

# Jaywick Community Forum



OPEN MEETING Resource Centre  
25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 10.00am

## **ATTENDEES:**

Ray Hanson, Brenda Oliver, Gill Elkins, Sylvia Hobbs, Dan Casey, Teresa Watson, Frobisher School Year 6 Junior Wardens & Head + 33 members of the public. Plus a film crew.

At 11.30 Ian Davidson (CEO Tendring District Council) Mick Page Leader of Tendring District Council, Paul Price Tendring District Council arrived.

**APOLOGIES:** Tim Young, Janet Jenkins (Deacon for the Methodist Church), Suzy Shimell, Tim Clarke (Tendring District Council). Jon Webster (Essex Fire (to replace Les)).

## **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

Agreed (DC & SH) and signed

## **MATTERS ARISING:**

Nothing to report.

## **UP DATE FROM CHAIR:**

- 1) Pleased to see the road improvements thanks to Essex County Council for the funding
- 2) The planning that has been granted in Fern Way opens the door for further property developments
- 3) Channel 5 program, Benefits Britain, has caused a lot of distress, to be discussed in AOB.
- 4) There was a meeting between the three shops, Essex Police, TW, RH and GE in regard to the area around Tamarisk Way car park and the problems with the people hanging around the area. It was done so that the police could assess what the major problem is and how it could maybe be resolved to certain degree.

## **TRESURERS REPORT**

GENERAL	£3,705.43
PROJECTS	£7,978.02

## **UP DATES FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATION:**

S.H. – Golf Green Hall open every day in the week. There is jumble sale nearly every Saturday morning. We have a lunch club every Thursday. We are hoping to raise £2000 for the flooring. Still waiting on Tendring District Council to do the external repairs, these have been reported. Still got plenty of bookings.

B.O. – the annual flood remembrance service was held in February again. The Methodist church had a special day last Sunday. The 6<sup>th</sup> March is Woman's pray day and is being hosted at St Christopher's.

D.C. - Library still going very strongly and is now more a meeting place for residents than anything. The jumble sales at Golf Green Hall are partially to help fund the library and raised quite a bit of the necessary money needed. They raised £2000 last year. We get donated books in and everyone is used.

There is a Neighbourhood Watch meeting at Golf Green Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> March with the police in attendance.

Frobisher School – Julia Halls, the head, thanked the Jaywick Forum for inviting the school along and said she was pleased to be in attendance.

G.E. – The "It Happens in Jaywick" day is booked again this year for 5<sup>th</sup> August 9.30-2.00. The Jaywick & Tudor Residents Association has raised a petition about the Post Office move from Golf Green Road to The Tudor Parade. Over 90% of residents do NOT want it to go there. It was said it seems as if it's a done deal!!

R.H. – the Tendring Community Transport is doing well, with most trips fully booked within days of them becoming available. There are an assortment of day trip locations visited as well as the usual Hospital Hopper and the dial a ride buses. We have 12 buses with a new at the end of February being delivered. The Golf Green Hall one will be replaced with this one. There are issues around funding for the hospital hopper with part of the funding from ECCC. It does 3 return journeys a day.

S.S. – Nothing to Report

## **REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Wardens** – the Junior Wardens project is underway again and pleased to see some of them present at the meeting. Bell mouths on the 6 roads are now completed and the contractors added Alvis on as well. The beach cleans are to be increased by 2 a year – TW was asked why not other days in the week.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Re Channel 5 Benefits Britain – letter from Les Nicholl read out – see attached

The following are comments that arise from the program:-

In the last 50 years Jaywick has been neglected by the authorities but the community is strong for example with what was called the Masterplan for Brooklands a few years back, and with the Green Elms Medical Centre problems, the community stuck together and the plan never got off the ground (much to Tendring District Council disappointment) and Green Elms Medical Centre is now far better than it was 2 years ago!

The roads need sorting but there is no easy fix to this as Essex County Council will not consider adopting them as they are too narrow. Humber and Sunbeam are probably the worse roads in the area. The roads do not drain away, partially through the dyke being blocked by rubbish so much and the roads having no drainage system. The gully's that did run down the roads, many have been filled in by residents.

GE to write to LN regarding the fire tender access "rules".

Planning permission is now being given in some cases but is done on each individual "project".

There are motor cycles and beggars getting on the promenade again. Also bicycles are seeming being deliberately run into pedestrians on the prom.

The area near the Golf Club and beach on the Environmental Agency land is getting dubbed cloggy alley as so much rubbish is just thrown there.

Thanks were tendered to Dan & Nick for their work in Jaywick and were wished all the best for the elections in May.

There are plans in for consideration about having an adventure play area Millar's Barn golf club/West Road area.

The Jaywick Forum has received two emails regarding ruts in West Road as they are dangerous for cycles. GE to let Essex County Council, Highways know but it was said that it will be done as we have the ladies cycling coming to the area again this year.

Thanks were said to Frobisher school for their input to the meeting, and how it was appreciated. The chairman said it would be a pleasure to have them attend any time they wished.

Finished 11.20

At 11.30am ID, MP, PP gave a display/discussion on Tendring District Council's plan for Jaywick – this showed land that Tendring District Council already own plus what they would like or are in the process of trying to buy. Later on today there will be an open public display in the Resource Centre for residents to state their opinions and to help formulate the type of homes required.

At present they own land on Lotus Way and are trying to purchase further land in this area as well as the Sunspot site. Also under consideration was the Mermaid site but the owner is not willing to negotiate on the price and it was felt too expensive to buy as it was way above it current value price wise. Tendring District Council would also would like to get the Tudor Fields area with the intention of using it as "Green Space" land as it is unsuitable to build on. They are in talks with a various developers about how the project can go forward.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015**  
**Golf Green Hall - 11.30am.**



Dear Sir or Madam, Sadly I must complain about the programme, Benefits Britain, My life on the Dole. Broadcast at 21.00hrs on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

This programme was set in the town of Jaywick

I am the Community Builder for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service part of my role involves me spending time working with the Jaywick community.

I have grown to know and well understand that Jaywick although a victim of lack of Local Authority funding, short on opportunities and facilities, still manages to function engage with each other and accept that sadly history shows that they don't have a voice, stature or influence outside of the town.

The documentary constantly referred to Jaywick as Britain's poorest town.

This I know is a label the residents are desperate to lose.

I am incensed by the way this documentary focused on the very worst of Jaywick society, showed only the very worst of Jaywick properties and apart from inclusion ventures showed nothing of the many People and teams most of which are local resident led which support Jaywick.

Whilst I would have to accept that this programme and others in the series is designed for its shock value, to create anger, annoyance, debate and to sadly perpetuate the Myth that all families/people on benefits are workshy lazy scroungers.

Until it sadly touched on the lives of people I like and respect, whilst very much not accepting the Myth.

I would admit to enjoying all the above feelings stirred up by my voyeuristic short looks into the lives of these people.

Within the main family featured in the Jaywick programme several questions were raised but not progressed;

Why in a community of 5000 is the junior School a bus ride away?

Why is the nearest supermarket 3 miles away?

In fact why is there nowhere within walking distance of the Brooklands area of Jaywick for residents to purchase even a pint of milk or a loaf of bread?

Why is the Doctors surgery a bus ride away?

Regardless of very generous benefits package, ( by her own admission the young lady concerned stated she was quite well off for money)This family already displaying bad feeding habits, smoking in the home, an inability to keep their home clean, constantly swearing in front of their children. Yet they are allowed to Home School their 6 year old Autistic Son.

Why as Journalists did you not question these facts?

As part of my role as Community Builder for the Essex County Fire And Rescue Service I have been working in Jaywick for some years now, I have knocked on every door in the Brooklands and wider Jaywick area fitting free smoke alarms supplied by the fire service giving home fire safety advice.

I attend Jaywick Forum meetings, safety events also community events designed to create a nicer, prettier and safer Jaywick

I like the people I meet.

More importantly they seem to like me.

I and the residents of Jaywick are well aware that cheap poor quality housing means that several of the poorer, less educated difficult individuals and families are attracted to or end up living in Jaywick.

But Far and away (and not displayed in the documentary) the core of Jaywick society are good, house proud, honest citizens that accept engage with and help the very people you featured in your programme

One point made by the documentary is that there is very much an old fashioned community in Jaywick.

A community that could, and in many cases should, be an example to much more affluent community's right across the country.

It is a great pity that a documentary featuring the good side of Jaywick and how decent people live and are proud of their town, will not get enough viewers to be viable

L R Nicoll