality of Place Funding	Dan Schumman
2. Youth Update	Linda Homan
3. Project Groups (Brief Updates)	
• Market Update	Androulla French
• Soham Festival Society	Peter Beer
• Ely Soham Dial-A-Ride Community Transport (ESDAR)	Anne Tuite
• Soham On Line Community Website	Chris Scurrah
• Soham Community History Museum	Donna Martin
• Soham Association of Commerce & Trade (SACT)	Robert Peacock
• Viva Arts & Community Group	Dan Schumman
• Soham Twinning Association	Anne Pallett
4. Open Public Forum	

There will also be project displays and FREE refreshments will be available

All members of the public are invited to attend this meeting

Meeting Dates for 2007

31st May 2007
12th July 2007
23rd August 2007
4th October 2007
15th November 2007

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