

**North Stifford Village Community Group**  
**Public Meeting**  
**North Stifford Village Hall**  
**January 19<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**Present:** 35 members, 2 non members and;  
Committee members; Chairman; Gordon Roberts: Vice chair; Ron Covill :  
Secretary; Maureen Nicholas; Dennis Brockhurst; Lee Fullbrook; Andy Higgs; Cliff  
Cowin; Darren Jones; Catherine Hooton; Kevin Hooper

**Apologies:** Treasurer; Pat Dance, Graham Butterfield

**Welcome:**

Gordon opened the meeting by welcoming everyone with a special welcome to new members and residents. Gordon introduced the committee members.

**Village sign;**

Gordon explained that progress had been made in obtaining the funding needed. Generous donations had been promised from the Mardyke Trust, National Grid, a local charity and by a resident, which would cover the costs. The planning procedures were more difficult to identify as the council had taken over three months to reply to many communications that had been sent by Cliff Cowin requesting information as to the planning requirements. The outcome would be discussed at the next committee meeting and hopefully could now take this forward.

**Social Events:**

Gordon announced a Race Night in the village hall, planned for February 11th. Also, on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> February another Litter Pick, which would start at 10.a.m. High visibility vests would be provided and some equipment would also be available. The village Fete would be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Help would be welcomed on the day and anyone interested could contact a Fete committee member. The annual Barbeque would probably be in July but until the Belhus Cricket Club had arranged their fixtures, the date couldn't be confirmed just yet.

A spokes person from the meeting added that they felt that the children's Christmas Party was a great success and congratulations were extended to those members of the committee who had organised the afternoon.

**Village News Letter:**

We had now started to advertise in the news letter as a way of raising funds, half a page would be £25 and a full page £40. The next edition was planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> March all articles needed to be with Cliff by 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**A.O.B.**

**Four Acres Trust letter.**

This letter had only gone to some of the homes on Stifford Green, as the proposals would affect all residents of the village, copies had been circulated for discussion and response.

Neil Rockcliffe, counsellor, gave his interpretation of the content of this letter and comments were made from the floor.

There had been previous commitment from villages to stop any development of this kind and Gordon urged members to uphold their views and to write to Mr Bothomley.

**Planning application of the Tower.**

Neil also responded from questions from the floor of the change of use of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floors of the water Tower on Stifford Green from business to retail, which suggested there were plans for a hairdressers/ beauty salon. The objections were that apart from the extra traffic and parking, if it changed to retail then if the vender moved on it would be opened to many others aspects of retail.

Neil explained the procedures required for such planning application such as a public notice as well as to immediate residents and advised residents to check them out and consult with the council.

Neil said that he would usually receive emails regarding all planning applications but in this instant had no knowledge until now.

It was queried that the committee could be sent an email of any planning applications relevant to the village. To be discussed by the committee.

**Application for a licence for a fast food stall on Pilgrims Lane.**

It was announced that a street trader had applied for a licence to trade in a lay by off the Ardale site, gated area opposite Davey Down, during the hours of 4.00p.m. and 2.00.a.m.

Objections were raised from the floor, such as traffic congestion as it was a very busy road specially at peak times and there wasn't any place to park and it would encourage the road racers, already causing a public nuisance.

Neil explained that objections in official terms would be Public nuisance, no parking facility, risk to other road users, conflicts with prevention of traffic congestion, anti social behaviour and litter. The latter was thought by residents to encourage rats, already seen in the vicinity.

Neil said he had an email address for people to send in their objections and to see him after the meeting.

Again it was voiced that there was a lack of communication from the council on important issues that affect the village. Also the council's outlets for this was inadequate as not everyone in the village has access to the councils web site, has need to visit the council offices or has delivery of the Thurrock Gazette, which was explained by Neil as the councils route to inform the public.

**Pot Holes in Clockhouse Lane:**

Gordon advised that the committee had discussed this issue and he had contacted the council whose representative had been very helpful and welcomed any complaints to be presented to him. Gordon gave out copies of the telephone number to call.

**Cold Callers:**

Dennis explained the purpose and value of being a part of this organisation which came under the trading standards regulations. When he had gathered all the information he would be making it available to the village community and if there was a significant wish to proceed he would do this.

**Burglary:**

This was raised from the floor by a resident who had recently been a victim of burglary, saying that it was so important for us to keep aware of those opportunists, who will take advantage if we lapse in taking precautions to avoid such an event. Gordon added that at the last meeting the crime prevention officer had given a really good talk on the subject and although statistics confirm we have a low crime rate in the village it was in all our interests to be vigilant.

**Cricket Club:**

Gordon announced that the Belhus Cricket Club who use the village green have a charity cricket event organised by 'The Lashings' the event will have matches including test match players taking part. It will take place on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Guest Speaker:**

Jonathan Catton gave a very interesting talk about local history with an accompanying slideshow.

**Next Public Meeting; A.G.M**

Date; 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011-01-24

Venue; The Village Hall;

Time 8.00.p.m.