

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING: 17 JANUARY 2017, RPSC, 7.30 PM

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Present: Graham Young (Chair), Maureen Atkinson, Cllr Wendy Matthews (Chair Iver Parish Council – IPC, and Vice Chair South Bucks District Council - SBDC), Matthew McEvoy, Lisa Popa, Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Maureen Worrall

In Attendance: Tina Heath (St James's Walk), Gurjit Sandhu (Syke Cluan), Cllr Luisa Sullivan SBDC

Apologies: Naz Akbar, Alan Barrett, Lindsey Beagle, Cllr Karanveer Bembey IPC, Cllr Paul Griffin SBDC, Stewart O'Malley, Daphne Wood

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (13 December 2016): as actioned, the amended October 25 minutes were reissued. The minutes of 13 December meeting were amended by Wendy and reissued by Jan; they were accepted as a true and accurate record. Graham will put the minutes on the website.

Actions Arising: Naz will give an update on Bathurst Close at a future meeting: **Action Naz: carried forward**
We have lodged objections to planning applications for the ex-Flower Academy premises and the plot of land next to the residents' garden. Residents in Main Drive had already objected to the planned new house which has now been refused. Christmas Lights: Jan stood down; Maureen Worrall and Tina Heath will be Richings Park representatives.

Matters Arising and Other Issues

Heathrow (HAL):

Forums & Workshops Report: Lisa Popa is our Heathrow specialist. Her report is included at the end of the minutes. As previously reported the Noise Consultation Forum which Graham and Wendy attend is now reacting more strongly as it is clear that HAL has little control over noise levels. Pressure is beginning to build with all groups around the airport coming together: notice must be taken of those nearest the airport and the impact of noise on their lives. The third runway will add 30-40% to current noise levels. Green Belt: Lisa had received a letter about an unregistered parcel of land which forms the back 9 on the Thorney Golf Course, asking who it belongs to. The letter gives no further information. Now that this issue is being publicised, Graham/Wendy will bring it up at the local focus forum. It needs to be in the public domain. The area was included in a submission to the Davies Commission as part of Heathrow Hub and it is likely to be related to the relocation of associated premises. Wendy added that the letter had been sent to other groups. It was agreed that we would not respond but that we needed to be aware.

Night Flights: there is a new consultation on night flight restrictions. It was agreed that we will respond although there are few changes but we are aware that their information is based on modelling and there is no understanding of ground noise. Future aircraft might be quieter in the air but they are not quieter on the ground.

DfT Consultation on Expansion: we have been told by HAL that there will be two consultations this year and we have had a note from the Department for Transport on the proposal that will be voted on in Parliament. There is an exhibition soon in Gerrards Cross; Graham and Wendy will attend.

Highways Updates

Verges/Pavements/Roads: Pavements: Daphne has reported a possible water-main break in North Park with water bubbling up through pavement at her end of the road. Affinity have been contacted. Roads: the Department for Transport have allocated additional funds to local authorities to repair pothole: £12m for Bucks County Council.

Station Approach Acquisition: Wendy has discovered REACH, a volunteering website for professionals, and Graham has registered this acquisition as a project they might take up. The road behind the garages to the flats technically belongs to the Crown as over the years it has had no registered owner. We hope the Residents can acquire it by 'adverse possession' to block Network Rail. The footpath from the ticket office to Thorney Business Park belongs to Network Rail and it is still not open.

Crossrail: Wendy wrote to Crossrail management about the missing white gates and they have now agreed to replace them. There will be no replacements for the litter bin and dog bin without proof; the next step is to look at the Biffa litter bin collection lists.

There is now ugly wooden shuttering along the edge of the pedestrian bridge at the station. It is temporary and intended to protect users from overhead cables. They will be replaced with permanent structures in a few months. There is a message on trains about the danger of overhead cables. However, at the end of the bridge the railings are not enclosed and the cables are very close to and level with end of the bridge through which cables can be accessed. Wendy has informed Crossrail of the danger but nothing has been done. We, the Richings Park Residents' Association, are hereby formally minuting this as a hazard.

Area Around the Shops

Parking Consultation/Planters/Trees: as previously minuted Wellesley Avenue residents are applying for a residents-only parking zone. It is being processed through Iver Parish Council and they will get a response at the next meeting of the Local Area Forum (LAF). If accepted, LAF will look for matched funding,

Station Car Park: there has been a survey at the station asking commuters for their views on using land on Thorney Lane South as a car park. This is a private initiative by the site owner and we support the proposal. It is too early for a planning application.

Trees at Costcutters: Graham put in a grant application to the Parish Council but it was rejected as we have already had a grant in this financial year. However, some time has been found in the Parish workmen's schedules and either they will cut back low and dead branches or their contractor will do so. to get the work done. It is in fact the responsibility of Bucks County Council, Transport for Bucks.

Clearing Around the Area: in the spring we will organise a 'spring clean' around the shops, possibly combining it with an Easter egg hunt. **Carried forward**

Broadband: Wendy reported that BT Open Reach had rung her in response to her letter. They apologised for the delay and confirmed that the land on which cabinet 9 stands is now in private hands. The work needed to move it to the verge will go ahead. Neither BT nor we can find out why it is part of the commercial rollout of Broadband, rather than the publicly-funded initiative.

HGV Signs: Graham is in contact with Paul Griffin. The HGV sign at the North Park end of Wellesley Avenue has been stolen and the small signs on trees need amending. Another HGV has broken down the bollards by the shops. After discussion it was agreed that we get positive directional signs produced which will point the way to the business parks. Like the signs for Richings Park Sports Club we will need to go through the local authority. **Action: Graham for March/April**

Christmas Event Review: this first event was a learning opportunity. From 4 pm until 6.30 pm it worked well and young mums with children appreciated Santa's Grotto. We provided too much food but even so we spent only £390 of our £500 budget. We may organise an event next year.

Good Neighbourhood Scheme, January 11 Report: BCC approached several organisations in November to set up Good Neighbourhood Schemes. We advertised the January 11 meeting at the Jubilee Pavilion in Iver. 4 volunteer drivers came forward at the meeting with another 6 by email. A small Committee has been formed: Mike Kennedy (Chair), Graham (Treasurer) and Hilary Quincey (Secretary). Chris Jordan also volunteered to help and will approach Iver Parish Council to be nominated as the Parish Council representative.

The Scheme's Committee are working on setting up the administrative functions, including banking and record keeping. They hope to launch in April or May. Initially it will offer transport to and from local GPs, between 9am and 5 pm Mon to Fri. There is a sizeable amount of LAF funding for this initiative. Insurance: the onus is on drivers to inform their insurance companies. The Scheme needs coordinators, home-based, who will work to a rota.

Kingfisher Garden: the Residents' Association are responsible for the garden. It now needs a lot of work and the river is still dead. Nothing has been done since Aggregate Industries left our area. We need sponsorship and could approach Veolia (who poisoned the water), Colne Valley Park or Heathrow (as it is a community asset). **Action: carried forward**

Defibrillator: Jan emailed Cllr Luisa Sullivan (SBDC) to find out how we get a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) for Richings Park. Iver Parish Council building has one and Iver Heath Village Hall another. Luisa explained that the British Heart Foundation (BHF) might offer matched funding: total unfunded cost is about £2,200 plus an amount for electricity and annual insurance. There are terms and conditions: for example, there must be adequate footfall, the PAD must be available 24/7, it must be properly mounted on a brick wall and connected to a permanent electricity supply. No training is needed as the PAD provides spoken step by step instructions. Jan will look for a suitable local site and will contact Luisa for more information. Wendy added that if we could not get matched funding the PAD supplied to the Parish would be cheaper than that offered through BHF. **Action: Jan**

Newsletter: Jan had circulated a draft for discussion, and the layout and general content were agreed. Graham will ask Oakwood to photocopy it; we will buy a display box. When we have residents' email addresses we will also send it out electronically. It will probably come out every two months from March.

Treasurer/Membership Figures Report: Matthew and Graham are discussing the process and the software package. It was agreed that the Association would fund the same software package for Matthew that Graham already has: £40. Matthew has the cheque book and is now a signatory.

Planning/Enforcement

1 Heathrow

- 1.1 HAL are now investigating possible sites in our area (see item on Heathrow above)
- 1.2 Northern Runway alterations – we are still waiting for the appeal response

2 HS2/HEX

Hollow Hill Lane Closure Update: local groups are putting pressure on Transport for Slough to reopen the road. Slough tell us that closure is temporary and is part of a consultation exercise but internal memos say they need permanent closure to improve their negotiating position.

HEX (Heathrow Express): we are expecting the Department of Transport's response to the House of Lord's report in the next few weeks. The Lords said we were a special case and should have special funding.

3 CEMEX

Wendy, Graham and Matthew visited Riding Court Farm Datchet, another CEMEX site, on 13 January. They took some photographs and videos to show the dust and noise, and these are on our website. Matthew will ask Nick Collyer to collect information from Datchet residents about Nuisance for the hearing at Aylesbury, due Feb or March. Tina also volunteered to help. **Action: Matthew, Tina**

4 **Iver Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan**

We need to generate involvement from RP residents and a questionnaire will be delivered by post to every household asking for personal responses.

5 **Slough Local Plan Consultation:** Slough is trying to move into all its borders to satisfy housing needs. One of their proposals is to build over half the land between Richings Park and Langley with 650 houses, ie another Richings Park! The consultation began 16 January and goes on for 6 weeks. Maureen Worrall will produce the Residents' Association official response. Graham will circulate information to the Committee for their personal responses. **Action: Graham, Maureen W**

6 **Local Applications Submitted (see list sent out with the Agenda):** Graham will lodge an appeal against the planned extension at the rear of the bath shop on the grounds of restricting access to the alleyway and of overdevelopment of the of site. Ref No: 36 Bathurst Walk.

Report from County/District Councils: Graham has written our response to the Unitary Authority proposal and sent it to Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. A decision is likely in March.

Report from Iver Parish Council: there is a new website as well as accounts on Twitter and Facebook .

Dates of Next Meetings: Tuesday 21 February 2017, Tuesday 21 March 2017, Wednesday 19 April: AGM

As Graham and Maureen Worrall will be away, Wendy will chair the February meeting
Jan will produce the agendas, and the 'In and Around' article for March (which she will check with Paul Griffin). **Action: Maureen W, Wendy, Jan**

Any Other Business

Communications: Gurjit asked whether we use Facebook and Graham replied that there is an Iver Community Facebook Group. The Residents' Association have a website and a forum but it is difficult to get interaction. Gurjit added that people are used to 'push' communications which focus on prompts and reminders. We will ask for residents' email addresses on the subscription envelopes in March.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW): Gurjit reported that some local residents are working to set up a group in Richings Park. There used to be one but it has been defunct for many years. The group has met Council representatives and are now getting other residents involved. As they go door-to-door they could promote our initiatives. In return, we would offer Residents' Association support to Gurjit's group.

LAF Meeting: (see item on Good Neighbourhood Scheme above). Maureen W will go in Graham's place. Tina will provide transport. **Action: Maureen W, Tina**

Colne Valley Park Meeting, 27 February: Tina will try to attend. Wendy is attending to represent IPC and Luisa SBDC (she is Cabinet member for the Environment).

The meeting ended at 10 pm