

The Frinton Residents' Association

Report on information provided during and after the AGM held on Saturday, 20 April 2013

Presentation entitled 'Let's Grow Together' provided by Scout Leaders Julie Smith and Lorna Keeble of the Frinton & Kirby Scout Group.

Scouting in Frinton started in 1945, and from 1959 the group operated from a Scout Hut in Wittonwood Road until they had to leave that site in 2006. It had taken years to raise money for the new hut in Park Playing Fields, Jubilee Way, but when they arrived there they experienced problems with lack of storage space for their camping gear. After exploring many options with Tendring District Council, they eventually obtained agreement in 2011 for an extension to be built on the front of the hut. Once again they began fund raising and applying for grants, and success was achieved during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations when they were introduced to Councillor Mick Page who arranged a grant of £5,000 from the Big Society fund. Other funding obtained included £2,500 from Rotary, £2,000 from Frinton & Walton Town Council, and £875 from Barclays Bank. By July 2012 they had raised a total of £12,000.

However, in June 2012 they experienced a setback – the toilet block in the park from where they received their electricity supply was vandalised, and the meter box was flooded. They lost their power and it took five months before they were reconnected. But scouting still went ahead, by torchlight at times. In winter the scout hut could not be used. Therefore, they used Frinton Parish Church Hall instead and went out on visits. In November 2012 when electricity was restored, again with the help of a grant arranged by Councillor Mick Page, they had decorating parties and soon the hut was ready to take on the future; seven years from moving to Jubilee Park, all their scouting equipment came home on 16 March 2013.

The current situation is that the Frinton & Kirby Scout Group comprises of:

10 Beavers aged 6 - 8 years who meet on Wednesday evenings (6.00 -7.15 pm) – there is space for 10 more
24 Cubs aged 8 - 10 ½ years who meet on Thursday evenings (6.00 -7.30 pm) - now a full group
15 Scouts aged 10 ½ - 14 years who meet on Thursday evenings (7.30 – 9.00) pm plus 15 Explorer Scouts aged 14 - 18 years who meet on Friday evenings.

The cubs and scouts have recently undertaken Robot Wars, and are due to go to a camp in Southend this summer. The Explorers have a young leader scheme, an opportunity to gain Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and are off to Kenya for a two-week community project shortly.

It was pointed out that the biggest waiting list to join Scouting was in Anglesey where the Duchess of Cambridge is a volunteer.

Update on the New District Plan provided by Gary Guiver, Planning Policy Manager, Tendring District Council

- The Council received around 800 responses to the Local Plan consultation exercise.
- The most contentious issues amongst residents were the proposal for all towns and villages to grow their housing stock by 6%, the development proposed in Elmstead Market, the development proposed in St. Osyth, the development proposed for Horsley Cross and a proposal to build a hotel on land on Clacton seafront.
- Developers and landowners objected to the housing figures in the Local Plan and the strict policies on housing size and housing type.
- We are currently going through all of the representations to see if we can make changes to the Local Plan to address any objections and, most importantly, ensure the Local Plan meets the requirements of the new National Planning Policy Framework.
- There is likely to be a report to District Councillors this summer seeking approval for a number of changes to the Local Plan to be made and, if they are approved, they will be published for consultation in their own right (in the Autumn) before the Local Plan is submitted to the government to be scrutinised by a Planning Inspector in early 2014.

- In Frinton, we had objections to the ‘proposed Conservation Area extension’ from a number of parties who are suggesting that the case for extending the area has not been made and that by covering the whole Frinton ward, the Council will devalue the status of the area already included in the Conservation Area. We are still considering our response to these claims.
- Also, the landowners who own land at Turpins Farm (in the Hamford Ward) have called for a larger portion of their land to be allocated for housing and for some of the strict requirements (for example to limit development to 50 homes) to be removed from the corresponding policy. Again, we are still considering our response to these objections.

Update provided by Dr Gary Sweeney, Chairman of the North East Essex, Clinical Commissioning Group (NEE CCG)

The NEE CCG was authorised without any conditions from the 1st April 2013, when it officially became a statutory body (replacing the local PCT).

The CCG board continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis in public – the last meeting in March covered a number of areas including a presentation and discussion, which included the public, on the findings of the Francis Report. The board discussed the implications of the report findings for NEE and agreed on a statement. One of the outcomes of the Francis report is that the NEE system has been identified as an area that would benefit from an intensive support visit due to our higher than expected mortality. We have received the terms of reference of this visit but have not received any further information regarding dates and format.

The CCG board has had a board to board meeting with Colchester Hospital where patient safety and quality was discussed as well as the visit from Sir Bruce Keogh and his team.

The CCG has developed its first Integrated Plan which has been done in partnership with Essex County Council commissioning colleagues. It was submitted to the Health and Well Being Board in March to provide assurance that it meets the needs highlighted in the health and well being strategy for Essex.

The CCG has also spent a great deal of time during the past 6 months developing relationships with external bodies, including providers, partners, voluntary and third sector organisations and the local team of the national commissioning board – now known as NHS England.

The NEE CCG has continued with its organisational development plan and has had a number of board, executive and team development sessions including equality and diversity, safeguarding, standards of business conduct and procurement. We are currently re-designing and re-organising the web site with the help of our patient groups and practices to ensure that this is user friendly and meets the requirements of the community.

The CCG continues to develop relationships and collaborative arrangements with two North Essex CCG colleagues and across the whole of Essex. The CCG signed a collaborative agreement with West Essex CCG and Mid Essex CCG in March 2013.

We are currently reviewing, with our member practices, our constitution to ensure that it is fit for purpose; this will be completed by July 2013. Work continues with our member practices to ensure that good engagement and communication links are established with the 43 practices in NEE.

Presentation by Trevor Redburn (TR), Assistant General Manager, North East Essex, East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, entitled “The Health Challenge in North East Essex – the Ambulance Service Perspective”.

TR explained that he had been in the Ambulance Service for 32 years, and then highlighted the points made on the slides within his PowerPoint Presentation starting with their aims and objectives:

- To put the patient at the centre of all that we do.
- To improve and maintain performance to national performance targets, which are: 75% of all lifesaving calls to be reached in 8 minutes; 95% of incidents to receive a suitable transportable resource within 19 minutes.
- To deliver a safe service to the people of the East of England, as outlined in the Francis report.

- To manage and deliver in response to increased demand predicted as being 10% following roll out of the 111 service across the Trust. (The new 111 Service will be rolled out in July/August.)
- To ensure our emergency centre is fit for purpose and can manage increased demand over the next few years.
- To build on relationships with our staff and local partners including patient groups

He summed up by saying that their overall aim was to continue to do the best for the most, and pointed out that the performance statistics were based on a regional aspect rather than a local one.

TR then explained that when he joined the service they were dealing with 250 patients a day in Essex. In 32 years there has been a 300% rise in the number of people contacting them via the 999 system.

There used to be one ambulance in Frinton, but it was not dedicated to the Frinton & Walton area; it provided mutual aid to as far afield as Mid Essex and Suffolk. Ambulances normally run from Weeley or Clacton because there is lower demand in the Frinton/Walton area, and in the past Frinton was not getting the most responsive service.

He then quoted:

- Performance from 31st December 2012 to 25th February 2013 amounted to 103 emergency calls for postcode CO13 for lifesaving high priority calls. Arrival performance within the 8 minute requirement was 46.6% against the target of 75%. Secondary performance was 90% against the target of 95%.

Since 25 February, a Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) has been tethered to Frinton and a better performance has been achieved.

- Performance from 25th February 2013 to 17th April 2013 has been far better. There were 111 emergency calls for postcode CO13 for lifesaving high priority calls. Arrival performance within the 8 minute requirement was 63% against the target of 75%. Secondary performance was 89% against the target of 95%.

He added that this was a good start to improvement in performance in this area saying that the Ambulance Service needed to support local people with local First Responder schemes. However, when dialling 999 the public should be aware that the Ambulance Service was in place for emergencies, such as dealing with those suffering from chest pain, serious trauma, injury falls and stroke victims. These were the people who needed to be seen as soon as possible, but in other cases (like when a person was suffering from a minor ailment) it was not always appropriate to dial 999. The Ambulance Service needed to be used correctly, and if people did so, those most in need could be seen quickly. Currently, the local Ambulance Service only transports 55% to 60% of 999 cases to hospital. In the remaining cases, many patients are directed towards more appropriate ways of accessing the health service, or are assessed by the Paramedic crew as requiring no further treatment.

He then announced that the breaking news yesterday (19 April 2013) was that the Ambulance Service now had a new Chief Executive. The Chairman and Finance Director had resigned, and it had been announced that 350 new clerical posts would be established this year with 25 more ambulances across the region. TR concluded by saying that they were looking forward to a good future.

TR then answered (A) the following questions (Q):

Q: Over the last two years, I have had some dealings with the Ambulance Service, and I have to say that I found the service and the crews to be first class – they cannot be faulted. However, crews are tied up for hours at the hospitals. I cannot see why patients cannot be left there quickly.

A: In my view, Colchester is the best hospital in Essex in this respect. Colchester Hospital (CH) is having rebuilding done and part of that is an extension to the Accident Centre. They have a problem with capacity. Since the 1980s there have been a lot of new builds; the housing developments in the area have increased the population. CH is not big enough. The staff want to move patients through the system quickly. This year and next year the picture will be better and we will not have that waiting time. Currently, we wait less at CH than most other Essex hospitals. CH and all the others will be charged if they delay us in future. This will be an encouragement to rush things along.

Q: Will the 111 number supersede NHS Direct?

A: It will supersede NHS Direct. If you dial your GP out of hours, you will be directed to 111 in future which will then direct you to the best part of the health service to help you, but at present 111 has teething problems.

After the Chairman had thanked TR for providing helpful and interesting information, he agreed to come back in six months' time and provide an update.

Information provided by PC Jim Allwood (JA), Tendring Neighbourhood Policing Team

JA reported on progress with catching those who had vandalised beach huts recently, and how they had carried out a leaflet drop asking beach hut owners to supply contact information so that they could be informed about any issues as soon as possible. As a result, they had received over a thousand replies.

He also reported on recent burglaries in the Fourth Avenue/Ashlyns Road area where they had increased patrols and burglaries had now ceased. He encouraged those present who did not have Neighbourhood Watch Schemes to set these up, and to report any suspicious activities to the local police (the number is available in the FRA Newsletter and on the FRA website), or dial 101.

He then stated that they were currently working with local schools, etc, encouraging people to mark their own property such as bicycles, so that the owners could be easily found when items were recovered, and he asked anyone requiring more information to speak to him at the end of the meeting.

Information provided by PCSO Rob Diss (RD), Tendring Neighbourhood Policing Team

RD reported that as a result of the Youth Action Day held in 2008, approximately 200 young people had joined clubs in Tendring. They were now organising a similar event to take place at Tendring Technology College (TTC) Frinton Campus on Saturday, 14 September 2013, with possibly up to 70 clubs and organisations taking part. On 23 April 2013 a meeting was taking place at TTC and he listed the organisations that were planning to be involved before showing a DVD advertising the event.

After thanking both Police Officers for providing useful information, the Chairman raised an issue submitted by a member regarding the problems of speeding in Rainham Way, where the following questions had been asked and were answered by the police representative:

Q: What are the Essex police tactics to reduce the illegal traffic speeds in our area ? Are there any plans by the Council to protect its residents from speeding traffic, especially in residential areas ? Are there plans to reduce speed limits in residential areas to a safe 20MPH ?

A: Speed cameras have been obtained for use by the police and the community safety watch. When we observe people speeding, we write to them in the first instance and then take enforcement action. If the public inform us of such places where this is occurring regularly we will try to catch the offenders. In relation to a reduction in the speed limit that has to be addressed by the Council.

Secretary's Note: With regard to a further question asked - Does ordinary vehicle insurance cover vehicles using the Central Avenue railway bridge, would a vehicle be insured in the case of an accident/collision ?- it was explained outside the meeting that ordinary vehicle cover does not extend to private roads which is the case with Central Avenue.

Q: Last November a Police and Crime Commissioner was elected. Can you give us any information on changes that have taken place since then?

A: I am not in a position to answer that question. Nothing much has changed as far as I am personally aware and I can only assume that changes are in place.

Seafront Issues

In response to items raised by members regarding access to the promenade, dog ban areas and signage, the Chairman explained that the FRA had been lobbying for improved signage and asking the Council and its Officers to carry out locking of the access gates to the promenade as displayed on the noticeboard. In a lot of instances in previous years the gates had been left open when they should not have been resulting in many incidents and complaints from both residents and visitors. A meeting had been arranged by the TDC Seafront Manager where FRA, AFBHO, TDC and police representatives were present. TDC had listened to comments and put up new signs. She then said that she understood that the TDC Seafront Manager would be attending the AFBHO AGM to discuss seafront issues, and she read out a reply from him on the new arrangements which stated:

“The arrangements have not changed at all. The only difference is that the gates are now locked and authorised visitors may obtain a key to open them during the same times as they have always been permitted. The keys are available at the public convenience opposite Connaught Avenue which is open at all the times required. The gates should also have information affixed to them about where to seek authorised entry from. The Beach Hut Association and individual beach hut owners should have been notified and at the very least by means of the gates themselves. If this has not occurred it is

indeed a breakdown in communication. It is not a long journey from any gate to the public conveniences – not an ideal way to treat customers but likewise it isn't the ordeal some are implying.

My personal preference would be that all access to the promenade should be by specific request and authorisation directly from TDC seafront offices. I would like to see an end to these open ended arrangements whereby beach hut owners consider they have a right to drive onto the promenade for 2 hours either end of the day. However, we are taking small steps in this direction. Hopefully the communication issues will be resolved.”

NB: AFBHO stands for Association of Frinton Beach Hut Owners

Miscellaneous Question

Q: What is happening with regard to the Tesco proposal for Walton?

As nobody present could answer, the Chairman replied by stating that nationally it was known that Tesco had experienced a poor year and there was a situation where they had purchased sites for stores but did not intend to go ahead and build them. Other than that, there was no further news on the proposal for Walton.

Frinton in Bloom

David Foster, Chairman of Frinton in Bloom, pointed out that on Saturday, 18 May 2013, the launch of Frinton in Bloom would take place at the Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust May Fayre. Tendring Technology College students were constructing an Eco car to be raced at Goodwood, and to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Frinton Railway Station Frinton in Bloom were working with the FRA and Greater Anglia Railways to produce a new mural on the station platform.

Secretary's Note: David Foster later announced that the Royal Horticultural Society had once again invited Frinton in Bloom to exhibit at the Tatton Park Flower Show, and that this year's garden theme would be based on the railway crossing.