



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 31st May 2007

Present

Robert Peacock (Soham Town Forum Chairman)
Colin Fordham (East Cambs District Council)
John Humphreys (East Cambs District Council)
George Ginn (Soham Town Council)
PCSO Kieran Moran (PCSO 7135)
Martha Hazelden (Viva Youth Theatre)
Chris Scurrah (Soham On-Line)
Androulla French (East Fens Directory/Markets)
Anne Pallett (Soham Twinning Association)
Sheila Rayner (Resident)
Lesley Bassenger (Resident)

Alison Callaby (East Cambs District Council)
Giles Hughes (East Cambs District Council)
Peggy Gibbon (Soham Town Council)
Julie Webb (Soham Town Council)
PCSO Emma Melton (PCSO 7217)
Daniel White (Viva Youth Theatre)
Peter Beer (Soham Festival Society)
Tim Webb (Soham Roots)
Charlotte Driver (YOUR SAY)
Colin Palmer (Resident)
Dawn Laver (Resident)

Apologies

Rosemary Aitchison (Soham Town Council)
John Powley (Cambridgeshire County Councillor)
Dan Schunmann (Viva Arts & Community Group)
Anne Tuite (Soham Town Council / Ely Soham Dial A Ride)
Linda Homan (Soham Village College Youth Development)
Louise Sarll (Soham Village College Youth Development)

Tony Brown (Soham Town Council)
Donna Martin (Soham Museum Project)
Robert Barnes (SACT)
Pat Dutton (Health for Life)
Sylvia Riley (Resident)
Maureen Hardingham (Resident)

1. YOUR SAY Presentation - Charlotte Driver from YOUR SAY introduced the films produced by YOUR SAY as part of a film project, these covered issues affecting the young people of Soham. She also answered a range of questions from Forum members and reported back on the Youth Council plan to obtain funding for a Youth café to be held one evening a week (with the youth council agreeing the evening in consultation with young people who would use the facility) age limit 11-16. It was noted that there were currently 8 members on the Youth Council and that another film project was planned

2. Notes of Forum Meeting on 8th March 2007 agreed with no matters arising, AC conveyed a request from Pat to pass on congratulations to Donna Martin for raising Soham's profile positively during her appearance on the BBC News last Tuesday. All agreed that Donna and her team had done an excellent job in driving the project forward and wanted their congratulations recorded.

3. AGM Feedback - RP expressed disappointment at turnout, but reflected on whether it was the timing so close to the elections that had an impact. It was suggested that we may wish to combine the AGM with the general forum meeting and look at other ways to promote the Forum and its activities – it was also suggested that the Pavilion be used in future years. RP also asked members to consider speakers who could be approached.

4. Project Updates:

Quality of Place – Town Guide to be distributed over the next two weeks, Permission for notice board siting needs to be finalised and works programmed. The equipment

bank is now in place and available for use by community groups. CS requested that an electronic version of guide be forwarded to him for the Soham website. MH highlighted that Lisa Hunt - Viva Centre Manager 7 Churchgate Street, Soham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5DS (Tel: 01353 722228) would be handling the Equipment bookings, details of this will be available in the town guide and also on the website.

Soham Festival Society – PB welcomed the availability of an equipment bank locally as this will cut costs. He also reported that the Arts in Cambs on tour was successful and 36 people attended – it was hoped that they would be able to host ‘Under Milk Wood’ in the Pavilion in the autumn, and build on the audience numbers

Community Transport – AC provided a brief update on 2006/07 usage in the absence of AT, highlighting that Scheme membership of ESDAR was now 490, with 9600 dial-a-ride journeys provided during the year (excluding group hire and excursions).

Soham On-Line – CS reported that the Carnival broke even, although the weather had curtailed fund raising. He also reported that he was developing an Anti-Slavery/Olaudah Equiano dedicated website covering the Soham connection and all the events that were held as part of the celebrations. CS also noted that the Soham on the Home Front event being held on Saturday 2nd June 2007 at The War Memorial, Red Lion Square will see the unveiling of the new Soham Train Disaster Interpretive Artwork and that HRH The Duke of Gloucester would be in attendance to perform the ceremony along with other VIP guests. He is also discussing with Kate Kent opportunities to provide a Soham newsletter on the site, and he noted that Inspector Adam Gallop was supportive of this initiative.

Soham Community History Museum - Donna gave apologies but hoped that there would be a good attendance on Saturday 2nd June 2007. All assembled felt that the committee have achieved marvellous results and that the commemorative plaque will be an excellent reminder of the town’s history for generations to come.

SACT – RP noted that SACT were unable to take part in the Carnival due to the weather however they had highlighted St. Andrew’s Church Fete on 23rd June from 10.00am until Midday as an alternative venue for the SACT stall. RP reported that the Committee has gained some new members but that they had also lost some. RP also requested that PCSO’s have more of a presence with the local businesses. Members also flagged up a range of issues following this comment, these included

- i) The graffiti at the former village hall,
- ii) CCTV cameras - camera overlooking the church is overgrown with foliage and the one opposite Poppies is pointing down.

AC to report both these issues to Julie Buck. AC also highlighted that at the recent CCTV User Group meeting the Control Centre Manager highlighted that he is happy to host organised visits – it was suggested that if anyone would like to see the control centre first hand to obtain an insight into the operation/processes they should contact Julie Buck at East Cambridgeshire District Council.

There was also a general query regarding the level of response to police surgeries. PCSO’s Moran and Melton advised that the Barley field estate surgery was relatively successful – with 11 people attending – however this outcome resulted from a leaflet drop to all houses. The PCSO’s are currently making arrangements to move the surgeries to areas such as Viva to see if this will encourage higher levels of attendance. The E-cops and text messaging services were highlighted although it was felt that these services need to be publicised more. SR highlighted that such schemes were not accessible to some older residents and queried whether Neighbourhood Watch was still

active in Soham – it was noted in response that 3 Neighbourhood schemes operate in Soham.

Viva Arts & Community Group – MH reported that the Viva Theatre Company (Adult Group) had recently performed 'Habeas Corpus' and that the Viva Youth Theatre (11-16) were rehearsing for 'The Wiz', which will be performed in June at the Shed in Cambridge which is next to the Junction. The Senior group were rehearsing 'Blood Brothers' and the 'Little Shop of Horrors' and would be hosting free performances at Lodeside Hall, Soham Village College on the 12th, 13th and 14th July 2007. With performances of 'Blood Brothers' on the Thursday and Saturday, and 'Little Shop of Horrors' on the Friday and Saturday matinee rehearsals. These performances are free but donations are welcomed to help fund the Edinburgh Fringe trip. MH also identified that the new Viva Mini group for 7-10 year olds and held late afternoon/early evening now has 21 participants. MH also reported that Viva had applied for funding to host an integrated arts project which would enable a three year theatre group project.

Soham Twinning Association – AP updated that they had attended the carnival and formed part of the carnival procession. Twinning t-shirts now available. Themed stall planned for Soham on the home front event. Next project is a visit to France on the 30th June together with all the other countries twinned with A-B they will take part in a festival. David Tickner and young people performing, old English pub 'The railway' to be staged at the event. Also trying to arrange for the French choir to attend in the autumn. Town twinning signs still awaited and the Town Council are following this up with County Highways. AC reported that earlier guidance was that it was not possible due to the legislation which governs street sign design to incorporate additional wording on the existing signs and that there was not provision for a separate twinning sign to be affixed to the welcome signs.

Youth Update – The Forum acknowledged Charlotte's earlier contribution to the meeting.

Any Other Business

- RP noted that on 10th June 2007 G's Shropshire's would be hosting an open day between 10.00am and 3.00pm to enable visitors to have a look at the processes and changing trends of processing. Bugs to hut for children. Look at G's website for details.
- SR requested an update on the Railway campaign and Peggy/Chris agreed to provide an update for next meeting.
- It was noted that AL was still awaiting a document from John Palmer re the Market, as she was unable to proceed without the same
- Web site it was flagged up whether there was scope to enhance the promotion of local car share opportunities on Soham on-line, and whether whether there was potential in future years to have a Soham shuttle on a French market day, especially on a Sunday when the only scheduled service allows for a 40 minute visit to Ely,
- AL requested that the minutes of the meetings be provided in electronic format to her so they can be published in the East Fens Directory
- AC suggested that Action planning be included as an agenda item at the July 2007 Meeting

5. Date of Next Meeting

12th July 2007

Notice of Meeting

Date: Thursday 12th July 2007, Time 7.30pm

Venue: The Walter Gidney Pavilion. Fountain Lane, Soham

Agenda

1. Present & Apologies
2. Notes of Forum Meeting on 31st May 2007 together with any matters arising All
3. Action Planning for 2007/2008 All
4. Project/Group Updates (Brief Updates)
 - Quality of Place Dan Schumman
 - 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 Schumman
 - Town Twinning Anne Pallent
 - Youth Update Louise Sarll
5. Railway Update (requested at last meeting) Peggy Gibbon/Chris Scurrah

Meeting Dates for 2007

23rd August 2007

4th October 2007

15th November 2007

Alison Callaby

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