

# Shoeburyness Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Present:** Peter Lovett, John Budge, Geoff Moore, Alison Burt, Heather Salthouse, Elaine Barke, Val Jarvis

**Councillors:** Derek Jarvis, Tony Cox, Steven Wakefield

**Speakers:** Sarah Jayne and Adam - Shoebury Coastguard; Duncan Keys - Minister of Friars Baptist Church

**Apologies:** Rev Louise Williams, Sue Stranks

**PL** - Welcomed everyone to the meeting and covered Health and Safety Requirements in the hall. He paid a tribute to Bill Gascoigne. who passed away recently. A minute's silence was observed for those we have lost in the last 2 years due to Covid or Covid related problems. PL explained that Harry had resigned due to health issues and John Preston had resigned due to personal commitments.

The committee members were introduced along with the roles they are undertaking. They were voted in and welcomed. Alison Burt was introduced as the new Chairperson.

**Chairman's Report** presented by Vice Chair PL.

We are aware that some people do not have access to social media, and we are looking at ways to make sure they have access to the Newsletter. We are also looking at the magazine and at the number published and considering placing them in local supermarkets, doctors' surgeries etc. rather than delivering to individual houses.

**JB** read out the treasurer's report. Over the past two years events that are normally held had to be cancelled due to Covid. The tree planting on Caulfield Road is going ahead. Thank you to the Cubs for the work they do in keeping the ground tidy.

**DJ** What tree was bought for the grounds?

**JB** A Hornbeam was purchased.

**PL** - We have received a lot of support from the council. During Covid, the residents of Shoebury really pulled together, supporting each other. The HUB in Shoebury is really making a difference to local people, supporting, and offering company.

**AM** - Introduced **Sarah Jayne and Adam**. They gave an interesting and informative talk about the role of the Coastguards and how they differ from the Lifeboats.

**Sandra** - Is the building manned?

**Sarah Jayne** - There are people there most of the time, they are volunteers and on call 24 hours a day but will go to the lifeboat station when they can.

**HS** - Why have there been no recent updates on the Facebook page?

**Sarah Jayne** - We have been made aware that some news may be sensitive, and therefore hold back from publishing immediately. We want to make sure people's privacy is respected.

**Kathleen** - Are you kept up to date with the Montgomery ship?

**Sarah Jane** - Yes, we are updated, and information is available online. The deck of the ship has collapsed, and this is holding the explosives in place. There are approximately 1400 tonnes on the ship. The explosives found on the beach are usually the result of aircraft that used the Thames as a flight path into London. They would drop any bombs on the water on the way home. We have not had any explosives from the ship wash up on shore. The mast of the Montgomery is to be removed. After careful consideration it is deemed safer to remove it than leave it in place,

**AB** Introduced **Duncan Keys** from Friars Baptist Church to talk about the ARK. Duncan delivered a very interesting and thought-provoking talk about the need for meals, tinned goods and clothing for families in Shoebury. He said that volunteers are always needed.

**JB** - How many hot meals are given out on Tuesdays?

**DK** - Approximately 290 which is 60 families.

**HS** - I help to run Shoebury High School uniform page, can this be shared on your page?

**DK** - Yes please. As uniform is very expensive to buy, this would be a great help to families.

**Kathleen** - How do you know the people attending are genuine?

**DK** We don't operate a referral system, we don't ask questions. Sometimes it is not just a financial reason for coming along, some other reasons may bring people in. If we start to ask questions, we could put off the genuine ones from coming in, so we would rather have 9 genuine attendees and 1 not genuine, as we are helping the nine who need it.

**DK** - We sell tinned goods at a reduced price; people can still have self-respect as they are buying the items. Household goods such as cleaners, really go quickly. The money from the tins pays for the food to make the meals. We are very well supported by local supermarkets.

**JB** - Gave an update on the Cart and Wagon Shed. We are very near completion and expect to have the keys any day now. The minute we have the keys, it should take approximately 4 weeks to set up the café and the heritage site.

### **Open Questions**

**Sandra** - What can be done about speeding cars in Church Road?

**SW** - The council are aware of the problem, along with other roads in the area. They will contact residents and get feedback on proposals to slow cars down.

**TC** - The type of road needs to be looked at to determine solutions. Roads in the area are highlighted and will be looked at.

**Kathleen** - Could average speed cameras be the solution, like on the sea front?

**TC** - They have found that cars parked along the road tend to slow traffic down. The problem with the Average Speed Cameras is that any fines go to central governments rather than local government. They will look at what they call soft engineering e.g., SLOW marked on the road.

**GM** - What has happened to speed watch?

**SW** - This is run by the police. They need volunteers and give full training.

**EB** - Speed watch posted on Facebook last week asking for volunteers.

**DJ** - A lady in Maplin Way would like to start a group, but the speeder only gets a warning letter. The Speed Watch system will only work on certain roads, not all roads are suitable.

**TC** - Speak to local police. If we see a speed watch post and add councillors' names to highlight the post to them.

**PL**- Highlighted the case of Maya Close, this was an extremely difficult junction. The committee took this up and got the junction moved forwards and parking for the newsagent moved back. This now gives much better visibility. Please approach the committee with problems and we can take them to the relevant department.

**Sandra** - There is a litter problem around the Nisa store and the public toilets on Campfield Road.

**PL** - We can act on this; we can target a team of cleaners to target that area

**PL** - Highlighted the planned building of 72 houses on Campfield Road. The stats used in the plans are not accurate, the number of vehicles using that road is a lot higher than in the report.

**TC** - This is concerning, the number of cars using the junction on Ness Road is very high, but- this might help to get changes to that junction.

**DJ** paid tribute to Sir David Amess. He had fought long and hard to get city status for Southend. Sadly, it was his death that brought about city status. We should be working hard to make people proud of City Status. In 2029, Southend will apply for City of Culture. We have so much going on in Southend to be proud of.

**Kathleen** - expressed concern about Care in the area, things such as blood tests.

**PL** - I have spoken to relevant groups about the lack of provision of certain services. We hope that the next Health Centre will be in Shoebury.

**Kathleen**- It's not Doctors we need, its chiropodist, blood tests services.

**PL** - We have made them aware about the lack of these services.

**DJ** - We are close to getting a Health Centre, but no date has been given yet.

**SW** - We are pushing constantly for a Health Centre. They have highlighted sites and it's close to being agreed.

**Mr Ali** - I would like a note made about Harry Chandler, he is greatly missed and always worked hard on the committee. I would like to thank him and wish him well for the future.

**PL** - Harry is suffering from Dementia. I am keeping in contact with him. He has been a great asset and will be missed.

**PL** - Ending on a positive note, there has been a marked increase in police presence in Shoebury such as police walking around the parks. This is all good news.