

**RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING 24 NOVEMBER 2015, RPSC, 8 PM**

**Present:** Wendy Matthews (Chair), Muhktar Ali, Maureen Atkinson, Lindsey Beagle, Matthew McEvoy, Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Daphne Wood, Graham Young

**Apologies:** Sue Barber, Maureen Worrall, Stewart O'Malley

**1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (28 October 2015):** under item 2, Matters Arising, the petition we plan to give Dominic Grieve at our meeting with him (see below) concerns the proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow, and not as minuted the planned Heathrow Express depot at Langley. With this amendment the minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

**2 Matters Arising and Other Issues:**

Heathrow Expansion: the decision will be published in December. If they get the go-ahead Heathrow will face many legal challenges from, for example: Mayoral candidates, Slough Council, The Royal Borough, Hillingdon, Richmond and Wandsworth.

Heathrow Local Focus Forum/Airport Noise Forum: the residents' groups are now more strident. Heathrow are not explaining to us why noise has worsened and what is going on. Pilots' evidence shows that the publicised noise-reducing configuration is not what is actually happening. Even the Airport's own report shows it is getting noisier. In addition, we still have no information about flight paths emanating from an additional runway.

The tentative meeting with Heathrow PLC on 7 December seems to be going ahead

Air pollution: the Davies' Commission report says that a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway could go ahead provided air pollution is lower than the worst place in country: Marylebone High Street. So standards are not high. Lindsey reported that our nearest air quality monitor is in West Drayton and this is over limit all the time. But see below Lindsey's meeting with Air Sensa, scheduled for 26 November.

Meeting Dominic Grieve, our MP: now rescheduled yet again to 10 December 7.30 at Graham Young's house in The Ridings. We will present him with our petition against the 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway and stress that we need him to represent his constituents' views on Heathrow expansion.

Highways Updates - Trees: Bucks County Council, Transport for Bucks (ie Highways) recently cut down some dangerous trees in Somerset Way. One had fallen on a Mercedes; the Tree Officer was then sent out and identified another two lime trees suffering from the same fungal disease. All three have been removed. Wendy was asked whether the dead tree by the former Sorting Office had also been taken down. She responded that when she raised the issue with BCC, they said the tree had been removed in July. Wendy will check whether the dead tree is still standing. **Action: Wendy.** If we would like the trees to be replanted we could put a case for funding to the Parish Council. All agreed and Wendy will take advice on species from the Tree Officer. **Action: Wendy.**

Highways Updates - Sewer Connection, Richings Way. Wendy reported that the sewer connection had collapsed into the Fourelles buildings: Richings Way road and pavement will be dug up over a weekend: date to be confirmed.

Area Round the Shops - Clear Up Day: 6 of us plus Crossrail staff had cleared 70 bags of rubbish and two pallets from the shop area. South Bucks District Council had collected the bags the next day, as promised. The shops end of Wellesley Avenue was still untidy but we

ran out of time. We can have another Clear Up Day if Crossrail staff are available but residents would prefer a weekend, although it is not certain how many would actually take part. We had no help from local shopkeepers though some thanked us and Costcutters provided coffee.

Area Round the Shops - Planters: Graham will complete the forms to apply for funding for additional planters from Heathrow Communities Together. Their next round of funding is in February. **Action: Graham.**

Area Round the Shops - Parking Consultation: Wendy has received an email saying that all Bucks CC LAF projects have been cancelled because of lack of funds, including the resurfacing of North Park pavement. So it seems likely that the parking consultation will also be cancelled. It is not clear if work will be reinstated in April with the new tax year.

Many Committee members pointed out that work is carried on in other areas, such as Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield. But our requests are ignored. Lindsey reported that Twitter is effective and BCC Transport for Bucks do respond but they do not answer phones. **Action: ALL to encourage residents to report issues and complain.**

Richings Park Business Association: Malik told Wendy that the local business have appointed Rebecca (Tips and Toes) as chair. They have a WhatsApp group and communicate daily. Blu are the only ones not involved. Malik is very happy and grateful to Wendy and Graham. Graham will contact them to confirm a date for the Christmas Fair which we will support. The businesses seem very keen. Blu have taken out the socket we had previously used to run the Christmas lights for the tree in the Residents' Garden. However Graham and Wendy will hopefully arrange an alternative. **Action: Wendy, Graham.**

Thorney Sidings/Thorney Mill Road: Alan Barrett reported pollution in Colne Brook which killed fish and coloured the water. He said he had reported it to the Environment Agency, who have a duty to investigate such incidents. Wendy has been unable to contact Alan and the situation is not clear.

Sustainable Access to Station/Cycle Path: this is funded by ring-fenced Government money. Phase 1 is likely to run from Iver station to the canal bridge. Phase 2 which involves going across fields will require compulsory purchase and take longer. BCC have sent letters to residents of Thorney Lane North requesting access to their gardens for environmental monitoring: vibration, noise and basic pollution. They have never done this before and we are not sure why they want to install monitors now for a cycle path. The pollution monitors will be in situ for 6 months.

Broadband: like us, other areas of South Bucks and Hillingdon have cabinets which have been left out of the provision for BT's 'Connected Counties' scheme.

SIFE (Slough International Freight Exchange): we have had a letter saying that the Secretary of State's decision will be made in April, which is after the decision on Heathrow Expansion.

Air Sensa: Lindsey is meeting Jonathan Steele, the director of the company, on 26 November. She will continue to investigate funding for two more sensors: one for Richings Park and one for Iver Heath. **Action: Lindsey.**

Defibrillator: Jan had raised with Wendy the possibility of having a defibrillator installed on an outside wall of one of the Richings Park shops, with Government funding through the British Heart Foundation. She had spoken to local shopkeepers but premises were rented and landlords were unlikely to be sympathetic. Graham reported that the late Alex Hall's children

were planning an event at RPSC to raise funds for a defibrillator to be installed there. The new station would be another possible site.

**3 Date of Next Meetings:** Tuesday December 15 (Maureen Atkinson may be unable to attend); Wednesday 27 January; Wednesday 24 February 2016.

**4 Treasurer's Report:** Graham has been away and there is no report this month.

**5 Planning/Enforcement:** of the list included in the agenda the following items were discussed:

Richings Park Golf Club has been refused permission to develop land at the end of Main Drive.

Unusually, there have been no new planning applications this month.

**6 Heathrow/Hub Station/ Crossrail:**

WRaTH: those supporting it, including Heathrow, have agitated and it has now been reinstated as a current project. The Transport Select Committee held an enquiry about surface access to Heathrow. The Parish Council presented their view that the different competing projects were not coordinating their plans. This made the news.

HS2 Langley Depot: in their latest report regarding HGV dispersal East and West, 70% will travel via Langley Station and Wood Lane. We will get the same proportion and there will be fewer through Iver and Bangors Road South. Iver Parish Council and a number of other groups have re-petitioned. Now we and other groups have had a request from HS2 for a meeting to discuss our concerns, date to be confirmed.

Crossrail - Thorney Lane Bridge Works: work has proved much more difficult than predicted and is at least a year behind. Mukhtar reported that he has had no support on noise issues despite leafletting Bathurst Walk. One local resident in Bathurst Walk has complained that his house and drive have been cracked and has been visited by Crossrail loss adjusters. It is clear that there has been inadequate preparation and planning. Piling will carry on until the end of this year at least

Crossrail – Car Park: nothing further reported. Plans will be sent to Wendy soon for the new station and work is scheduled to start next year.

Crossrail – Rats: rats have been disturbed by work at the bridge and are now proliferating in Wellesley Court.

**7 Report from Parish Council**

Neighbourhood Plan: there was a Richings Park consultation meeting at RPSC on 23 November; all 3 meetings have now been held and ours was the least well attended. South Bucks District Council are also drawing up a local plan which will be published on 10 December. To ensure our views are prioritised we need to get our plan in too.

There was a discussion on how to get residents involved. The Parish Council will put forward its draft proposals and then residents need to engage. Lindsey suggested a pre- or post-Christmas leaflet drop. There will be a consultation round in the New Year.

**8 Report from County/District Councils:**

BCC is putting out an aspirational transport plan - high level, for consultation.

**9 Any Other Business**

Bathurst Cul de Sac: Matthew reported that Zoe Ford from BCC Transport for Bucks is going to inspect the destroyed footpath in Bathurst cul de sac.

Pavements: Daphne reported that North Park pavement was dangerously slippery.

Black Bin Bags - Apsley Walk (ie entrance to RPSC): Daphne reported that black bags have been a problem. Graham replied that new bins have just been delivered and the bin men have begun collections.

Black Bin Bags - Buckfield Court. Jan asked for a clarification of the position. Wendy replied that South Bucks District Council have tried to work with the management company to get bins installed and collected. It appears that the position remains unresolved and that black bin bags will continue to be put out on the pavement which encourages fly tipping.

Trips for the Elderly: Lindsey asked whether there were any grants she can apply for to fund occasional trips for the elderly. Graham suggested Community Impact Bucks who have leads to directories of fund-providers in Bucks and nationally. There is also King's Church, Iver, via Bob Mack. RPSC hold monthly Bingo evenings for a charity of the month: this could be a source of funds, or an evening out, or both.

Iver Surgery: felt to be improving with the new Practice Manager in post.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm.