

North Stifford Village Community Group  
Public Meeting  
North Stifford Village Hall  
July 16<sup>th</sup> 2008

Apologies; Jackie Payne, Ngage; Jackie Ball, Stacie Williams. PCSO's;

Presenters; form the North Stifford Community Group;

Dennis Brockhurst, Chairman; Gordon Roberts, Vice Chair; Graham Butterfield, Treasurer;  
Terry Croarkin, Committee member;

Speakers; John Lane, Gateway Cycling Club; & Brian Edwards, Belhus Cricket Club.

1. Welcome and introductions; Dennis Brockhurst

2. Membership forms; Dennis Brockhurst

Dennis explained the reasons for the form and it's link to the group's constitution.

Requested those attending the meeting to complete.

3. Funding; Graham Butterfield

Graham explained how funding could be attained by the N.S.V.C.G. for the benefit of the village.

Chafford Forum has £11,000 at its disposal; money for the group for stationary and the notice boards had come from this fund.

Greenway Mardyke Trust has funds of £30,000 and Thames Gateway Corporation has finds of £30,000.

Thurrock Council horticulture team have funding of up to £30,000 and at present the NSVCG are in negotiations for a new play area for the village.

All local groups can apply and there may be requirements for a group to have a constitution and a bank account.

4. Traffic Issues. Gordon Roberts

Gordon advised that some of the issues hadn't progressed but had been assured by the counsellors involved that they were still pursuing these matters.

Counsellors; Neil Rockcliffe, (Highways & Transport) & Garry Hague (Strategic Planning & Regeneration)

- a) 20 miles an hour speed signs for High Road and Clockhouse Lane.
- b) Cameras for the high Road on the chicanes. The counsellor had written to the local industrial site to request management to advise lorry drivers using their depot not to use the high road when travelling from the A13. Our local policeman reported that he had fined quite a few foreign lorries.
- c) An issue regarding the state of the roadside verges, especially on Stifford Hill, that presently required pedestrians to walk out in the road was being addressed.
- d) Stifford Green, which is the responsibility of the Four Cares Trust, had problems with their area in keeping their green in a reasonable condition. At the moment a resident is mowing the green at his own expense. Contacts were offered from the floor and would be given to Gordon to follow up after the meeting. Also, it was felt that a thank you letter of acknowledgement for the work the resident was doing should be sent. Member of the floor to give NSVCG the name and address and they would ensure this happened.

Speaker;

John Lane, from the Gateway cycling club gave an encouraging speech of the details of the clubs members ages and abilities, of their recreational jaunts and the benefits to health. John left leaflets, one of which is on the village notice boards and the web site. John was also

chairman of the Thurrock Cycling Forum SATRANS and advised there was available an instructive course to build ones confidence and risks awareness. They also took up issues of overgrown cycle paths and public ways and Davis Fish run a volunteer scheme to clear these paths.

Speaker;

Brian Edwards chairman of the cricket club, explained that the club had a voluntary status; and they leased the grounds from the council four years ago. Apart from the running of the cricket club he wanted it be a integrate part of the village and not to be seen as separate. He wanted to improve the outlook of the village green and was planning flowerbeds and for more benches to be placed around the green; a security fence had already been erected and there were plans to improve the clubhouse. The clubhouse/pavilion had a bar and villages were welcome to partake of refreshments and enjoy the cricket matches. There were fun days in the planning and Brian was happy to talk with anyone to resolve any issues, such as car parking and was working with NSVCG and the Fete and Village Hall committees.

5 & 6. Newsletter & Play Area; Terry Croarkin.

Terry raised attention that addresses were asked for on the children survey. In hindsight, in this days climate, it was felt that this was not appropriate, and apologised on behalf of the committee. New surveys were available and any that had been returned with address, would be treated in strictest confidence. Any progress on this venture would be announced in future newsletters.

The first newsletter had gone out to all residents and although informative was very factual. Terry hoped that villages would respond and send any topics of interest to be included for future and more interesting newsletters.

Terry also explained the there would be a survey regarding for the new play area and circulated details of the suggested items. These had already been erected in Horndon- on- the- Hill if anyone wished to view them.

Discussion ensued with ideas for fund raising events such as quiz and race nights.

Terry requested anyone with ideas or interest in becoming involved with the fete, to contact him direct or by email.

7. Neighbourhood watch; Dennis Brockhurst

Dennis advised that there had been a problem in communication but this had been resolved he was now set up to co-ordinate the watch. All he needed was volunteer's to be 'foot soldiers' preferably with email, but this wasn't necessary.

As Dennis receives reports he will distribute these for the foot soldiers to cascade them around the community. Discussion ensued on statistics of crime in the Nth Stifford and Chafford areas.

8. A.O.B.

a) An up to date poster for the village hall events is needed for the notice boards.

b) Webb site for the village, there is two options, to start a new one, which Engage can help with or take over the present one that has been, set up by a local resident through the village committee.

c) Representatives from the Chafford Forum announced that they were holding a race night, on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, venue o be arranged. They also advised that as they had been running for some time they were happy to share their experience with the NSVCG on any new project.