

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING 23 JUNE 2015 AT RICHINGS PARK SPORTS CLUB

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

Apologies: Sue Barber, Daphne Wood, Maureen Worrall, Mukhtar Ali (apologies received later). Maureen Atkinson apologised for missing the last meeting – no agenda had been sent out.

Residents' Questions:

At the beginning of the meeting the following residents raised local issues: Aaron Ashby-Gittins and Kathryn Pike.

Aaron is trying to rent the empty shop, previously the florists. He would like to open a daytime sandwich shop/evening restaurant – he has an existing catering business. He asked whether the deadline had passed for objections to the plan to convert it into a dwelling. He had had problems submitting an online objection.

Wendy replied that the Association had submitted a formal objection on behalf of the residents and Lindsey added that she had objected that day on the South Bucks District Council website. The site was still taking objections as far as we knew.

Aaron and Kathryn distributed paperwork about Vintage in the Park including a short background history, the reasons for the market days and feedback from residents. In particular they would like to use the Residents' Garden for music, children's entertainment and seating. See discussion under item 2 below.

Aaron and Kathryn then left and the official meeting began.

1 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (19 May 2015):** agreed.

2 **Matters Arising and Other Issues**

Heathrow Community Noise Forum (HCNF): Wendy and Graham have attended another meeting and the minutes are on the website. NATS and Heathrow have a commercial relationship with joint strategic agreements. It is difficult to obtain reliable information on aircraft noise. Wendy and Graham have also attended a meeting of the Local Authority Airport Noise Council (LAANC). LAANC have employed an independent noise consultant whose research shows that Heathrow's figures are inaccurate. This raises questions about the veracity and completeness of Heathrow data; what Heathrow say and what happens on the ground are at odds. However, at the meeting Heathrow conceded that their data was not accepted, which is a big turn round. Heathrow are now considering getting their own independent expert to analyse all the data

The noise monitor was placed on Richings Park Golf Club last year and the output has taken a long time to analyse. There is a meeting next week at RPSC where Heathrow are going to present their data – we are hoping the outcome will be an improvement on last time.

Airports Commission Report: the Davies Commission report is due to be published on 29 June.

Meeting Dominic Grieve: Friday 26 June at 6 pm. Graham will book RPSC as Wendy is away. Wendy will email all committee members with an agenda. **Action: Wendy**

Highways Updates – Verges/Pavements/Roads: Wendy reported on Daphne's email: in North Park the verge by the width restriction has finally been cut back by Bucks County Council (BCC) Highways department. The work took much longer than anticipated, probably because of the amount of time that has elapsed since it was last done. The leak in North Park by the hydrant between 23 and 25 has also been sorted out by Affinity Water. There may be action on the pothole outside no 25 as there is a yellow line around it.

Thorney Mill Road: Alan reported that BCC had come and cut back the verges but had only completed half. **Action: Wendy**

Wendy reported that Gerrards Cross Parish Council have been in touch with the Transport Minister who has advised that they can act to prevent parking on verges. We will see what action they take

Swallow Street is the only road being repaired this financial year.

Area Round the Shops - Parking Consultation/Planters/Trees: the parking consultation is now closed; paperwork will be finalised within a couple of weeks and will then be actioned in the next few months. Lindsey has spoken to Ruth Vigor – Hedderly, our County Councillor, about commuter parking which the consultation does not deal with. Many roads are badly affected and there are two options: residents' only or controlled parking. BCC must support and advise on the most appropriate method for our area - they have previously preferred residents' parking. The costs and legal aspects are about the same. However for residents' parking to be implemented 85% of residents in any one road must not object.

Planters: Wendy brought a brochure to the meeting advertising commercial self-watering highway planters. We agreed to buy four, plant them up and put them in position on the pavement around the Residents' Garden to prevent parking. **Action: Wendy, Lindsay.**

Trees: Wendy reported that Sue Barber is happily on the road to recovery and she will soon be able to deal with tree issues.

Vintage in the Park/Richings Park Celebrates: Vintage in the Park is run by a commercial firm, Shabbytique. It is not clear who is in charge and there is no coordination on issues such as health and safety. Some local shopkeepers are upset by the competition and other problems such as parking. Wendy had recently chaired a meeting between those championing Vintage in the Park and the other shopkeepers. The commercial nature of the activity became clear and this is misleading residents, who believe it is a local event. If it were community-run the Residents' Association would be able to cover it with its own public liability insurance. But if a commercial event uses our land, ie the Residents' Garden, we do

not have insurance. Shabbytique's insurance covers what they sell on their stalls but not the event as a whole. The size of the event has been reduced, but they want to expand it again. There is no opportunity for our shops to promote their businesses, particularly as it takes place on Saturdays, their busiest day. We have asked that the event be held on Sundays but the organisers are unwilling. They now want a street party in August and would like to close off some roads. Wendy will meet participants of Vintage in the Park and brief them. It was agreed that the Garden cannot be used for any commercial event as the risk to us is too high. **Action: Wendy**

We could put on an event of our own: Richings Park Celebrates – a birthday party for the Park. It would be an umbrella for a number of different events: shops, open gardens, sports club open day. Kingfisher Park, a trail round Richings Park: all to end with fireworks. We would not run it but generate interest and publicise.

Richings Park Business Association: this is a much better way of bringing businesses together and would be a forum for joint discussion and promotion. They will need help to get them started. **Action: Wendy**

Clear Up Richings Park Day: a Saturday at the end of July, date to be confirmed. It will be publicised on the Forum and volunteers will be sought to help us clear up the area round the shops.

Thorney Sidings/Thorney Mill Road: there is still no further information on what will happen to the Sidings. We need to put forward what we think would be the best use of the area in future eg industry, housing. Wendy has emailed BCC to ask if anyone has come forward with a proposal.

Stobart Biomass Application: granted and there is no appeal process. We have asked for sight of the highways report that went to planning officers: they seem to believe that North Park and Richings Way are not part of Richings Park. The planning meeting can be viewed online; it was made clear that our roads are not suitable for HGVs. Councillors may not have been fully informed of the size of the lorries involved. If so we could complain to the ombudsman that due process was not followed.

Sustainable Access to Station/Cyclepath: BCC are keen to push this forward and there have been meetings with landowners.

Broadband: no response from BT. Dominic Grieve will be following this up and Lindsey will ask him at Friday's meeting. **Action: Lindsey**

Community Forum Richings Park Today: 98 have registered on the site. It is growing.

M4 Smart Motorway: consultation is currently underway and there are maps and papers in the Parish Council offices.

Bucks County Council and South Bucks District Council Local Plans: the latter is being discussed now and the Parish Council will hold a consultation event at which residents can say what we do and do not want in the area. Opinions will be fed to

South Bucks and included in the local plan. Wendy will circulate the date of the consultation meeting. **Action: Wendy.** All are asked to let Wendy know of any local groups who would like to be involved. **Action: All**

HGV Signs: not up yet. Paul has the signs but he and Graham still have to get together. **Action: Paul, Graham.**

Residents' Meetings: Robert Webster has asked us to hold quarterly AGM-type meetings to update residents on what is going on. This is a positive step to stop rumours and misinformation. The proposal was agreed for a September start. **Action: Wendy**

3 **Date of Next Meetings:** the day will change back to Thursday: The next meeting is 30th July. There will be no meeting in August.

4 **Treasurer's Report:** to-date there are 200 subscription renewals, 50 less than last year. Lindsey will investigate putting an automatic payment button on the Forum. **Action: Lindsey**

5 **Planning/Enforcement:** see list included on the Agenda. The following were discussed:

Cape Boards Site in Hillingdon: the Calor Gas application has been refused on the grounds of its negative effect on local quality of life. Firms are now using the rear exit on the site, which avoids Iver Lane. The message is finally getting through. Hillingdon have this site earmarked for housing in the local plan. Once approved it will become policy. The owner of Trade Sales in Slough owns the site currently.

The Ridgeway: The emphasis is shifting away from commercial use and towards housing, for example DX House in the Ridgeway which has had approval for 49 flats.

Slough International Freight Exchange (SIFE): end of Sutton Lane where it meets the A4. They are appealing and a hearing will be scheduled.

Fox and Pheasant Site: trying to get 10 houses on this site again.

6 **Heathrow/Hub Station/Crossrail:** HS2 Langley Depot: there have been local presentations and it is clear that they need so much land that WRAtH and our relief road may no longer be possible. Wendy has not been able to contact WRAtH for their views. The Langley depot is in a Bill to be presented to parliament at the end of the year and get royal assent next year. We will raise this issue with Dominic Grieve and keep up pressure to get our relief road. We need highways at BCC to insist that a HGV-suitable road be built. **Action: all**

Crossrail Thorney Lane Bridge Works: nothing further. They are waiting for Network Rail to complete upgrade work.

7 **Report from Parish Council**

Policing Update: the Parish is covered by a new superintendent, new chief inspector, an inspector and a sergeant. At Iver Police Station there is one PC working 9 – 5 and another on flexible hours. There is currently only 1 PSCO for Iver.

Our police are also covering Gerrards Cross at times which is short-staffed. Some days there is no-one at Iver Police station.

Party in Park: Iver Recreation Ground, Saturday 4 July.

8 **Report from County/District Councils:** Wendy reported that there is some grant money left for community activities - end July closing date.

9 **Any Other Business:**

Thorney Park: Alan asked if benches could be reinstated. **Action: Wendy**

The meeting ended at 9.55 pm