

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING: 21 MARCH 2017, RPSC, 7.30 PM

Present: Graham Young (Chair), Naz Akbar, Mukhtar Ali, Maureen Atkinson, Alan Barrett, Wendy Matthews, Matthew McEvoy, Stewart O'Malley, Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Daphne Wood, Maureen Worrall

In Attendance: Nick Collier, Cllr Paul Griffin, Tina Heath, Gurjit Sandhu, Cllr Luisa Sullivan, Ged Weston

Apologies: Lisa Popa, Cllr Jyoti Kaushal

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (21 February 2017): the Notes from this meeting were agreed. Minutes could not be taken at the time as the meeting was not quorate.

Matters Arising and Other Issues

Heathrow

DCO (Development Consent Orders) Process: this process relates to the Third Runway and was established after Terminal 5 by the Department of Transport. Graham reported on a recent workshop he had attended and went through the separate stages of the process. He reminded the Committee that we must keep lobbying to get into the compensation package zone, which currently stops at the M4. The Runway Consultation Response Form will be put on our website with a link to the Department of Transport site and all need to respond online. Graham was asked and agreed to put some bullet points on our website which will cover the more important issues to stress when completing the form. **Action: Graham, All.** The deadline: 25 May 2017

Department of Transport Consultation on UK Airspace Change: this is part of a European initiative on the efficient use of airspace. Lisa has written a Consultation Response on behalf of the RPRA, copies of which were sent out to Committee members and are on our website. She was thanked for her work.

Night Flights Consultation: nothing further to report.

Highways Updates

Station Approach Acquisition: Graham has met the solicitor suggested by Naz, who did not recommend pursuing a case on the basis of adverse possession; it would be difficult and expensive. Buying the land is the only way but this would be at a commercial price. Network Rail have done some maintenance in the past but are not interested in acquiring the land. At the moment, the area still does not belong to anyone and the RPRA can take this no further. Mukhtar reported that the area outside the station is quite dark and dangerous. Wendy responded that there are three street lights there which belong to Network Rail.

Area Round Shops – Parking: residents of Wellesley Avenue are pursuing their application for residents-only parking with Buckinghamshire County Council through Iver Parish Council. As reported in the Notes from 21 February, the Local Area Forum (LAF) will fund a feasibility study into an experimental parking scheme in the

2017-18 financial year. There will be a BCC consultation process as part of the scheme. A planning application has been submitted for a 250-car car park on the green belt land off Thorney Lane South. For it to go ahead, South Bucks District Council (SBDC) must put parking restrictions in place on our roads.

Clearing Around the Area: see RPVAG under Any Other Business below

Broadband: cabinet 9 is still on track for connection in June.

HGV Signs: Paul reported that standard signs cost £35 plus VAT. There was a discussion on what new signs we need and Paul will report back at the next meeting.

Action: Paul. He will also approach Mark the Transport Manager at Thorney Business Park about STEP, the owners, providing better signage. **Action: Paul**

Good Neighbourhood Scheme: Graham reported that the bank account is finally open and grants obtained can now be spent. Launch is still scheduled for April.

Kingfisher Garden: Alan passed round photos of the polluted stretch of water. Wendy has spoken to Groundwork, who will give us a cost for a feasibility study on the water course; we will look at funding. The water flow must be improved and the problem lies either up or down stream. Rob the gardener has had family problems recently but hopes to get back to work in next few weeks. We will set up a working party to sort the area as it is the responsibility of the RPRA.

Defibrillator: Jan reported that an electrician contacted by Graham had looked at the proposed site, between Café O and The Chip Shop, and was satisfied that a defibrillator could be installed. An electrical feed would be run from the shutter control unit on the wall. There was discussion about alternative sites, for example on Blu's outside wall. Tina and Maureen will contact Mr Hancock, the owner of the property, and ask for an outside electrical socket to power the Christmas tree lights (see also under Any Other Business below). **Action: Tina and Maureen.**

Newsletter and AGM Notices: Graham brought copies to the meeting of the combined March Newsletter and AGM Notice. He would drop off the redesigned envelopes to road stewards separately. There was now the option of paying by standing order and of giving an email address for future communications.

(In fact, as the meeting did not end until 10 pm, when RPSC closed, Graham distributed copies of the Newsletter and Notice to road stewards with the envelopes.)

Treasurer and Membership Figures Report: full figures would be available at the AGM. Matthew reported that there was only 28% membership at 2016-17 year end. We agreed that we must make a concerted effort to increase membership in the coming year.

Planning/Enforcement

1 Heathrow: North runway appeal has been granted. Heathrow aims to make use of the existing runways more efficient to enable them to increase the number of flights by 25,000 per year.

2 CEMEX: the BCC hearing is on 10 April. Wendy will speak to the committee chair to ask that they move the hearing to May. If it goes ahead on the 10th, timing is tight. There will be representations from our County Councillor, IPC and 'Others' (local associations and individuals). Each group has 4 minutes so we have a maximum of 12 minutes to put our case against this proposed development. Bathurst Walk cul-de-sac will be most severely affected. Nick, who lives there, Gurjit, as a near neighbour in Syke Cluan, and Tina, St James' Walk, who has crucial health issues will meet to plan their strategy. They will visit Riding Court Farm near the Datchet site. **Action: Nick, Gurjit and Tina.** Wendy will represent IPC and she will ask the Chairman if one of the SBDC Cllrs could take over that slot. All three groups will co-ordinate to produce an holistic presentation. They will make clear the impact on the quality of life of residents.

3 Iver Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan: delayed by changes required by government to the South Bucks Local Plan.

4 Slough Local Plan Consultation: there has been no response from Slough. Maureen Worrall wrote, as previously actioned, but it is not clear if we sent in a general response. Hollow Hill Lane: Wendy reported that there was a serious discrepancy between Slough traffic monitoring data and South Bucks'. South Bucks said there was little increase in traffic on local roads while Hollow Hill lane was closed. Slough reported a 300% increase along North Park! We need to push for South Bucks inaccurate 'data' to be disregarded.

7 Local Applications Submitted: the list of applications which accompanied the agenda appears on our website. The following were discussed at the meeting:

Link Park (Court Lane): the owners have applied for a Jewson builders' yard with operating hours of 5 am to 10 pm, under the usage class that they have currently. However, separately, they also want a B2 categorisation, ie general business use. SBDC is trying to establish the current usage class, but previous permissions have left the position unclear. Graham will put a link on the website for objections on the grounds of HGVs and operating hours. Purple Parking at Link Park have been given notice to quit.

North Star: the landlord is applying for a certificate of lawfulness for the land at the rear of pub. He claims they have used it as a builders' merchants for ten years. It is green belt land and it is not clear whether or not it is in current use; there is an old picture on Google Earth. We do not believe the land has been used for that purpose or for that length of time. Have business rates been paid, is there water on site and are there waste disposal arrangements? All were asked to object. **Action: ALL**

Report from County/District Councils: we have no one from BCC to represent us but this will change with the May elections. SBDC: Cllr Luisa Sullivan reported on recent Strategic Flood Management Committee meeting. She pointed out that no Richings Park roads were included on the flood zone maps. The Ridings and the Poynings are particularly vulnerable, with Heathrow proposing overflow ponds in the area when the Third Runway is built. A member of the flood management committee will be asking IPC for flood area information. There has been no response from Sajid

Javid to our letter on a Unitary authority in Buckinghamshire. (See previous minutes).

Date of Next Meeting: AGM 19 April 7.30 RPSC. Next Committee meeting: Wednesday 24 May 7.30 RPSC.

Report from Parish Council: there was discussion on the best projects to put forward to BCC to use the HS2 Community Fund. £500,000 compensation has been awarded by the House of Lords. We must make sure that we do not put forward highways projects, where money gets swallowed up in BCC overheads. Suggestions included improving the street lighting in Richings Park; the funding would allow this to be expedited. It was agreed that we need a methodology to involve Richings Park residents in putting forward ideas. Richings Park will be permanently affected by the noise and dust from the Heathrow Express development in Langley and should benefit from the fund with a specific project. Other areas of Iver are affected only while building is taking place. We need quick feedback on what is wanted. Gurjit, and Ged will liaise with Wendy. **Action Gurjit, Ged and Wendy.**

The Iver Parish Council/Residents' Association Noticeboard outside the Residents' Garden has been refurbished by the Parish Council. The key is held by Costcutters.

In conjunction with LAF, the Parish Council is providing 'Billy' and 'Belinda' bollards near the nursery school. They will be sited in Richings Way.

Parish: Maureen Worrall asked why there is a 9.5% increase in the contribution required by the Parish Council. Wendy responded that it covers staff salaries, and pensions including the additional contributions to BCC. Our precept is lower than that for Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross but we have the fewest paying Council Tax; many Iver residents are on benefits. In response to Maureen, Wendy added that IPC is currently consulting on buying Iver Police Station.

Any Other Business

Richings Park Village Action Group (RPVAG): Ged spoke about this new group of residents who aim to work together on small day-to-day actions to make a difference in the area. A recent 'Richings Pints' social evening at the Tower Arms showed there is an appetite for community involvement. The next is on 28 April 7.30 pm at RPSC. The RPVAG ties in with the new Neighbourhood Watch group. They hope to organise family events. Residents' Association Committee members welcomed the new blood. We are often bogged down in the big issues; RPVAG will handle the problems which affect residents on a daily basis. The Residents' Association can also help with applying for grants for specific projects.

Initially the RPVAG needs to set a date for an area clean up, concentrating on litter around the shops. At the Residents' Association AGM, the 'Richings Pints' social evening will be publicised. And at the social evening the clean up will date will be published. Rather than being a sub-group of the Residents' Association it was agreed that one or more of the RPVAG Committee should also be on the Residents' Association Committee.

Naz thanked everyone who had objected to the proposed Bathurst Close planning application. The result was awaited.

Tina: Christmas Lights (see also under Defibrillator). Wendy will let Tina and Maureen Worrall know the date of the next meeting. **Action: Wendy**

Daphne: reported that cars are still being parked on the pavement outside the old Post Office. A blocked pavement is a Thames Valley Police issue and she was advised to report it by dialling 101.

Stewart: asked whether the SBDC main admin office is closing. Luisa responded that there is an 8-year lease. Many departments are still using the building, although the Unitary decision will have some impact.

Gurjit: requested an update on outstanding highways work. The local area technician, Wayne, was working through the list. Potholes are being reviewed and the central bollard on North Park will be repaired. Luisa reported that cleaning central bollards is awaiting a risk assessment.

Ged: reported that he has 5 volunteers to operate the speed camera. Graham will set up training. **Action: Graham.**

Wendy: the department of transport have indicated they are starting a strategic study on the Smart M25. It will include the issue of air quality. She had also received an email from the Historic Iron Railing Society who claim that the original gates to Richings Park are now in Rowntree Park in York!

Meeting Ended: 9.55pm