



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

Tel/Fax: 01353 723472
Website: www.forum.soham.org.uk
E-Mail: info@forum.soham.org.uk

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24th November 2005

Present

Robert Peacock (Soham Town Forum Chairman)
Alison Callaby (East Cambs District Council)
Darren Hill (East Cambs District Council)
Colin M Fordham (East Cambs District Councillor)
Anne Tuite (Ely Soham Dial A Ride)
Pat Dutton (Health for Life)
Lawrie Budd (Soham Life)
Colin Palmer (Resident)
Annette Grove (Resident)

John Kirkham (Soham Town Council)
George Ginn (Soham Town Council)
Peggy Gibbon (Soham Town Council)
Peter Beer (Soham Town Council)
Dan Schumann (Viva Youth Theatre)
Donna Martin (Soham Museum Project)
Chris Scurrah (Soham On-Line)
Robert Barnes (Resident)

Apologies

John Powley (Cambridgeshire County Councillor)
John Humphreys (East Cambs District Councillor)

John Palmer (East Cambs District Councillor)
Geoff Griggs (Soham Staploe Rotary Club)

Matters Arising

- Robert Barnes sent his apologies in respect of the October meeting – not noted.
- Update from GG received re Soham Life – Likely to be 1st quarter of New Year in Newmarket Journal not Evening News.
- Rosemary and Donna have corresponded and matter is resolved.
- Oludah Equiano documentary very good – has prompted lots of hits on the website.
- Suggestion for new sculpture of Equiano or William Case Morris at the new bridge.

Economic Development Review

Darren Hill of ECDC attended for this item

Presentation notes attached - Issues raised:

- How much of our plans will be dependant on Infrastructure – will flag up with Cambridge Horizons – some felt problem is lack of infrastructure.
- Soham is best place locationally – but 2 businesses have failed in the past few months.
- 2000 houses in town – which will fill up A10 and A14
- Industrial rates crucify businesses in town. People want to see new businesses start in the town and stay. Soham needs fair crack of the whip.
- Soham needs an E-Space development – it was highlighted that the consultants who looked at providing a new facility concluded that there was a need to extend e-space Ely.
- Some discussions about the e-space north and south titles it was felt that they were misleading.
- It was felt that everything should not be concentrated in Ely – given traffic and transport issues – should spread the leisure and businesses opportunities – Ely will not cope.

- Need to establish real political will.

District Councillor C Fordham raised the issue of the car parks at Clay Street and Fountain Lane, and the trial opening time extensions. He reinforced the rationale behind the existing closure decisions and the reported back on the feedback he had received from residents. There was some discussion around the need to protect residential amenity, whilst also supporting local business and AC suggested that should any comments be received in respect of this trial they could be directed to her and she would pick up on them.

PG. Highlighted that she was concerned that the Budgens Footpath link had been lost – other forum members were able to advise that this was a temporary arrangement during building works.

Project Updates

Soham Festival 2006

Committee currently developing the programme – likely to be over 4-5 days at the end of June/beginning of July 2006, the committee are working closely with Viva Youth Theatre and the Comrades band.

- Royal Shakespeare member visit to be arranged and monthly folk evenings continue to be held on the first Monday of month.

Community transport.

Currently the scheme has 464 members with the dial a ride service going strong. Current costs are 25p short journeys and 55p longer distance due to fuel increases, excursions and trips planned. Regular newsletter produced for all members.

From June 2006 funding finishes and trustees are actively looking at other funding opportunities, they are also becoming a charity as this will open up new funding avenues. All agreed that the service is performing a valuable function.

Soham On-Line

Updated section on Olaudah Equiano so site has a good history section – Donna and Chris will update in new year.

350 Businesses listed – useful for SACT.

Increase in traffic 700-1000 visitors per day. Sponsorship again increasing – less reliance on grants.

Soham Community History Museum

Home front project grant successful culminate in a memorial to the rail disaster to west of war memorial. Group have received backing from Royal British Legion and 3 options are being considered – 1) Big bronze plaque set in floor, 2) Bronze plaque on a plinth 3) Stone plinth with plaque on top - need to raise money to ascertain exact form. They plan to liaise closely with the Legion and will help them with the refurbishment of one of the rail disaster graves.

Donna would like to present project to the Town Council. JK reported that the Town Council has suggested that other sites should be considered. CF suggested location at clinic with a bench. It was noted that the project funders require a Town centre focus. Its for those who visit Soham not necessarily residents and is considered relevant to the war time experience. The clinic site is outside the remit of the grant. PG/RB noted that DM had done a great job in raising awareness.

Group currently involved in:

- Interviews for 'Soham on the Home Front' interviews.
- New window display 1940's living room for Christmas at Viva.

- Late night shopping presence outside Poppies selling a Community History pamphlet £2 a copy. This years edition features fabulous new photographs of Soham.

Soham Association of Commerce & Trade (SACT)

Insurance problem experienced for putting up lights. £500 extra required. Town Council have given money. Need to discuss next years funding.

25 poles to be erected and 26 strings to be installed. Need volunteers to help.

- asked for donation of cherry picker. Has been donated by Newmarket Plant Hire.

- late night shopping 9th December. Shutting street at 5.00pm. Bollards need to be policed up to the 9.30 close.

Siting of funfair could it be looked at and could a walkway through be maintained? Must be kept clear. Wicken Band will play outside Lloyds and a group will perform outside VIVA.

Town Twinning

Twinning taking off – tremendous enthusiasm – potential launch 29th May 06.

Other Items Discussed

- A new Portuguese delicatessen called '25 April' has opened, the owner Marco sells excellent Fish from his counter which is painted with a scene by Donna 'April 25 Bridge'- everyone encouraged to call in the shop and support this new initiative.
- Next week tickets on sale for 'Barnham' - College 2nd, 3rd, 4th Feb 7.30pm Matinee on 4th at 2.30pm
- Tickets on sale from – Adec, Viva Charity Shop - £5.50 and £4.50.
- Village College, Carol Concert Ely Cathedral on 19th December.
- Rotary Club Carol Concert Thursday 22nd.

Date of Next Meeting

Commencing at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th January 2006 at The Walter Gidney Pavilion, Fountain Lane, Soham

Notice of Meeting

Date: Thursday 12th January 2006, Time 7.30pm

Venue: The Pavilion, Soham

Agenda

<u>Item</u>	<u>Lead</u>
1. Present and apologies	
2. Notes of Forum meeting on 24 th November 2005 together with any matters arising	All
3. Project/Group Updates	
• Newsletter – Soham Life	Geoff Griggs
• Festival	Peter Beer
• Community Transport	Anne Tuite
• Soham On Line	Chris Scurrah
• Community History Museum	Donna Martin
• SACT	Robert Peacock
• Town Twinning	John Kirkham

Date of next meeting: 23rd February 2006

Meeting Dates for 2006

6th April 2006
18th May 2006
29th June 2006
10th August 2006
21st September 2006
2nd November 2006
14th December 2006

Alison Callaby, Team Leader Town Centres
Tel. (01353) 616386
E-Mail: alison.callaby@eastcambs.gov.uk