

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Thursday 28 April 2016 at Richings Park Sports Club

PRESENT: Wendy Matthews (Chair), Mukhtar Ali, Maureen Atkinson, Alan Barrett, Lindsey Beagle, Matthew McEvoy, Stewart O'Malley, Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Maureen Worrall, Graham Young,

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Griffin (District Councillor), Jilly Johnson (District Councillor), PCSO Ravindar Lewis plus 45 members of the Association.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Tina Heath, Daphne Wood

2 MINUTES OF THE AGM, 25 APRIL 2015: there were no amendments.

3 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: the Minutes were agreed and signed off. Proposed: Paul Griffin; Seconded: Paul Dunham

4 MATTERS ARISING

The blocked drain in Richings Way has been on the agenda for the past three years and with a joint effort we have finally managed to get the work done. Since then the situation has improved but the area is still drying out.

Flooded pavement in Thorney Lane North: again joint action has finally been successful. Transport for Bucks did some temporary work to unblock the drains and clean the path. We have been promised more permanent work later on.

5 STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS

Copies of the Annual Accounts, April 2016, were handed out. Graham reported that the amount received in subscriptions was shrinking each year. Income: this had decreased from £1502 (year to April 2015) to £1155 (year to April 2016). All were asked to remind their neighbours.

Expenditure: printing costs had increased from £94 to £309 as we were leafleting more frequently. Upkeep of the Residents Garden was substantially more (£54 to £565) as we pay a garden firm for maintenance and also had to have a rotten gate replaced. Our total expenditure this year is £1542, as opposed to £1289 last year. We have an overspend of £387 for 2015/16.

Question from Resident: the summary of subscribers per road on the reverse of the accounts was not clearly printed. Where was Bathurst Close? Graham confirmed that its figures had been amalgamated with those for Bathurst Walk East but he agreed to show it separately in future accounts.

The accounts were agreed and adopted: proposed Maureen Worrall and seconded Paul Griffin.

6 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Wendy read out the list of those who are willing to stand again and asked for volunteers to join the committee and cover Syke Cluan, Wellesley Avenue and Thorney Lane South. The retiring committee members were re-elected and both Cllr Paul Griffin and

Naz Akbar were elected to the Committee. Lisa Popa was co-opted to the Committee as our Heathrow Specialist. Proposed: Stafford Salt, Seconded: Gill Dick.

Paul Griffin agreed to cover Wellesley Avenue and Naz Akbar to cover Bathurst Close.

7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Wendy summarised the challenges which have faced the association during the year.

Heathrow Express/HS2 Depot: we petitioned the House of Commons for mitigation. Unfortunately Bucks County Council (BCC) made a separate deal under which we will get a sum of £1.2 million, for a bridge to be built as part of the relief road should a relief road be built. We are petitioning the House of Lords to try get a similar financial settlement as Slough: £6.2m. During construction, all traffic will eventually travel on our roads: at the moment 70 HGVs per day through Richings Park.

Heathrow: the Davies report said that the preferred option should be Heathrow but not which of the two schemes was preferred. The Gatwick option has been left open. The final announcement will not be made until the autumn. In the meantime the government have instituted studies on issues such as air pollution. There are also many legal challenges from local authorities regarding the work of the Commission and these have to be resolved. Members of the Residents' Association meet Heathrow on a regular basis and attend noise forums, focus forums and associated groups. We are pushing for reliable noise monitoring which will provide background data. If a third runway is built we will have a flight path directly over us. It is important that we get background data so that we can monitor noise increases

Ground noise at night: we are working closely with Heathrow to identify the source and resolve the issues. All residents are asked to please report disturbance from ground noise. There is an online form: www.richingspark.com

SIFE (Slough International Freight Exchange): decision due imminently. If approved five warehouses would be built on the A4 east of Sutton Lane, on green belt land. Each is as big as Terminal 5 and will generate a total of 7,000 HGV movements per day. We have made representations at the public enquiry for a routing agreement to save Richings Park, Iver and Iver Heath. Again we had no support from BCC.
NB: if the third runway is approved, SIFE cannot go ahead.

M4 Smart Motorway: the hard shoulder will be a fourth lane. We cannot obtain additional sound-proofing. Old Slade Lane bridge will be demolished and rebuilt. Originally the proposed deviation for the footpath involved up to a 5.6 mile detour. This was deemed unacceptable and the Department of Transport will rethink. Some good news: Richings Park Golf Course had to be surveyed and it has turned out to be a historic site, dating from the 18th century. It has been put forward for listing and we await the outcome.

Stobart: more good news – the application for a BioMass plant has been withdrawn.

Kingfisher Garden: thanks to Alan Barratt who manages with volunteers.

Western Railway Access to Heathrow (WRAtH): consultations led to over 700 responses, which they are analysing. There has now been a full traffic count on

Mansion Lane and Market Lane: total daily is 8,000. WRAtH will close the road with no alternative route.

CEMEX: CEMEX Operations UK Limited owns a proposed sand and gravel quarry on land north of North Park. Excavation will take 10 years and if agreed will start next year. There will be a large number of HGVs but they should not come through Richings Park. However, there will still be noise and dust. CEMEX are hoping to coordinate with WRAtH. WRAtH can use gravel for concrete and the product of WRAtH's boring can be used to fill the gravel holes. Letters have been sent to local residents and there will be a consultation at Richings Park Golf Club on 29 April. The quarry will eventually be restored to agricultural land. All residents are asked to attend the meeting and press for mitigation in the form of a financial contribution to a relief road.

Questions from Residents: how can WRAtH use their proposed route after CEMEX extraction as it will be regarded as unusable because it is made up ground. Wendy responded that she has asked CEMEX who say they are resolving it with WRAtH.

We need a map to show how both WRAtH and HS2 will interact. Wendy replied that WRAtH will go over Mansion Lane at road level, HS2 will go over the top. On the issue of where each accesses the main rail line, WRAtH will have access further to the west. We have asked for a coordinated map but there is nothing available.

Have we secured any mitigation at all? Wendy replied only the £1.2 million contribution as minuted above. We are in an area which is geographically advantageous for development. Crossrail construction is covered by an Act of Parliament about which we can do nothing.

BCC have been reported in the local paper as selling the Mansion Lane caravan site. Do they not have a legal obligation to provide sites for travellers? Wendy responded that they have to make provision for sites rather than provide actual sites and confirmed that they are selling. There is no further information.

Some More Good News: Heathrow Community Fund has provided money £500 for three planters at the crossroads by the Residents' Garden. The planters will stop cars being parked on the pavement. Wendy asked for volunteers to help site and plant them up. Details were taken at the end of the meeting and a working party will be set up.

Crossrail: the bridge is open and we hope disruption is coming to an end. There are already concerns about crumbling concrete which Balfour Beatty are addressing. Station path: the reopening has been delayed. By the end of the year we should have ramps and lifts at the station. But Transport for London has delayed considering funding either a new station building or a car park. We must put pressure on to achieve a result from other possible car-parking schemes. Crossrail will open in 2018, running fully in 2019. There will be trains every 20 minutes, seven days a week.

8 LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM REPORT

PCSO Ravindar Lewis reported on crime in Richings Park, giving figures for January 2015 to 28 April 2015 last year and January 2016 to 28 April 2016. In the 2015 period, there were: 2 burglaries, 0 criminal damage, 4 thefts from vehicles, 1 stolen vehicle and 1 anti-social behaviour.

In the 2016 period, there were: 0 burglaries, 0 criminal damage, 3 thefts from vehicles, 1 stolen vehicle and 0 anti-social behaviour.

She explained that the Neighbourhood Team were often in Richings Park. Recently there had been a speeding operation in North Park which resulted in 12 vehicles being stopped and their drivers fined. None were HGVs and 8 were local residents. They still give crime prevention advice and if they notice valuable items left in cars while they are on foot patrol they will make every effort to alert the owners. Police cannot issue parking tickets.

Questions from Residents:

Daily there are vehicles causing obstruction at the junction of Somerset Way and Wellesley Avenue. Another resident responded that if obstruction is reported to the police and a crime number is allocated then it can be followed up. Lindsey Beagle added that we had had funding to provide restricted parking around the shops but Buckfield Court refused to agree and we lost the funding. It was a waste of several years' work.

Double yellow lines and two-hour bays: these have to be enforced by Civil Enforcement Officers working for BCC. Police have no jurisdiction but will move on offenders whom they see parking.

There have been vehicles so badly parked on local roads that the local bus cannot get through. Navinder responded that police cannot legally remove vehicles unless they are parked illegally for example parked opposite each other or parked in a restricted area. However PCSOs do put notes on vehicles pointing out poor parking.

Please ask the fire brigade to supply more signs about the road width needed by emergency vehicles. It was agreed to contact Gerrards Cross Fire Station.

No Access for HGVs: may we have official signs which the police would then have the power to enforce? Wendy replied that this would have to be funded by BCC and there is no money left. We cannot fund notices ourselves as they would not be official. Neither can we put our own notices on poles. It would be BCC which is called to account if there is a serious accident.

There were further questions and responses on parking issues. However, ultimately there is no immediate solution and all agreed we need to push for a station car park.

Wendy thanked Ravinder and the team for their on-going work.

9 UPDATE: PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Parish: Wendy, as sole Parish representative present, spoke about the Neighbourhood Plan which the Parish Council is hoping to develop. It will provide us with a say in what happens where in our Parish. There will be further publicity and consultation meetings in the next few months. It has substantial financial benefits: if South Bucks District Council implement the community infrastructure levy on development, 25% will come to the Parish and will be put into a community fund for local projects. In response to a question, Wendy summarised the current position. The first submission had to be withdrawn after an objection from Pinewood, which we received much too late to

respond to. The Parish Council have engaged a legal planning adviser at some expense and our redrawn submission has been sent for consultation again.

Questions from Residents: should we pay for our own litter pickers, verge cutters etc? Wendy replied that we lost our local litter picker in District's cuts. Now *Biffa* is supposed to do this, but seem to provide only a reactive, not proactive, service. They insist that refuse clearing is hindered by parked cars. We have offered suggestions, but all have been rejected. BCC also paid for a Parish Highways operative but funding has been withdrawn.

District: Paul Griffin: we deal mainly with county issues as all schemes alluded to above need effort from County Councillors and we can only keep pushing for involvement. We desperately need input from BCC and have to lobby constantly for information. We do not have an effective County Councillor.

Questions from Residents: do we need to begin the process of removing our current County Councillor and appointed another with our interests at heart? Paul agreed.

Jilly Johnson: there is good news. County have formed a Strategy Group as they have realised Iver is being hit from all directions. Our County Councillor has been invited but not attended. Our recent protest in the Ivers against HGVs has made them see that we will not stand for more development. Mark Shaw is the BCC cabinet member with responsibility for the Iver area and he has come out to meet us.

Jilly supported what Paul had said. She added there are five District Councillors working their hardest for all in the Ivers.

Wendy reported on the South Bucks District Council local plan. SBDC in conjunction with Chiltern District Council had sent out a consultation paper asking for views on which parts of the green belt should be made available for development. Wendy spoke about the map on display which showed areas in and around Iver, Iver Heath and Richings Park which had been put forward in separate assessments from individuals and developers. There will be further consultation November/December by which time a set of possible options should have been drawn up.

County: covered in answers above.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

Wendy thanked all for attending and Lindsey (On-Line Forum), Jan (Secretary), Graham (Treasurer) and the Committee for their support and hard work.

Wendy is standing down as Chair and her successor will be elected at the next meeting of the Residents' Association on 26 May. The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

The next monthly meeting: **Thursday 26 May 2016**. All are welcome to raise issues of concern at the beginning of the meeting.