



Reports from outside bodies

September 2017

Yateley Society Civic Day 7th meeting

Held at The Gallery, The Tythings on 31 May 2017

Attending: Jane Biscombe and Cllr Tony Spencer representing Yateley Town Council,
Present: Roger Coombes (RC), Barry Moody (BM), Alison Hewitt (AH) from the Yateley Society (YS); Jane Biscombe (JB) and Tony Spencer (TS) from Yateley Town Council (YTC), Fran Rogerson (WI) and Adrienne (Adi) Milburn (AM) from Outbound.

Creative writing competition, large number of entries in from Westfields Juniors.

Guided walks agreed, Monday 5th June 7.30pm Darby Green walk (evening) meet in the car park at the Darby Green Centre. TS to organise refreshments. Thursday 8th June 2pm Church End walk, meet at D&P and end at Café 46. Wednesday 14th June Wednesday 10.30am Cricket Hill, meet outside The Cricketer's Pub on Cricket Hill. Thursday 15th June 8.30pm Castle Bottom (CB) walk, meet at The Tythings and Yelabus booked to collect and drop back.

Bookings for all walks and Open Day monitored by AR.

Yateley Hall Open Day, all arranged, books going well, some gaps towards the last tours. Yateley Morris Men due to attend for about half an hour, due to pre-booked commitments.

Parking at Yateley Hall limited controlled by the Lions.

Refreshments – YS will take its gazebo and Outbound will have their marquee. Scouts willing to deal with refreshments.

Photo & Creative writing awards presentation will take place on 12 June at the Environment & Community Committee meeting.

Yateley Village Hall Committee

Yateley Village Hall Management Committee Meeting on 9 June 2017

YTC represented by Cllr Tony Spencer and Cllr Chris Barnes

Finance Accounts balance £23,118.22. PHS account still outstanding. Invoice backlog since April. Pension Fund for qualifying staff needs to be in place by 1 January 2018.

Matters arising, Hall floor to be stripped and polished, trimmer purchased and water butt to follow shortly (since installed). Cost settled for Camera Club exhibition next year, Draft letter to be circulated.

Bookings. Quiet month. Bar booked on 9 times for the next half year. Haven't attracted replacement regular hirers, so will include a feedback form on the booking form, to provide more information.

Cleaning DM has repaired 4 chairs and offered to clean gutters, with assistance from Trustees rather than do it alone. Will move cleaning materials to tables and chairs cupboard.

Building. Decorating of main hall to be carried out during summer, possibly using Men's Shed volunteers and Trustees. Need to look to replacing velour windows, investigate costs of installing air conditioning and a schedule of planned works drawn up and costed.

Governance. None

AOB: Replacement Treasurer not yet secured, and we have to consider using a paid resource with basic bookkeeping and invoicing retained by Trustes. Agreed to get a set of statements ready for a handover to any new Treasurer at AGM.

Contract of Employment being drawn up for 2 employees.

LC regretted would have to give up being key holder, TS volunteered to be key holder.

PM announced his move to Devon and regretted he would be standing down during next year.

Next meeting 7 July.

Yateley Bowling Club meeting

Held at The Council Offices on 14 June 2017

Attending: Jane Biscombe and Cllr Tony Spencer representing Yateley Town Council,

Les May (Hon Secretary) and Malcolm Greenfield for Yateley Bowls Club (YBC), Cllrs Gill Hennell, Tony Spencer and Town Clerk Jane Biscombe for YTC

The original lease or licence was for the building along the north side and an old wooden hut. The green wasn't included in the lease but the Club were allowed exclusive use. The continuation of the building along the north and eastern side was built by the club and handed to YTC for the Council to maintain the outside and the club maintain the inside. In 2004 the old lease/licence ran out and was replaced by the current verbal "perpetuity" agreement. Jane pointed out that all our users had properly drawn up peppercorn leases which protected security of tenure and the relationship between both parties, so the current relationship and funding outside the normal grant application policy was an anomalous one which best served either party. Jane would use the new non-profit HCC legal service, which specialises in local government best practices, to draw up a draft lease that both parties could evaluate and address before agreeing and signing.

The visiting Fair and Circus use the water connected through the club's meter, which is noted and conveyed to YTC. YTC do not charge extra to the fairs but deduct an appropriate amount from the Bowling club rates.

Contract for maintenance of water system costs £600 per annum, but the old pump no longer covered by warranty/insurance and will cost £3000 to replace, so maintenance not continued.

The club opens mid April and the May Fayre is an important membership drive as the club is opened up to visitors to look around and they have a stall on the Green.

Membership dropping now to about 85. Membership peaked at 135 about 1999. No Junior section but used to have one of around 11 members but they drifted away. Safeguarding guidance is a 70pp document from England Bowls, which clearly doesn't encourage Juniors.

YTC will advertise the existence of YBC in the next newsletter in Autumn, to encourage a bigger take-up of locals to learn the game and take part.

We will draw up a 25 years lease and programme to come in force by November 2018. YBC will have to apply for annual grants from F&P to make up for the cost of maintaining the green.

Jane/Gill, suggest an item on C&E committee agenda soon to discuss, including a recommendation from this working party that a lease be drawn up and that the committee request ring fencing grant of £1700 from November 2018 within 2018/19 budget.

Yateley Hall Open Day

Held at Yateley Hall on 17 June 2017

Attending: Cllr Tony Spencer representing Yateley Town Council,

As I had sat on the steering committee launching this event as part of the Civic Day celebrations, I felt I should attend to represent the Town Council, at least as a First Aider, although not requested to do so in any official capacity.

This was a historic event as Thad not been open to the public for 26 years and it is now hoped that this will become an annual event.

Hart Housing Forum 2017

Held at Hart DC offices on 23 June 2017

Tony Spencer representing YTC.

Welcome by Stuart Bailey head of community services

Phil Turner head of community services, set the scene. Access, white paper on housing unchanged, Hart has a homeless task force. Homelessness Reduction Act will increase from 28 to 56 days a duty to homeless and there will be reduced scope for allowing people to stay until the bailiffs are in Section 179 housing has more responsibility to assess applicants' needs to set out and agree steps. A partially vulnerable group were leavers coming out of Care out of area and becoming homeless by falling between 2 local authorities; now they can be registered with current home and previous home, having double the opportunities to find a home.

Hart has 800 people in shared occupation

The applicants reflect the actual demographic, not reflecting what the newspapers say (which fuels readers' and voters' perceptions. Only 7 applicants earn more than £60k.

The age group 18-45 is shrinking in Hart, the average age rising

Main reason for applicants are not necessarily housing, chart is 76% of applications.

Few enforcement notices in area

HCC family mosaic with Rushmoor mentioned.

Working well with registered providers

Trailblazer introduced for homelessness. Enabling people to remain in their homes

When interviewing applicants, we are moving to much more positive questions rather than the negative ones of old and proving to be better at sustaining home occupation.

The next speaker, Brian Bridger, spoke about transition and partnership management: Trailblazer.

Still 2 of the 4 places on the team to recruit for.

Redesigning referral process

The third speaker was Elsbeth Watson (instead of Jackie Sutherland) DWP partnership manager Live service moving into Universal Credit (UC) full Service rolling out to job centres, to complete by September 2018, so due in Hart by July 2018.

Change will be that social services payments was only to individuals, now it will be couples and families. All will be online from the start

Legacy or existing benefits will remain on those benefits until UC have assessed their claim.

Work coaches are being employed to get people into work

Benefits were paper based, now all digital online. 65% of claimants are using tablets or mobiles now.

Users can save pages and come back to it, can leave notes for their work search and can reclaim as account is left open for 6 months if circumstances mean they need to return to job seek or reclaim UC

All communications from UC made directly by text messages or email.

Education in place telling users where can they access, and send out leaflets indicating where there is public access. Also providing extra IT classes for clients.

One issue is ensuring applicants have the reference documents that people need before they start to apply.

UC toolkit has all the information needed.

UC & YOU

Report from Representatives on Outside Bodies

The fourth speaker before coffee break was Daniel Hawes planning policy manager
He explained the consultation process for the local plan covering 2011-2032 which is still in draft.
Settled on 485 houses per year, 65% social housing, 5% accessibility standards
Once the plan completes consultation, then work on infrastructure can begin.

Questions

Grant for homelessness 48m this year,
It access for UC, they do have outreach support.
1200 extra C2 homes in local plan, problems with getting key workers into the area.
School places run out in 2022, so Planning school near 2030 doesn't work. Hart do not provide schools, only allow room for schools within the planning scheme
One delegated pointed out that key workers are not included in the national policy any more.
Help for IT, it was pointed out that UC doesn't cover pensioners, only job seekers.

After coffee Nicola Harpham, strategy and development manager, sent delegates off to workshops

Workshops

1. "Preventing homelessness in a Brave New World" through Trailblazer"

Social housing area already looking out for these pre-eviction sufferers, but the private sector is probably a bigger problem. Building big arrears by applicants before they apply for help is still a problem
Education needed at school level, awareness by mother and toddler groups should be invested in.
Trailblazer say they know how to reach the street, but should start earlier so school leavers are able to cope with the issue of how do you go about getting a roof over your heads?
DHI in Bath as a charity who sent a delegate and able to offer Districts advice on preventing homelessness.
Secondary schools and youth clubs.
Nothing in local plan about community schemes. Village communities. Catalysts using social media.
KEY finding: education from Secondary School, then youth clubs
Put case studies online to help educate through entertainment

2. "Planning to Avert a Housing Supply Crisis."

Planning to meet housing needs.
CAP for under 35s, except shared accommodation.
Need to talk to RPs
Promoting house sharing but covering safeguarding.

Feedback from workshops

Education starting much much earlier and be more creative getting housing and homelessness across
Networking and community capitalising on underused capacity in households.
Communication through social media.
Recording and accessing earlier
Changing perception of homelessness
U35 and how to work with them
HMOs
How to accommodate more single people and look at their realistic expectations
Get information out through Parish Councils, Churches, School newsletters, Residents' associations
Providing short term help for homelessness for the first few weeks
Transport is a problem, taking services out to them where they can't get in.
Parish newsletters and getting the message out.
Early referrals and working partnerships

Using empty office blocks
Encourage under-occupiers to move on or to share
Impact on U35s.

Yateley Society Civic Day debrief

Held at The Gallery, The Tythings on 23 June 2017

Attending: Jane Biscombe and Cllr Tony Spencer representing Yateley Town Council, Present: Roger Coombes (RIC), Barry Moody (BM), Abby Roper, Alison Hewitt (AH) from the Yateley Society (YS); Jane Biscombe (JB) and Tony Spencer (TS) from Yateley Town Council (YTC); Phil Ranger (Lions), and Adrienne (Adi) Millburn (AM) from Outbound.

Certificates were all handed out bar one, passed to AH to send to Douglas Gibbs with personal letter from RIC. One certificate spelled incorrectly and being reprinted to present to child at Westfields Juniors.

Competitions, Creative Writing attracted 180 entries, 177 entries from one school, Photographic competition only 3, so perhaps consider Art and CW next year and engage schools earlier, say at the beginning of the year.

Community Picnic theme WWI next year.

Walks to be reduced to 2 next year. Good response from Castle Bottom walk.

Yateley Hall open day a resounding success with 114 attending, 110 adults and 4 children. Raised £220 and sold a few postcards. Phil suggested better signage at start, blocking no-go areas with cones and tape. The dangers of straying to the areas at the back of the building is, due to the nature of preserving the Grade II* status, the area is hazardous to sightseers unfamiliar with the layout.

Scouts covered their costs. They are owed thanks because due to other commitments only 2 scouts spent all morning working for little reward and helped TS with packing up their gazebo after the unfortunate accident to Colin Broadley.

Users impressed with booking system. Charging needs revisiting, say min donation of £2. Improve advertising as large numbers said they never knew it was on until reported on social media during or post-event. Need to give more information to local special interest groups to encourage participation.

Summary, well worth doing, and repeating next year. Repeat visit to Hall and draw up a budget and source grants.

Yateley Village Hall

Held at Yateley Village Hall on 7 July 2017

Attending: Cllr Tony Spencer representing Yateley Town Council,

Despite looking for a new voluntary Treasurer for 18 months, we have been unsuccessful. Mrs Bennett contacted 3 accounts/bookeeping firms, and Rebecca Ashley was thought to be the best. Mrs Bradley has spoken to Rebecca and given her an idea of what is involved. Mrs Bradley also produced a list of tasks that are currently done by her, that could be allocated to Committee members.

It was suggested that we changed our bank to Lloyds in Yateley. The collection of forms, cash/cheques from the office, could be done by Mrs Bennett or Mrs Pynn. Mr Millsom suggested all hirers be asked to use bank transfer, as it would reduce some of the paperwork, and phone calls. Mrs. Bradley talked about hirers not given sufficient notice of hire cancellation, thereby making invoicing difficult. It was agreed that all hirers would be told that they must give 2 weeks' notice of cancellation.

Cllr Spencer produced the stock control sheet. This showed the value of stock at £2251.42 and the retail value as £6185.78

Yateley Village Hall

Held at Yateley Village Hall on 4 August 2017

Attending: Cllrs Chris Barnes and Tony Spencer representing Yateley Town Council,

A spreadsheet for PAT testing is required, as our equipment was last tested in 2015. PAT testing regularity to reflect usage of equipment, weekly monthly, annually etc.

Mr Whittaker & Mr Hayward to be removed from Trustees

Mrs Bradley reported bookings income was up on last year by £1012. The bar takings however were down by £3300 compared with 2016. Bank balance stands at £24,408.33. It was reported that wholesale drinks costs were rising. An increase in bar prices was agreed by all, with all prices rounded and uniform where possible, to apply in January.

Buildings, Cllr Barnes had sent a list of repairs/refurbishments, with estimated costs, including replacement of the Velux windows, with electrically operated, £2k. This was discussed and agreed that it should be the first one dealt with.

The main hall needed re-painting, and assistance is sought, including help from the 'Men's Shed'. In order to reduce costs, the hall should be re-painted in the same colours as previously.

The date for the AGM is Wednesday 18 October at 7.30 pm. Nominees should present themselves at the meeting.