

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 19 April 2017, 7.30 pm Richings Park Sports Club

PRESENT: Graham Young (Chair), Naz Akbar (see item 2 below), Muhktar Ali, Maureen Atkinson, Alan Barrett, Cllr Paul Griffin (see item 2 below), Cllr Wendy Matthews, Matthew McEvoy, Lisa Popa (see item 2 below) Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Maureen Worrall, (Chair), Daphne Wood

IN ATTENDANCE: Tina Heath, Gurjit Sandhu, Ged Weston; these 3 were elected to the Committee during the meeting (see item 6 below). Cllr Jilly Johnson, Cllr Luisa Sullivan, Cllr Chris Jordan

Also 52 members of the Association.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM, 28 APRIL 2016: there was an amendment to item 6 Election of the Committee. The following wording should have been included: "both Cllr Paul Griffin and Naz Akbar were elected to the Committee. Lisa Popa was co-opted to the Committee as our Heathrow specialist."

3 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: with the above amendment, the Minutes were agreed and signed off. Proposed: Cllr Paul Griffin; Seconded: Wendy Matthews

4 MATTERS ARISING

Graham went through the 2016 AGM minutes and commented on the following item which is not on the current agenda.

Slough International Freight Exchange: the proposal was rejected by Planning but the owners, Goodmans, now have leave to appeal.

5 STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS: Matthew took over as Treasurer at Christmas and he distributed copies of the RPRA Annual Accounts April 2016-2017.

The Association has £3,693 in the bank. There is a deficit of £387 in the Income and Expenditure account; this will be remedied by having more members. The maintenance of the Residents' Garden is a major expense: £565. Matthew urged all to pay their annual subscriptions: £5 per household. The accounts were agreed and adopted. Proposed: Maureen Worrall, Seconded: Naz Akbar. Graham thanked Matthew for his work as Treasurer.

6 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with the rules of RPRA, the following who have served for two years and are therefore due to retire are willing to stand again: Maureen Atkinson, Alan Barrett, Wendy Matthews, Daphne Wood, Maureen Worrall. The following are willing to join the Committee: Tina Heath, Gurjit Sandhu, Ged Weston. The re-election of retiring members and the election of 3 new members was agreed. Proposed: Nick Naylor Seconded: Naz Akbar.

7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: see also the report in the Newsletter, which was sent to all households in Richings Park with the subscription envelopes.

Heathrow: Graham thanked Lisa, our aviation specialist, who recently did 40 hours unpaid work writing and submitting a response on behalf of RPRA. He added that he and Wendy sit on two committees dealing with Heathrow: Aircraft Noise, and the Local Focus Forum where Heathrow consult with representatives from local areas on non-noise related operations. Slough Borough Council imposed the closure of Hollow Hill Lane. The Residents' Association worked with Langley Residents forums and got Dominic Grieve (our MP) and Fiona McTaggart (MP for Slough) to put pressure on Slough to reopen the road. The road has now been reopened but the Western Rail Access to Heathrow (WRAtH) project will mean it is closed permanently.

Cemex Proposed Gravel Extraction, North Park: residents from Bathurst Close, St James' Walk, and District and Parish Councillors came together to try to impose restrictions. But Bucks County Council (BCC) remained impervious and the extraction will go ahead. Excavation of the north east corner severely affects Bathurst Close. BCC did ask Cemex to review this part of their operation and Cemex must negotiate with the Planning Department. Slough have objected on the grounds of increased HGV movements in Sutton Lane and Brands Hill; they have been awarded £750k in compensation for damage to roads and £50k for air quality monitoring.

Station Car Park: a formal application has been submitted to SBDC planning department for a station car park on green belt land on Thorney Lane South. We support this proposal as it offers an immediate solution to our parking problems. If it goes ahead, parking regulations will be put in place on local roads to limit commuter parking. Residents can still support or object to this proposal on the Planning website.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: the Richings Park Village Action Group are setting up a new scheme. Co-ordinators have been appointed for most local roads and will be visiting residents.

Defibrillator : we want to install a public access defibrillator at the shops. Costcutters have offered an outside wall space and The Chip Shop the electrical connection. The make/model of the unit will be established in consultation with South Central Ambulance Service. Funding will be sought.

Questions from Residents

Question: Gravel Extraction on Land in North Park. About 20 years ago there was a public enquiry. The extraction was dealt with in the light of the Bucks mineral extraction plan and it was turned down. Does this have no bearing? Graham responded that this is a new application. Cemex argue that WRAtH will be tunnelling under that field and then no gravel can be extracted. BCC see no reason this time to turn it down.

Question: the proposed development of Thorney Business Park includes a station car park. Would it be a better alternative as it is not green belt land? Graham answered that this proposal from STEP was likely to take several years. The owner of the land in Thorney Lane South is prepared to go ahead now.

Question: Bathurst Walk Development (opposite Saleys). Is there not a covenant on the land preventing development? Graham responded that covenants do not have a place in planning law. Those affected must take civil action against the developers. There will be 3-4 flats with only 3-4 parking spaces; this is too few but it conforms to BCC policy on parking ratios. Two conditions of planning have been broken reported Wendy: access must be constructed before any work takes place; there must be adequate protection for identified trees and shrubs. Wendy has reported the breaches to

Enforcement Officers. Maureen Worrall added that the builders are trying to block off parking spaces for their own use and are also parking in such a way as to secure space for their lorries. All agreed we need to monitor this closely.

Question: parking on the pavement outside the old post office forces pedestrians to walk in the road. Graham replied that the immediate frontage up to the patterned bricks is owned by each shop and the rest is the public highway. Parking across the public highway is unacceptable and such obstructions should be reported to the police on 101.

Question: illegal car parks on spare land eg Link Park on Thorney Mill Road and at Thorney Park Golf Club. Graham and Wendy responded that such car parks are operating without planning permission and need to be closed down. Report them to Enforcement at Slough Bucks District Council (enforcement@sbucks.gov.uk) and also let Wendy know.

Question: what is the position regarding the land behind the North Star. The landlord has applied for a certificate of lawfulness as he claims the land has been used without objections for many years as a small builders'-yard. RPRA dispute this and have objected through Graham. We are waiting for a decision

Question: residents' parking scheme in Wellesley Avenue. Wendy replied that RPRA put in an application for funding to Bucks Local Area Forum (LAF). We have been granted £7-8k towards a feasibility study and she will be meeting soon with the BCC car parking team to discuss options.

Question: walking from Richings Park to Iver is impeded. Shrubs need to be cut back, especially in summer. In bad weather, mud is a problem. Graham responded that this is the responsibility of BCC Transport for Bucks. Report issues on fixmystreet.com as this has been found to be effective. Graham will put details on the website.

Question: BCC will not take complaints through third party sites. They tell us to log on to their own site. Graham, Wendy and other residents replied that they had not had a problem reporting on fixmystreet.com.

8 LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM REPORT: the report will be printed in the next Newsletter.

9 PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Parish: Wendy reported that the Parish are putting in place a local neighbourhood plan for Iver. This gives us a say in any plans for large developments in the area. Once approved, it becomes a legal document.

HS2: Parish and residents groups petitioned the House of Lords about the proposed Heathrow Express development in Langley. We were finally awarded £500k to be spent in the parish to improve facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. Any projects have to be agreed by HS2, Bucks CC and the petitioners. Richings Park projects should be given priority as the impact on Richings Park will be permanent and on a 24 hour basis. Residents are asked to suggest projects.

District: Wendy reported also as a district councillor. SBDC and Chilterns are drawing up a Local Plan, as are all authorities in England. They are consulting on options within Iver to release green belt land for housing: eg Thorney Business Park land to be built on to create the new community of Richings Park North; 7600 houses are needed in South

Bucks over the next 20 years. Slough are also drawing up their Local Plan. They want to create a new garden village including part of Iver and develop most of the land between Iver and Richings Park to the north of North Park. We will oppose this vigorously. Hillingdon's proposals are pending and they may look at our green belt too.

Restructuring of Bucks County Council: there will be a Unitary Authority. BCC prefer one council for the whole of Buckinghamshire. The Districts prefer two, one for the north, one for the south. We support the second option as decision-making will be less remote. Graham has written on behalf of RPRA to Sajid Javid, the current Secretary of State, who will be making the decision.

County: no County Councillor was present

Question: a planning application from Chrsys, the owners of Link Park, Thorney Mill Road (previously the site of Aggregate Industries). Link Park operates under the original permission granted for Waste and Minerals by BCC. This permission put a restriction on operating hours. The current application is ostensibly about removing that restriction. To justify it Chrsys have said that they want to change the site to a Jewsons building yard. The change of use is a SBDC issue but the District Council have turned them down. If BCC agree and they get the extra hours it would put pressure on SBDC. We must all object. We should press BCC not to get involved as it is an SBDC matter. RPRA has already filed an objection. Residents should object as quickly as possible as the deadline has passed.

Question: is there a planning application from Breedons? Wendy responded that no application had been submitted.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Communications: we keep the website updated: www.richingspark.com Each month we publish a summary of current issues in 'In and Around Iver'. Every quarter we will publish a Newsletter highlighting local issues.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm