

**RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING: 24 MARCH 2015, 8 PM, RICHINGS PARK SPORTS CLUB**

**Present:** Wendy Matthews (Chair), Muhktar Ali, Lindsey Beagle, Matthew McEvoy, Jan Wiseman, Maureen Worrall, Graham Young. In attendance: (for first hour): Louisa Sullivan, Iver Heath District Councillor

**Apologies:** Maureen Atkinson, Stewart O'Malley, Daphne Wood

1 **Minutes of Previous Meeting (24 February 2015):** agreed.

2 **Matters Arising and Other Issues**

**Heathrow Community Noise Forum:** Wendy and Graham attended the inaugural meeting. The forum has been set up in response to Heathrow aircraft noise trials. It includes a local authority representative and a community representative for each area covered. This meeting was mainly occupied by information about how airport noise is generated and can be contained was being put together. The agenda was not covered and another meeting will be convened. However there is a separate noise forum set up by local authorities (LAANC, see below) as well as a technical noise group set up by HAL. This community forum will not cover any future Heathrow configuration

**HAL Local Focus Forum:** this is a select group raising local issues, including noise and the third runway. As well as Richings Park, Harmondsworth, Colnbrook and Old Windsor are also represented. We raised the HGV issue and Heathrow agreed that they should be doing something. However, if the third runway is not approved they will do the minimum.

**LAANC (Local Authority Airport Noise Council):** Wendy and Graham attended. LAANC told us that BA trials were being carried out informally to see how many people complained. It is essential that all intrusive airport noise is reported.

**Gatwick Presentation:** Richings Park Sports Club, 25 March, 7.30pm. All 4 parliamentary candidates have been invited; Dominic Grieve (our MP) is not able to attend but has sent a statement indicating he is "sitting on the fence".

**Meeting Dominic Grieve:** as reported last month, the next meeting will be held in June, after the general election. In response to the issue of pressure on local roads, Wendy now had a copy of a dismissive letter to Dominic Grieve from Patrick McLoughlin, the current Transport Minister. The Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) have been allocated £44.2 million from a local growth fund to support local schemes and he encourages Dominic to apply to them for relief road funding. Dominic also sent Wendy a copy email from his office dated 6 March: he is in the process of arranging a meeting with the LEP. Wendy has written on behalf of the Residents' Association saying that residents will support a relief road. She has asked the Parish Council to do the same and will also ask for District Council support. Wendy will keep up the pressure. This is positive news and Lindsey will put it on the Community Forum.

**Highways Updates – Verges, Pavements, Roads:** Lindsey reported that Transport for Bucks were promising four grass cuts this summer, starting in March. All were asked to monitor grass cutting in their roads. Pothole repairs in St Leonard's Walk were still outstanding and there has been no road sweeping, despite repeated requests.

**Area around the Shops – Parking Consultation, Planters, Trees:** Wendy was still emailing and ringing Bucks County Council but there has been no progress on the parking consultation outcome. Planters, Trees: nothing further to report. The shops are concerned at loss of footfall because of lack of parking and mess caused by yet another excavation of

the pavement. Wendy stressed that the pavement between each shop and the bollards is the responsibility of the shop owner, and they themselves need to complain to Bucks County Council about issues such as poorly-repaired pavements.

**Thorney Sidings/Thorney Mill Road:** the area is now almost clear of spoil, as is the former Aggregates site. It is not clear what will happen to either.

**Stobart Biomass Application:** the consultation has now been reopened, thanks to local pressure. There have been about 160 objections to-date as seen from the Community Forum. Wendy has registered to speak against the proposal when it goes to County, along with Paul Griffin, District Councillor; both will object strongly on our behalf. We have been contacted by an environmental group who have been fighting other Stobart applications. They have given us information on wood dust and its toxic nature. Stobart are proposing to take half the current Quattro site, with Quattro still carrying on. There is no information in the documentation about any agreement between both parties to share the HGV quota, and it is likely that it will double up.

**Sustainable Access to Station/Cycle Path:** scheduled for 2016. It is clear that no cycle path can be fitted in near St Peter's Church. It must go over the railway and canal, and possibly divert to come out at Grangeway, Iver.

**Broadband:** Lindsey reported that there had been nothing further on fibre connectivity for Richings Park before March 2016 or why we are now part of a commercial rollout rather than the government -sponsored Connected Counties project, which covers Iver. Muhktar added that he had been told that the recent 10-day lack of phone or internet connection had been caused by damage to a cable near Thorney Bridge. But our broadband comes from a mast, which BT finally repaired.

**Community Forum – Richings Park Today:** Lindsey was thanked for setting up and publicising the new community on-line forum. She asked that all use it. In response to a query from Graham about the parking issue, Lindsey reported that she could set up a poll on the forum on any topic. Wendy would send Lindsey the parking consultation information.

**External Wall Insulation Grants:** following last month's question and answer session (held at the beginning of the Residents' Association meeting) Everwarm have had to increase their estimated price for a detached house to £15,000 – £20,000 plus additional expenses. These costs are extremely high and there would be little payback. It is a very poor deal.

**M4 Smart Motorway:** the Department of Transport have been criticised for lack of consultation so they sent a representative to meet the Parish Council. The existing hard shoulder will become a permanent carriageway, with laybys for emergencies. The M4 between the M25 and Heathrow will be widened. Old Slade Lane bridge will be demolished and not rebuilt for two years.

**New School:** the application for a new secondary school in Iver has been rejected. There is no appeal.

**Bus Service:** some residents had reported that the bus was not coming into Richings Park. On investigation, the bus had been prevented from getting through by badly-parked vehicles. Another parking issue! Wendy has spoken to the manager at Bucks County Council and if there is a blocked route the bus will come to into Bathurst Walk from Thorney Lane and turn round at the shops. The good news is that Bucks County Council have dealt with the complaint speedily and spoken to the Redline bus company. There are also issues about the speed and aggressive driving of Imperial Buses. All complaints to Bucks County Council, please.

**Annual General Meeting (AGM):** Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>, Richings Park Sports Club, 8.00pm. All welcome. We intend to play the DVD on the impact of HGV traffic on the local area.

**Bucks County Council and South Bucks District Council Local Plans:** both County and District Councils want to re-consult on their local plans to 2026. It is a difficult time, just before a general election. Both seem to be down-playing the need for the relief road. The local plans are on the relevant council website.

3 **Dates of Next Meetings:** the next meeting is the AGM, and then 19<sup>th</sup> May, 8.00, Richings Park Sports Club, with Maureen Worrall to chair in Wendy's absence.

4 **Treasurer's Report:** nothing further to report. Graham will distribute Residents' Association subscription envelopes, including AGM agendas, to Committee members for delivery. The subscription is still £5 per house.

5 **Planning/Enforcement:** see list included in the agenda. The following was discussed:

Co-operative Application, Iver High Street: a proposed development on the site of Fontain Garage. It would be in the new Co-op style, which is different from the store in Iver Heath, and we are told that only small trucks will be delivering.

6 **Heathrow/Hub Station/Crossrail:**

**WRAtH (Western Region Access to Heathrow):** 300-400 people have attended consultations and the view was generally positive.

**HS2 Langley Depot/Heathrow Spur:** the Heathrow Spur has been removed from phases 1 and 2 of HS2, but the Langley Depot issue remains. Heathrow are supporting it as they need to relocate their Heathrow Express maintenance depot. As previously reported (Minutes 24 February 2015 and earlier) the depot seriously impacts WRAtH proposals and our hopes for a relief road. Wendy has met Slough Borough Council who are opposed to the depot and sympathetic to our view. On the positive side, there is also a site at Reading rail station for the depot and which may be preferred.

**Crossrail - Thorney Lane Bridge Works:** work is on-going and Mukhtar is in constant touch with Balfour Beatty and Network Rail. He will send Wendy and Lindsey copies of his letter from Network Rail about pending installation work.

7 **Report from Parish Council:** Wendy asked all to keep up pressure and respond to planning applications. Bucks County Council is keen that the Parish Council take over grass cutting, road maintenance etc – with proposed funding of £20,000. The Parish Council are investigating likely costs and the offered funding appears to be woefully inadequate.

8 **Report from County/District Councils:** district council elections are due and the Chief Executive of South Bucks District Council, Alan Goodrum, is retiring.

9 **Any Other Business:**

Bathurst Walk Flooding: it happened before, around 12 years ago, and affected both the close end and the culvert under the track. Then, the pump was broken and a local resident, Mick Crowther investigated and ensured that it was replaced. This time, Wendy contacted Network Rail and the pump has now disappeared! Last year's flooding in Thorney Business Park and on the track were caused by the lack of a pump. Wendy will keep pressure on Network Rail.

Wexham Park Hospital: Frimley Health Trust have invested a huge amount of money to turn Wexham around. They are putting in place a widespread improvement programme, including a change in culture. Maintenance had previously been neglected. There is funding for a new A & E and car park. Heatherwood Hospital will be for elective surgery only.

HGV Hours' Restrictions: Lorries come through in the early hours from industrial sites. However, they cannot be prevented if restrictions on operating hours are not included in the planning permission. Often there is nothing, or there is a long-standing custom. Now, if a planning application goes in conditions can be included to limit hours of operation.

Fly-Tipping: there has been fly tipping next to the laundry in Bathurst Walk, and other alleyways have been badly affected. However, this is private land and owners themselves need to complain to the council.

Pillar Box: the pillar box in Richings Way is sinking. It is next to an area of recent road/pavement works.

Station Approach: again this is not public land. Muhktar reported that he has had a steel parking bollard installed to prevent his property's rear access being blocked.

Re-development of Iver Station: Crossrail will rebuild the station with lifts to the platforms. This is good news and Lindsey will put it on the Community Forum. Additional car parking for the station is speculative and needs to be negotiated with Step Properties, who own Thorney Business Park.

The meeting ended at 10 pm.