
Frinton Residents' Association

NOTES of a Half-Yearly Meeting held in the McGrigor Hall on 01 November 2014 at 10:00 AM

Present: The President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and 6 other Committee members, 5 speakers, 5 other guests including 3 Councillors and 2 members of Essex Constabulary, together with 66 Association members, 6 Non-Members and 2 Friends making a total of 89 attendees.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Chairman (NC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Councillors present, who stood up.

He then thanked the previous Chairman, Patricia Marino (PM), for undertaking the role in an excellent manner for the last six years and expressed the opinion that she would be a hard act to follow. He also thanked her for providing him with guidance, and PM was presented with a floral display.

NC reported that since the last meeting the FRA had been continuing to report to ECC on the dangerous state of some pavements in Frinton; orange markings had now appeared in some areas, but they were quickly disappearing. ECC had replied that they were working on potholes in preparation for the winter and that it was a matter of having money available to carry out the repairs. NC then encouraged all residents to report dangerous pavements to ECC in order to bring pressure to bear. The contact details were on the FRA website and in the Newsletter.

NC then expressed the opinion that Connaught Avenue had been tidied up as a result of FRA pressure and that a meeting had taken place with Rachel Fryer (RF), TDC Town Centre Co-ordinator. She had promised to take up issues on behalf of Frinton residents, and if evidence could be provided to the FRA, preferably including photographs of situations (such as delivery lorries double-parked, goods/'A' boards blocking pavements, pigeon droppings, etc) this could be passed on to RF who would take appropriate action.

NC reported that both the FRA and the Council had had meetings with Sainsbury's representatives. As there was insufficient room at the back of the proposed development for delivery vehicles, the registered owners of the service road were not known, and it was so narrow that it would prevent others accessing their premises, deliveries would need to be made at the front. Unfortunately, there would be a period when there would be problems, but the FRA had been assured that these would be kept to a minimum. Planning agreements would support what means of access was to be allowed.

NC then reported that as of the previous day, Dr Meleka, of the Caradoc Surgery, had resigned for personal reasons and dismay was expressed by the audience. He explained that from Monday, 3rd November, the Surgery would be run by a consortium led by the Anglian Community Enterprise (ACE) for the next 12 months in order to allow NHS England an opportunity to make permanent arrangements. He also said that he had been told that one of the immediate changes would be that there would be 7 Doctors' sessions per day instead of the previous 3 or 4 with a session being 2 1/2 hours. This was welcomed as it would improve the availability of appointments. He then read out an extract from the NHS England Press Statement:

"Caradoc Surgery in Frinton is to undergo a change in provider but services to patients will function as normal throughout the transition. Due to personal reasons, Dr Lobna Meleka, who currently runs the Caradoc Surgery in Frinton, has advised NHS England in Essex of her decision to terminate her contract with effect from 31 October 2014.

NHS England in Essex has received a proposal to deliver services at the Caradoc Surgery

from a collaboration of providers who already deliver community and primary care services to patients in north east Essex. Anglian Community Enterprise (ACE), local GP Practices (GP Primary Choice Ltd) and Supporting Health (Essex) Limited will deliver services from the Caradoc Surgery commencing on Monday November 3. This will be an interim arrangement for one year while NHS England in Essex undertakes a procurement process to find a permanent provider of primary care medical services for patients living in Frinton on Sea.

The new collaboration of providers will ensure that patients continue to receive full primary care services from the Caradoc Surgery, which will function as normal over the transition period. Staff at the practice have been kept updated in relation to the forthcoming changes and many members of staff will continue to work at the Practice for the new provider."

NC concluded by saying that Nicola Carmichael, Director of Operations at Anglian Community Enterprise (ACE), would be providing more information later in the meeting under Residents' Issues.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Douglas Carswell MP, Councillors Mark Platt, Vanda Watling, Iris & Brian Johnson, Rachel Fryer, TDC Town Centre Co-ordinator, Committee Members Helen Balisson & Peter Leaman, resident Anne Tooby, John & Dorothy Stone, Pat & Terry Smith, Anita Walling and Gail Evans.

3 PLANNING IN TENDRING

The Chairman introduced Catherine Bicknell (CB), TDC's Head of Planning Services. CB thanked the FRA for the invitation to speak at the meeting and explained that she would be providing an update on the report she had provided previously on the Local Plan, ie what had been happening in 2014. Then her colleague, Derek Walker (DW), TDC Planning Team Leader, would deal with Conservation Area issues.

CB reported that last year TDC were about to publish the plan and went out to consultation in Jan/Feb 2014. As a result of the consultation, a number of comments had been received from the public, and from the local Councils of Babergh and Colchester, and other public bodies. The Inspector had also stated that TDC were making insufficient provision for housing land: the plan showed only an allocation of 6,000 dwellings; 12,000 new homes were needed over a 15-year period. She explained that TDC had not provided for this number because they were not convinced that that number of homes were needed and there was no land available. However, other Councils had had plans sent back when giving the same reasons.

CB continued by saying that in Spring 2014, the decision was taken to try to find land. They looked again at the land available, and a Local Plan Committee was set up to look at how the Local Plan could be progressed; it needed to be sound, justified, positively prepared, effective, consistent with national policy and prepared in co-operation with other public bodies. Also, it was really important that the Council was able to back up ideas with evidence. Meetings took place in May, July and August 2014, and the needs of increasing population numbers have now been included; the new plan had to overcome a long term decrease on the rate of housing built in the last decade. The Committee have produced a timetable, and have looked at vision and spatial strategy; the decision is that the new Local Plan will include proposals for 12,120 new dwellings and 5,000 new jobs between 2014 and 2031. A number of large developments in a number of areas have been fixed on in Clacton, Harwich and Weeley, together with job creation within the A120 corridor, around Clacton and east of Colchester; specific sites have been considered where we can deliver a choice of housing. No final decisions had been made, but they were looking at options: a certain set of sites have been accepted, and those offering employment and housing have been identified. The new Local Plan would go out to consultation before progressing to the final plan.

CB then showed a slide and pointed out areas on a Vision and Spatial Strategy Key Diagram for NE Essex showing proposed Strategic Urban Settlements on the outskirts of Harwich, to the east of Colchester and within Clacton, a Strategic Rural Service Centre at the centre of the region, Smaller Urban Settlements in Manningtree, Frinton and Brightlingsea, plus three

strategic garden suburbs: Weeley and two on the outskirts of Clacton.

CB added that Colchester were also reviewing their Local Plan and that work was being done on that separately; they were running behind the rest of the work, and East Colchester and West Tendring Local Plan (optional) was for adoption in 2017.

CB then displayed slides showing the land allocated for development in the Frinton area, ie land at Turpins Farm (at the junction of Elm Tree Avenue and Walton Road), where it would be decided later how it would be laid out with open spaces, etc, and a new site on land to the east of Halstead Road.

She explained that the next steps to take place in 2015 involved approving the options, publishing a draft submission and carrying out consultation. After consultation, the submission would be revised and then submitted to the Secretary of State. An independent Inspector would then be appointed by the Government to carry out a scrutiny.

CB then clarified why it was necessary to bother with a Local Plan by saying that it was really important, particularly because it would give people confidence to come to the area, build houses and develop jobs. In the absence of a Local Plan it was difficult to say no to developers. At present only enough land for 2 ½ years had been identified, but it was better to be up-front and clear on which areas should be developed, and give consideration to school places and medical centres.

Q: What is an RSC?

A: A Rural Service Centre. These need to be identified in the larger settlements. It is important to allow some development in rural areas, ie Thorpe-Le-Soken.

Secretary's Note: Subsequently, further clarification was provided. The definition in the emerging Local Plan for a 'Rural Service Centre' is as follows: These locations will be the focus for smaller scale housing and employment development that reflects their unique rural character, local development needs and physical, environmental and infrastructure constraints. This will be achieved through development on sites specifically allocated for housing or mixed-use development in the Local Plan and sites with outstanding planning permissions for residential development, supplemented by development on other suitable sites within settlement development boundaries. No single housing development in these locations will exceed 50 dwellings in size unless they have already obtained planning permission for a higher number, specific policies in this Local Plan indicate otherwise or there is Town or Parish Council support (possibly through a Neighbourhood Plan) for a larger development to achieve certain local benefits.

Q: I am interested in the employment target where the homes are going to be built. I remember years ago where homes were built in the countryside and jobs went with the homes. People applied for jobs and found homes. There was an employment strategy and a homes strategy. Are these new homes for local people or will people be decanted from cities to here?

A: It is now a different era. There was much more control then. There is a different approach now. Building will stimulate jobs. We cannot dictate who buys the homes. People have moved into this area. Considering the way that the population predictions are worked out, there is a real need for homes for our children, for us as we get older, there are more single parent households and retirement homes, as well as people moving out of London. Sites are a mix of housing and employment. We have received a message from the Government that it is better to have a house and no job rather than a job and no home, to stimulate the economy to some degree.

Q: How do you factor in houses built on land with one house and now six houses, eg opposite Parkers' Garden Centre.

A: In the process we use we have a mixture; we take account of brown field sites and windfall sites so we can adjust the numbers. We have a good prediction on how such sites go forward.

Q: Building 12,000 homes over the next few years equates to 36,000 people if you take an average of three per household. There is no infrastructure for doctors' surgeries and the Council cannot even repair our pavements. I have been asking since December 2007 and told it was not sufficiently needed in the area of Hadleigh Road.

A: We are looking at infrastructure needs. We meet with the County Council, Education and Health providers. We are living during a time when budgets are tight. Developers do make contributions, but these may not be sufficient to provide all necessary infrastructure. Even so, we still have to grant planning permission, and find a way to get the infrastructure delivered.

Q: How many new homes have been built in Frinton in the last eight years?

A: Not a high number.

Secretary's Note: After the meeting, the following answer was provided: 93 dwellings if only counting the number of dwellings completed within the Frinton, Hamford and Homelands wards.

Q: Is it not a fact that if the figures for the number of houses to be built is not achieved, there is no penalty. Fifteen years is a long time. Do people need to be frightened?

A: There is no penalty from the Government. The main risk is that you lose some control and other sites may come forward. We have to demonstrate that we have the right amount of land going forward. If we do not achieve a target in one year, then we have to add it on to future years so the task gets harder. If a developer buys a field that we do not want developed then we have no influence on whether that field is developed. In terms of penalty, there is an incentive. The money from developments goes into the local community.

Q: When caravan parks become residential, can this factor into the quota?

A: That is an interesting issue. Some do lawfully become dwellings, others have planning permission, or have become used as holiday homes 365 days a year. There are all sorts of issues. What about the safety of these people, and the loss to the tourist market? When they become dwellings, they could be counted against our housing numbers.

Q: With regard to the Martello site at Walton and the Tesco proposals for a doctors' surgery there, do you know what is happening on that site?

A: Tesco are looking at this again. The rest of the development there is still progressing.

CB then introduced Derek Walker (DW) who stated that it was a pleasure to be invited to speak. He said that he would start by reviewing planning history:

In 1948, the 'new' post-war planning system introduced special protection for individual buildings that were considered worthy of protection for their architectural or historic interest. These became known as 'listed buildings'; at that time the concept was for protection for individual buildings.

Twenty years later, it was realised that broader protection of areas of heritage were needed. Therefore, in 1967, the Civic Amenities Act introduced the concept of 'conservation areas' in response to recognition that some areas (rather than individual buildings) had such qualities that they were themselves worthy of preservation and enhancement. Parts of Frinton and Walton were designated a conservation area by the local Planning Authority in 1982. Local Planning Authorities are now required by law to identify parts of their area that are 'of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance' (Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990). The requirement goes beyond designation in that these areas have to be reviewed from time to time, and the area can be expanded.

He explained that there was much discretion as to the nature and extent of a proposed conservation area, but they tended to be (but were not exclusively) the historic cores of towns and villages, which may also have a concentration of listed buildings. There could be distinctive street patterns, open spaces, or features, but definitely there had to be something of architectural/historic interest. Frinton was young in heritage terms as it has few listed buildings, but it has a great deal of heritage value.

He added that where planning permission was required, the local Planning Authority has a legal duty to pay special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the special character or appearance of that area or its setting, ie any proposed new development should at least preserve - and preferably enhance - the conservation area; the aim being to prevent unsympathetic change. In 2006, the Council published a suite of Conservation Area Character Appraisals for the Frinton and Walton Conservation Area: Part 1 for Walton-on-the-Naze, Part 2 for Frinton Park and Part 3 for Frinton all of which can be accessed on line (<http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning/heritage/conservation-trees/conservation-areas>).

DW then displayed onscreen some examples of building of heritage interest stating that the Local Authority did all they could to preserve and enhance such buildings: The Rock Hotel and Maplins on The Esplanade as examples of Arts & Crafts buildings making a positive contribution to the area, and Art Deco properties on the corner of Audley Way and Cliff Way being examples of another style of some similar buildings that are listed. He then displayed features such as a distinctive wall made of reject bricks.

DW explained that the test applied was to ensure that the change was not harmful to local character or appearance; an impact could be either positive or negative; it could be neutral and acceptable.

He added that not all development in conservation areas required permission from the Council as some development was permitted until secondary legislation. However, the General Permitted Development Order did not permit some developments that would be allowed if they were not in a Conservation Area and it placed more restrictions on some developments. Such restrictions included:

- extensions, alterations and improvements to dwellings when they consist of or include the cladding of any part of the exterior of the dwelling with stone, artificial stone, pebble dash, render, timber, plastic or tiles, a side extension of the original dwelling, a rear extension of more than one storey, or a roof extension;
- outbuildings, enclosures, pools, gas or oil tanks within the curtilage where any part of the building, enclosure, pool or container would be between a side wall of the dwelling and the boundary;
- installation, alteration or replacement of a chimney, flue, soil or vent pipe where it would be on a wall or roof slope which fronts a highway and forms either the principal or side elevation;
- satellite dishes on a chimney, wall or roof slope which faces onto and is visible from a highway, or the building is more than 15m high;
- solar panels or any solar equipment attached to a wall that fronts a highway;
- wind turbines attached to a wall or roof slope that fronts a highway, or freestanding turbines closer to the highway than the closest part of the dwelling.

DW then displayed onscreen an example of a historic building (the Flemish House) that had solar panels on the side element of the roof, which could not be seen from the road.

He then explained how Article 4 Directions could be applied to restrict small changes that could impact on the special character or appearance of a conservation area, ie replacing traditional wooden windows and doors with upvc of similar appearance.

Usually this would be outside the control of the Council, but with an Article 4 Direction planning permission had to be obtained. Also planning permission was required to demolish any unlisted buildings in conservation areas, which have a volume of more than 115 cubic metres, or to demolish a fence, gate, wall or railing over 1 metre high adjacent to a highway (which includes a public footpath or bridleway) or open space, or over 2 metres high.

Finally, DW pointed out that even trees above a certain size (7.5cm in diameter, measuring 1.5m from ground level) are legally protected in conservation areas. In this instance, six weeks' notice must be given to the Council to alert the local planning authority who will serve a Tree Preservation Order if needed.

NC thanked DW for an excellent presentation and the floor was opened for questions.

Q: A few years ago meetings were held regarding local listing of buildings to protect the work of local architects. Are you going to pick that up again?

A: Local listing is a process, it is not a statutory requirement. It is a procedure that has gone in and out of fashion. There is potentially a lot of value in it, particularly in Frinton where there are some fine examples of English domestic architecture that is not statutorily protected. It is something that I cannot answer because it is not a project high on the priorities of the Council at the moment. Personally, I would be very keen to encourage it to go forward as it would be a worthwhile project.

Q: In the past when we have an objection to raise, for instance, against land grabbing, we were able to quote from the Local Plan. Now, in the absence of a Local Plan, we are in limbo. Is this a free for all for developers? How do you recommend we object when there are no hard and fast rules?

A: We do still have a Local Plan, but the problem is that it is not an up-to-date plan. The policies within the 2007-2011 Local Plan have been saved so we still refer to these, alongside the proposed policies in the new Local Plan, including focus changes. Proposed policies do not carry the same weight as the saved policies, however. We can also make reference to the National Planning Policy Framework which includes tests that are embodied in legislation.

Q: I have been putting Crittall Windows back in. I applied to TDC and was made to jump through hoops, but elsewhere you have waived through putting in plastic windows that detract from the house. There are inconsistencies in the Conservation Area. In Audley Way the Planning Department quoted that the windows only needed to look like the originals, but in Easton Way the decisions were very different.

A: It is very encouraging to hear that you are re-installing Crittall Windows as an example of restoration. The example of windows is a good one in terms of what the Council can control. With specifically listed buildings there is control whereas if a building is not specifically listed the final decision may be influenced by nearby listed buildings. We can only encourage where there are no specific controls, and provide public guidance. As planners we can be frustrated. There are limits to what we can achieve. The practicalities are that there will be reasons why that situation has arisen. There is always a Right of Appeal where a Planning Inspector will make the final decision. There are a whole host of considerations.

4 CVS TENDRING

NC introduced Sharon Alexander (SA), Chief Officer, Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST), who stated that she would mainly be speaking about accessing information.

However, first of all, she explained the mission of CVST, which was to develop and support voluntary action in Tendring and empower local people. Its five core functions included promoting and supporting charities, bringing agencies together to work in partnership, representing the sector and acting as a strategic partner. It was

- set up in 1973
- is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee
- has launched several local charities
- has 9 Trustees, 10 staff, 40 volunteers and 160 affiliated members covering young people, disabilities, animals and older people.

SA reported that the benefits of affiliation included:

- weekly e-bulletin with up-to-date news of local events and items of interest, and Newlink
- invitations to events
- cheaper room hire and beach hut information
- funding advice (for example, guidance was provided on submitting the application for funding to renew the floor in the McGrigor Hall)
- advice and guidance on running a voluntary group
- being part of a network, plus many more advantages.

SA summed up by saying that as well as bringing agencies together, and providing an opportunity to access events and link up with other people, CVST delivered many services, but

generally speaking they were about mobilising communities, providing information and bringing people together.

She then displayed a slide listing activities CVST were involved in:

- Neighbourhood Learning Programme
- Tendring Trustee Network
- Community Network Breakfast
- Voluntary Sector Partnership
- IT for the Terrified, IT Friday, Silver Surfers Club
- Employability sessions
- Friendship & Bereavement Café
- Volunteer Managers Forum
- Beach Huts
- Voluntary Sector Conference
- Exhibitions
- Victorian Christmas Market
- Healthier Independent Longer Lives
- Tendring Older People's Forum
- Community Information Centre

She also explained that CVST gets involved in local issues such as helping to resolve problems with GP Surgeries and A&E, where public services are stretched with an ageing population, plus Crime & Disorder. Overall CVST provided signposting and information about local services, help and support. She added that "we usually have someone who knows where to go if we do not know ourselves". Information can be obtained from the Community Information Centre at the Clacton Hub (in Rosemary Road, Clacton) where there were trained volunteers and staff, plus a telephone helpline (01255 425692), a website listing services (www.cvstendring.org.uk) and a Voluntary Sector Directory that had been circulated to GP surgeries (an extract from the Directory was displayed onscreen).

SA added that a range of guides had been put together by a group of voluntary organisations at no cost, and these were updated online on a daily basis as they reacted to change very quickly. Rooms that can accommodate up to 90 people were available for hire and CVST also tried to promote information in the Community by holding exhibitions. An example of such an event - a Health & Wellbeing Exhibition with 33 exhibitors - was displayed onscreen, and it was explained that the next one would be taking place in March 2015. SA explained that at these events practical advice was provided as well as the opportunity to participate in activities, watch healthy eating demonstrations, and that it was a fun day with taster sessions.

In July, CVST hold an AGM & Community Exhibition with 22 organisations contributing, which also enables organisations to learn about each other.

Then SA spoke about the Tendring Trustee Network, adding that there were lots of charities in need of help from people with all sorts of skills, who have time available.

Finally, she reported on the CVST HILL (Healthier Independent Longer Lives) Project for which they had secured a massive lottery grant amounting to nearly £500,000, and which had started last year. She explained that the mission was to work with local residents and encourage people to volunteer because public services were such that more and more volunteers were needed to get involved in their communities. She provided an example of helping people to take physical exercise, and explained that CVST worked with such groups, to tackle isolation, loneliness and worklessness.

Then she thanked Tendring District Council and, in particular, Councillor Nick Turner as CVST had recently been fortunate to receive a grant for a Bereavement & Friendship Café in Clacton which was very successful. A new one had been set up in Jaywick and they were in the process of setting one up in Walton. She added that since January the number of members had grown to over 56, they had organised trips for themselves, they ran their own café and a raffle.

SA then reported that there were over 900 voluntary groups active in the district and suggested residents contact CVST if they were in need of support or assistance.

John Smock, Chair of Ontrack Rail Users' Association, then stated that church and youth groups should link up with CVST, and promised that SA would be hearing from some in due course.

The Chairman thanked SA for providing so much information.

5 FRINTON IN BLOOM

David Foster (DF) stated that Frinton in Bloom (FiB) had now been in existence for twenty-one years, and that it was not just about flowers. FiB worked with the community, they worked with the FRA, they worked with the youth of the town, ie Tendring Team Landermere had formed a group to find a way to fund it - in the last two years they had been very successful with rankings of Number One British Team, 10th in Europe and 16th in the World. He added that young people moved on so FiB now had another year of children who they were trying to work with as they wanted to sustain such projects.

DF reported that on Frinton station platform there was now a mural on the wall due to the efforts of the station adopters. This project was continuing and further work was being done on the redundant platform. This was to include a sculpture which would also be a planter.

He explained that FiB had been working with the Gardening Club at Frinton County Primary School for many years. A Bird Watch had been arranged in Crescent Gardens and bird boxes had been put up in the trees. This year there was an edible garden in one of the flowerbeds to provide the children with enthusiasm for gardening. He added that Anglia in Bloom judges were amazed and impressed that a garden had been set aside in this way. In addition, FiB have been allowed to use part of the allotments to involve Frinton & Kirby Beavers and encourage them to grow things.

He pointed out that FiB worked with Tendring District Council (TDC) and Frinton & Walton Town Council (FWTC) as without their help they would not be able to do as much work as they can. The role of FiB was to add value to whatever already exists, and as a result of working on a management plan with TDC, Crescent Gardens obtained a Green Flag again this year - this means Frinton is in the top 2% of gardens in the country. He reported that changes were made in Crescent Gardens twice a year, and the stump of a diseased tree had been turned into a sculpture that Frington can be proud of.

DF continued by saying that in Frinton, there were many gardens including the Gun Gardens and Jubilee Gardens, and that Frinton covered a large area. FiB worked with many organisations: it might be the church, or Pedlars Wood, and they had formed close links with the Triangle Traders which brought about an environment change - they achieved a Level 4 Standard on their first attempt with Anglia in Bloom and this year they were named as the Best in the Small Town category in the Anglia Region.

DF then reported that a new project was working with Tendring Technology College (TTC) Science Department to build an ecological pond in their playing fields.

TDC, etc, were also interested in a more satisfactory outcome in regard to The Spinney and this was something else FiB would get involved with if asked to do so.

In the past few years Frinton had won two Silver Gilt and six Gold Awards in the Anglia in Bloom competition. He stated that it was about achieving a standard and that was what FiB were doing. Finally, he stated that Frinton had received a Gold nomination for both the Rock Garden and Crescent Gardens this year.

Q: I live opposite The Spinney and would like to ask whether there has been a satisfactory outcome to recent proposals. Personally, I like the present outlook. I understand it is being

considered to build a playground there, which is not in keeping with a nature area.

A: (David Foster) Meetings will be taking place in the next few weeks between the Wildlife Trust, TDC and FWTC. Obviously, at the moment, there are a few people who feel that it needs a bit more management. This issue will be determined shortly.

A resident then said: "Thank you on behalf of myself and the majority of residents for putting Frinton on the map and making it such a pretty place to live". There was then a distinct murmur of approval.

The Chairman agreed that Frinton in Bloom did an excellent job and also thanked David Foster.

6 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

The Chairman (NC) introduced Nicola Carmichael (NCM), and explained that she had kindly come along today at just two days' notice.

NCM asked for a show of hands to indicate how many of those present had heard of ACE and was not surprised to note the response of approximately 4%. She then explained that ACE provided community health services in NE Essex and listed them. She added that currently they were running three primary care practices, one in Jaywick and two in Clacton, and they had experience of going in when things had gone adrift. ACE did not want to take on practices on a long-term basis because GP Practices should be run by GPs, she said, but ACE could work in partnership with other people including GP Primary Care Choice Ltd which involved a network of GPs who provided support outside their own GP Practices and Supporting Health (Essex) Ltd (SHEL) which was a local medical committee comprising senior, experienced members regulating general practice in the area. She stated that SHEL would be providing medical leadership, had been at Caradoc during the past few weeks and would continue to be there for the next year. She also reported that an interim Practice Manager would be starting work with the existing Practice Manager at Caradoc to support her, and Thorpe and Walton surgeries would also provide support.

NCM stated that ACE had installed a very good network to ensure that residents received the consistency of services required. They would be putting in a year's programme; the first six months to embed good practice and the next six months looking at enhancing services. ACE was aiming to work with the local community to make sure people's needs were met. They had a dual purpose - to make an investment in the community, and a percentage of any profit made by their organisation was invested back into the community.

NC added that a meeting of the Frinton Patient Participation Group where Ian Stidston, Director of Commissioning, NHS England in Essex, and the interim Practice Manager from Caradoc would be present, was taking place on Tuesday, 4 November 2014, from 7.00 pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Old Road, Frinton.

Q: Will the same GPs/Locums be at Caradoc from Monday, 3 November 2014 as were there previously?

A: There will be no regularly employed GPs, but the existing Locum GPs are committed and will work regularly.

Q: You mentioned that a network of GPs would provide support outside their own GP Practices. How can doctors who are busy in their own surgeries find the time to come to Frinton?

A: It has happened in the past. We can't guarantee that they will find the time, but they will try.

NCM pointed out that because health care had been so successful over recent years people were living much longer and this resulted in more demand from older people. The NHS was having to grow and develop methods of managing the increased demand. She added that it was also the case that a concentrated effort had to be made with regard to helping and encouraging people to proactively look after their own health.

Q: The Coast is traditionally a place for people to retire to and therefore the high percentage of

elderly in this area should not be a surprise. I am interested in knowing why it is a problem recruiting GPs to this area.

A: I do not know, but it is quite hard work for GPs in an area with higher than average number of elderly as they place a higher demand on GP services. We have just won a large grant, a Transition Fund, to make posts more attractive for doctors to go into, together with rotational posts so that clinicians are free to gain experience elsewhere. We believe this will make it an easier and more attractive place to work. However, there are problems recruiting into primary care elsewhere in the country as well.

Q: Are you in control of the budgets?

A: NHS England hold the budget and they have commissioned us.

Q: What about the proposals for a new surgery? Caradoc is too small and there is insufficient parking. I believe that we need new accommodation.

A: That's a question for NHS England. I suggest you raise it at the meeting with Ian Stidston on Tuesday. I will also lobby them.

NCM was thanked for attending, providing interesting information and for answering questions.

John Smock, Chair of Ontrack Rail Users' Association, then provided an update on the information published in the FRA Newsletter and the Gazette. With regard to the problems at the station, suspects had been identified from CCTV footage and he asked anyone seeing anything suspicious in that location to dial 999. He also asked residents to have an input into the bidding process for the Greater Anglia Franchise, adding that it was a detailed submission and it was important to say what was wanted to improve rail services as improvements to the infrastructure and service would help the local economy. NC added that the East of England was currently badly served by public transport.

Q: I am concerned about the railway bridge (Central Avenue) being used as a rat run. It is a matter of public safety (which he repeated after the answers below were provided). I have contacted Essex County Council (ECC), but I believe elected Councillors should take this on board.

A: (John Smock) Network Rail has spent millions of pounds improving the bridge. Initially, Central Avenue was a temporary road put in to enable military access during WWII. The issue of alternative access to Frinton-on-Sea needs to be addressed, but this has currently gone off the radar.

A: (Councillor Giles Watling) There is nothing the Government can do about this because it is a private road. I do not believe it to be dangerous. As there is such a poor road surface, the road manages itself with regard to forcing people to drive slowly. The fact that it is a private bridge, there is nothing either local or central government can do about it. With regard to alternative access to Frinton, this was discussed when the automatic barriers were installed; restricted access to Frinton can be overridden by those in the Control Room in Colchester.

A: (John Smock) When the signal is set for the trains to go from Kirby or Walton there is live monitoring while the train is approaching the crossing at Frinton. If anything happened there in the past, this was where the crossing gatekeeper was useful. A long debate took place about continuing the line to Walton when the barriers were proposed. What we now want is a highly viable service.

The Chairman then read out questions asked by residents as follows:

"Why is the Council failing in its duty to uphold conservation area standards in Frinton-on-Sea? An example on a large scale is the demolition of period houses that are being replaced by large blocks of flats. An example on a small scale is that the traditional coronet-style lamp-posts on the Esplanade are being replaced by non-descript modern ones, thus destroying the character of Frinton. What are the local councillors doing to stop this erosion of our conservation status and the destruction of our heritage?"

A: (Councillor Nick Turner) Personally, I believe that we are achieving a lot of success. We stopped 18 Second Avenue being knocked down and two houses being built in its place. The

fourth Appeal to demolish Westpoint, 2 The Esplanade, has been turned down. As regards, coronet-style lamps on the Esplanade, I am in communication with Essex County Council regarding this, but I think we are doing a good job.

Derek Walker of TDC added that he wanted to reinforce the point that lamp standards were dealt with by ECC rather than TDC.

8 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be the AGM to be held on 18 April 2015 in the McGrigor Hall, Fourth Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NC pointed out that another excellent Newsletter had been produced by the FRA Newsletter Editor, Pat Batley, ably assisted by the Honorary Secretary, Jeanette Phillips. He added that the FRA also had an excellent website managed by Jeanette.

He then reported that Sgt Gerard would be holding a Police Surgery in a room at the back of the stage after the meeting and in response to the request for Local Police Surgeries on a regular basis, Sgt Gerard stated that 'Police Meets' were now taking place. A list of dates and venues was published on the Essex Police website:

http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/tendring_district/frinton/frinton-3.aspx

NC also stated that information on the adult education courses offered by the Frinton branch of the WEA (Workers' Education Association) was available at the back of room, and copies of the TDC 'A' Board Protocol and information on CVS Tendring were available on tables near the exit.

He reminded those present that on Saturday, 8 November 2014 (Remembrance weekend) a charity fundraiser event was being held at the Triangle Shopping Centre to raise money for the charities "Help for Heroes" and "The Royal British Legion, and reported that there was a proposal for an Armed Forces Day locally on 27/28 June 2015. Anyone who wished to comment on this proposal should contact the FRA.

Nick Alston, the Police & Crime Commissioner, was holding a meeting on Thursday, 18 December 2014, 6.30-8.30 pm, in the Frinton Community Association centre, Soken House, Triangle Shopping Centre, and the Christmas event was taking place in Connaught Avenue on the evening of Friday, 12 December 2014 from 6.00 pm (the road would be closed from 5.00 pm).