

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING: 21 February 2017, RPSC, 7.30 PM
NOTES

Introduction: Richings Park Residents' Association Rules state: "A quorum of the Committee shall consist of 5." At the beginning of the meeting only 4 official members of the Association were present. The meeting was therefore inquorate. It continued but was not able to deal with official business on the agenda such as the co-option of new members. This business will be held over until the AGM on 19 April. Notes, rather than official minutes, were taken at the meeting by the Secretary.

Present: Wendy Matthews (Chairing, in the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair.) Maureen Atkinson, Matthew McEvoy, Jan Wiseman. Mukhtar Ali arrived at 9 pm after a previous meeting.

In Attendance: Jess Beagle, Tina Heath (St James' Walk), Mary Kidwill, Gurjit Sandhu (Syke Cluan), Sanjay Sharma, Cllr Luisa Sullivan (South Bucks District Council, SBDC), Ged Weston (Thorney Lane South).

Apologies: Naz Akbar (Bathurst Close), Cllr Karanveer Bembeey (Iver Parish Council, IPC), Stewart O'Malley, Lisa Popa (Northumberland Walk), Daphne Wood, Maureen Worrall (Vice Chair), Graham Young (Chair),

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (17 January 2017): the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and will be sent to Graham Young for the website.

Co-option of Committee Members: see above. Action carried forward to the AGM. Prospective new members (listed above, together with the roads they will represent) were introduced and at the AGM they will be formally elected as members of the Committee.

Matters Arising and Other Issues

Heathrow

Forums & Workshops Report: Wendy has been to two Local Noise Forum working groups. She has persuaded Heathrow to site a ground noise monitor near Richings Park and she will feed back results. Residents are keen to establish the level and cause of night noise. The Forum includes other groups on this side of the airport such as Windsor & Maidenhead and Englefield Green and we have to ensure we all speak with the same voice. Dominic Grieve, our MP' has written to the Buckinghamshire Advertiser supporting our view.

Night Flights Consultation: the consultation ends next week. Lisa has spent many hours going through the documentation and has sent it a detailed technical response. We are very grateful to her.

Department for Transport (DfT) Consultation on Heathrow Expansion:has started..

DoT Consultation on AirSpace Change: also opened. This is a Europe-wide initiative; we are all interconnected airspace-wise. The consultation is looking at how changes should be made. This is bound to be interlinked with the 3rd Runway. On Saturday 11 March at Gerrards Cross there is a consultation/information session to explain the national framework policy statement. We argued that the session should be held in Richings Park, which will be severely affected, and offered venues. They were refused but it has now been agreed that an all-day shuttle bus will run between Richings Park and Gerrards Cross. We will publish the timetable when it comes out.

The full consultation document runs to 2,000 pages. There is no information on flight paths in terms of the third runway but it is likely that they will fly right over us. Despite this we are not at the moment included in compensation discussions. All were asked to let Wendy know their views so they can be included in our response.

Next Meeting with Dominic Grieve: Friday 28 April, 6 pm, in Richings Park venue tbc.

Highways Updates

Verges/Pavements/Roads: we have a new area technician Wayne Fabian. IPC has surveyed all parish roads, identifying defects. That information has been sent to Wayne to get the work done in the absence of any action from Bucks County Council (BCC). All were asked to let Wendy know of work needed in their roads. Some white lines on roads will be refreshed including the disabled bay outside Saleys. Daphne Wood, who is away, sent Jan a written report on North Park. She is making slow progress on getting the BT manholes and surrounding road surfaces repaired outside numbers 2 and 10. She reported leaking water and Affinity Water found a leaking pipe under the road between numbers 7 and 11. She has reported the demolished bollard and Give Way sign near number 32 to BCC. Because the bollard was damaged and unlit a driver crashed into it recently, badly damaging her car.

Wendy reported that the Local Area Forum (LAF), set up by BCC, have some funds to deal with the pavement near the road crossing point in North Park in the next financial year.

Station Approach Acquisition: no further news. Cars are being parked there overnight. The area is a mess but at the moment it does not belong to anyone.

Crossrail: the path from the station has now been reopened but it is full of rubbish. Wendy will complain to Crossrail. Bins: dog/rubbish bins by the path were installed by IPC and disappeared during the works. Crossrail denied all knowledge of bins and the parish gate by the bridge but they have finally decided 'as a gesture' to reinstate both. There is no timeframe!

Area Round the Shops

Parking Consultation/Planters/Trees: Good News! LAF have agreed to fund carrying out a feasibility study into an experimental parking scheme next financial year. They have ring-fenced the funds. We will be consulted by the BCC parking specialist to discuss the most appropriate scheme.

A badly-parked/dumped car in Bathurst Walk was removed by police this week

Trees: the trees by the shops have been cut back, the work being arranged by IPC.
Noticeboard by Residents' Garden: it has been taken away for refurbishment by IPC

Clearing Around the Area: carried forward until Graham is back.

Broadband More Good News! Wendy had a response from the CEO of BT. He claims that they have resolved all issues which would prevent fibre-enabling and cabinet 9 will be working by end of June 2017. Thanks are due to the Broadband co-ordinator from BCC for his assistance.

HGV Signs: Wendy went to a BCC HGV strategy meeting which at which she raised the problem of the inappropriate use of satnav. She contacted the BCC Transport for Bucks (TfB) man who deals with such issues and he said he was in touch with Google etc to get our local roads removed as alternative routes to the business parks. Directional signs: **carried forward, Action Graham**

Good Neighbourhood Scheme: Graham Young and Mike Kennedy are setting up the scheme, with LAF and IPC providing funds. Initially, volunteer drivers will take Richings Park residents to and from doctors' surgeries. There has been a good response and the scheme aims to be operational by the end of April.

Kingfisher Garden: Jess Beagle, a local resident who advises on environmental issues, reported on the current position after the recent poisoning of the river. The garden is sited in Thorney Mill Road on land belonging to SBDC. The Residents' Association have undertaken to maintain it in order to keep it as an open facility for residents. After the poisoning (see previous minutes) there is low oxygen and still no life in the river and surroundings. The river is not flowing, and is overgrown and silted up. Jess had no access down-river. The river needs de-silting and the ground set out. Jess is looking to put together a workplan, in consultation with the Environment Agency and Groundwork. We will try to access Veolia funds (they were found to have put poisonous discharge into the water). We will be asking for volunteers. Action Wendy to talk to Groundwork, Graham to co-ordinate working groups

Defibrillator: Jan reported that she and Luisa had looked at sites for a public access defibrillator near the shops. Luisa, who has helped Iver Heath install similar equipment, explained how it will work. Jan will arrange a meeting with Costcutters, owners of the prospective site, after Graham's return: mid- March.

Newsletter: Jan had sent an updated draft to attendees. After discussion it was agreed that the first copies would be distributed in March with the AGM and subscription information.

Station Car Park: , the landowner, is likely to put in an application. There will be a public consultation in March. Wendy reported that there is a huge discrepancy on station current and projected footfall between Crossrail (15,000 pa) and the Office of the Rail Regulator (200,000 pa).

Thorney Business Park (TBP) Consultation: letters have been sent out to publicise 3 public exhibitions on the regeneration of land at Thorney Business Park. The land is on the local plan as greenbelt land which could be released for development.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NHW): Gurjit and Ged reported progress on setting up the new scheme: 40 households are now in communication. Gurjit and Ged added that many residents are seeking more community spirit. Tina, a previous NHW co-ordinator, thanked them both for their efforts. After discussion, Gurjit and Ged agreed to go back to Barry Burnell, their contact at Thames Valley Police (TVP), to confirm the admin process with him, including CRB checks. Tina suggested they ask Barry for details of NHW householders still in the area. Luisa will take this up with Barry to facilitate liaison between TVP and Community Safety.

Treasurer and Membership Figures Report: Matthew reported that full figures will be available at the AGM.

Planning/Enforcement

1 Heathrow

1.1 Northern Runway Alterations: permission has been granted by the Secretary of State. The alterations will allow mixed-mode operation – runways will have extra length and width - but they may not go ahead with the 3rd runway. Our worry is the noise implication for Richings Park of the wall being built around Longford: noise may be pushed up and over.

Old Aggregate Industries site: there is no control on the number of HGVs, only operating hours. Businesses should be operating in conjunction with the railhead. A certificate of lawfulness has been applied for and this would allow general industrial use, a wider definition. There is no documentation as development has been piecemeal and over many years. Work has been carried out without permission: a new building and a cover over hand standing. 120 HGV licences are registered to the site. The situation is difficult to control.

2 HS2/HEX (Heathrow Express) Update: Good News! Following our representation to the House of Lord regarding lack of compensation, HS2 now have a £500k fund for projects for pedestrians or cyclists in Iver. IPC is holding a consultation and Tina will represent us at the meeting. Bathurst Walk will be badly affected. The HEX access to the mainline will be at Iver, and affect Bathurst with both light and noise, if the current HEX site in Old Oak Common is anything to go by. Tina reported that some Colnbrook residents, near the reservoir, had received letters from HS2 about compulsory purchase. She will send Wendy a copy.

Mansion Lane: the road has now been temporarily reopened. We have been involved with residents groups in Langley and Colnbrook; this problem needs to be solved across the whole area, rather than just Slough, who want to get the benefit. Wendy has co-ordinated a meeting with our MP, Dominic Grieve and Fiona McTaggart (Slough). Adam Afriye (W & M) was also invited but did not respond. We need to work together. Slough want to widen Langley High Street and Sutton Lane using compensation from the closure. Dominic and Fiona agreed to seek a meeting

with Chris Grayling, Department of Transport. The DoT must look at this work and the work proposed for the M4/M25 in a holistic way.

3 WRAtH (Western Region Access to Heathrow) Update: the project has been delayed by 6 months because of the impact of new climate change regulations. There will be a formal consultation in October with a view to submitting a planning application next Spring.

4 CEMEX Update: on same site as WRAtH above. There is no date yet for an application hearing which will possibly be after the May county council elections.

5 Breedon Cement Works/Application/Exhibition: very little for the community is being offered officially. The application will have to go to BCC.

6 Iver Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan: we need to generate involvement from Richings Park residents. IPC are still working on the Plan. This is our chance to say exactly what we want and what it should look like. There will be a consultation process, starting shortly.

7 Slough Local Plan Consultation: Graham and Maureen Worrall were actioned at the last meeting to lodge an objection. Individual responses are important too. We must object to having the land between Langley and Richings Park developed as it is all we have bet us and Slough.

8 Local Applications Submitted: see accompanying list.

Report from County/District Councils: Luisa reported on behalf of the District Council. She has asked for an update on road sweepers so as to provide more regular sweeping for all three settlements: Iver, Iver Heath, Richings Park.

Unitary Proposals: the choice is between one single county (based in Aylesbury) or two authorities (North and South Bucks) and is with the Secretary of State, Sajid Javid. He expects to make a decision in March. At end of March, BCC will be 'in purdah' prior to the May elections. There will be a caretaker regime for two years and then the change.

Report from Parish Council: see above, also Christmas Lights: Tina and Maureen Worrall are our representatives at the IPC-arranged meetings. They have had an initial meeting and the next will be held on 9 April. At this, the three settlements will come together to discuss their plans. If we want lights on the Christmas tree in the Residents' Garden, we will need to approach Mr Hancock, the owner of the property leased by Blu.

Street Lights: IPC are aware of the issues and have put up brighter lights at the top of Wellesley Avenue. They recruited experts to survey the streets and get the best configuration for each one. There will be a gradual rollout and after discussion it was agreed to take roads in turn from the station outwards. The work will be spread across several years. Each lighting head costs £500 including installation.

IPC Annual Meeting of Electors: 6 March 2017 8 pm Iver Village Hall. All are invited.

Dates of Next Meetings: Tuesday 21 March; Wednesday 19 April AGM

Any Other Business

Wendy: Purple Parking: they have given up plans to locate to West London Industrial Park from their Brent Road site, which is closing. They have a small site in Court Lane which should be just for servicing. Tina reported that Purple Parking have a full set-up in Court Lane, working Monday – Friday, with car parking and shuttle buses. There is no planning permission.

Gurjit: other issues arise from NHW visits to householders. How should they be fed back? Wendy asked that they be brought to this meeting.

Ged: speeding is an issue for residents of Thorney Lane South and he and others would like to volunteer to operate the speed camera. Wendy will refer the request to Graham who will be in touch when he returns at the beginning of March.

Mukhtar: in an effort to reduce HGVs in Richings Park, Mukhtar had spoken with the logistics managers of several businesses located on the Ridgeway, regarding their routes. He suggested inviting them to our AGM. Wendy responded that we already do. There is no central committee of hauliers on the Ridgeway.

Sanjay (on behalf of Naz): Sanjay reported an issue affecting Bathurst Close. The owner of a house backing onto it has applied to sell part of its garden for a 3-bed property. HGV movements will be an issue: 12 per day. These are in addition to already existing traffic problems. It was agreed for RPRA to support the residents and asked him to send details to Graham Young for a response. Individual members would also object.

Jess: litter is an ongoing problem in both Richings Way and Kingfisher Gardens. In the latter, bins are overflowing. Thorney Lane South is also affected. SBDC are responsible. Wendy will let them know.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.