

**RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, 24 FEBRUARY 2016, RPSC, 8 PM**

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

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

**1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (27 January 2015):** Daphne pointed out she is pressing South Bucks to clean dirty pavements and gutters in North Park, not Bucks County Council as minuted. With this amendment the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**2 Main Issues**

**HS2/Heathrow Express:** the final report has been published. There are no surprises. However the Executive Committee have directed the Government to make it clear they are not leaving open a route for a Heathrow/HS2 spur. This is excellent news for Thorney, where land had been earmarked for this development. We have been allocated £1.4m towards a relief road, but this is hedged round with restrictions and is time-limited. HS2/Heathrow Express have also been required to work with Network Rail's WRAtH project (Western Region Access to Heathrow) (see below) to come up with a joint strategy.

**Meeting with Dominic Grieve:** we have only two dates this year on which to raise our many local issues direct with Dominic: 29 April, and now 21 October (changed from 14 October). We await further date changes.

**South Bucks District Council (SBDC) Local Plan:** at 6 pm on 24 February a public meeting was held in Iver Village Hall, our only local consultation meeting. The meeting was chaired by Wendy and attended by Cllr Ralph Bagge (Leader of the Council). Chiltern District Council were also represented. Well over 400 Iver residents crammed into the hall to hear the presentation and put forward local views. SBDC showed no detailed maps for the areas they have identified for development for the period 2015 to 2036. Wendy has copies of more detailed maps showing both green belt land, and green belt plus brown field sites.

It is very important that people respond by the deadline of 14 March. We must put forward all the objections we can. In particular we need to stress that the proposed development land is subject to flooding, etc. The form on the SBDC website is dreadful and it is better to write individual letters. Guideline information will be put on the Richings Park website. The Parish Council are formulating a lengthy response with aid of a planning consultant.

**Iver Neighbourhood Plan:** (see minutes of 27 January 2016). The Parish Council has had to withdraw their request to set up a Neighbourhood plan as a result of last minute objections from Pinewood. The Council's planning consultant will work on the objections from Pinewood, prepare a case and resubmit.

**Heathrow – Noise Issues/Local Focus Forum/ Community Noise Forum:** Community Noise Forum – we have 2 seats. It deals with all current noise issues within the Heathrow area, including those previously dealt with by other committees. It is setting up working groups and we are on Health Aspects and Noise Measurement/ Effective Monitoring. The next meeting is on Monday 29 February 7 pm at Graham's house to discuss ground noise and general noise issues. It is acknowledged it is difficult to get the Community Noise Forum to discuss general noise issues when they are most concerned by over-flying. We now have a report from Norwich Airport planning consultation which gives us full details of all kinds of ground noise: how to monitor, abate, solutions etc. There is no national body

dealing with ground noise. Local Focus Forum: this deals with local infrastructure for example bus routes and is not so relevant to our concerns.

**M4/ Richings Park Golf Course:** proposed work on the M4 Smart Motorway involves the removal and replacement of Old Slade Bridge, taking 2 years and involving a 7 mile detour. Bucks County Council are now working on a shorter time frame and detour route. Bucks Gardens Trust have looked at the area round Old Slade Bridge, in particular Richings Park Golf Course. They have done a huge amount of work and they recommend it be listed. Their report is very interesting and we do not know who funded it. However listing the Golf Course would stop any proposed development.

**Khalsa School:** the Secretary of State has given the school permission to remain. Stoke Poges residents are looking into challenging this decision. Assuming the decision is upheld we will not be able to get a new secondary school in Iver. It also affects school bus funding as Khalsa will be classified as the nearest secondary school and parents wishing their children to go elsewhere will need to fund the travel.

### **Other Issues**

**Highways Updates:** (see minutes of 27 January 2016). The supersucker did turn up and cleared the drain on Richings Way. But many other drains are blocked and have been reported with no action to-date. There has been some patching on local roads, including the manhole outside number 10 in North Park reported by Daphne. Some drains in kerbs were repaired in Bathurst West reported Matthew. All were urged to report highway problems via Fix my Street; there was now a phone app and it links directly to BCC's website.

**Area Round Shops – Planters/Clear Up/Residents' Garden:** planters- a decision from the Heathow fund is imminent.

Clear Up for the Queen: weekend of 6 March. There are working parties in Iver and Iver Heath but with many members of the residents' association away nothing has been arranged for Richings Park.

**Residents' Garden:** the two trustees both received letters from SBDC stating that the garden is a source of rat infestation. Thanks to their rapid action in contacting Wendy and SBDC we have established that the affected land is the neighbouring land opposite Shah's. Now both trustees have been sent a written apology and SBDC are speaking to the landowner.

Wendy has also asked SBDC to address the problem of the black sacks deposited in Bathurst Walk. The Buckfield Court management company are unhelpful, despite being contact by officials. All are asked to let Wendy know if they see black plastic sacks and she will tell SBDC to take them away. Hopefully this will reinforce the need for SBDC to deal with the issue. Apsley Walk (leading to the new development and RPSC) is also a problem, Daphne added. Whoever is in charge of the road will not give SBDC permission to send in a lorry to empty the bins. Householders leave their wheelie bins at the narrow entrance all week.

**Thorney Sidings/Thorney Mill Road/Kingfisher Garden:** there is a building on the old Aggregate site and Enforcement Officers are checking to see if it is legal or not. A compound has been set up in Thorney Park for Crossrail cable tunnelling. Kingfisher Gardens: the Environment Agency found that Affinity Water polluted the river and killed the fish. They have been prosecuted and have paid compensation. We have been asked what we would like to spend the compensation on. We've looked at the site and in the longer term the tributary channel to Colne Brook need to be cleared. Wendy suggested that Colne

Valley Park could look at funding this. So we will ask Groundwork to remove the brick wall on the right of the garden, an unauthorised development. Then there will be a graded bank down to the river, which is better for wild life.

**Broadband:** there has been a press release about money being put into Broadband in the area. Otherwise the situation remains unchanged.

**Air Sensa:** the sensor by St Peter's church is functioning well and in a couple of months there will be a link to the *Airaware Iver* website informing us of current daily pollution levels.

**Notice Board:** Lindsey will give Wendy details about a company which can repair it. **Action carried forward: Lindsey**

**Residents' Associations UK:** Good Services Bureau have sent information to Wendy. They are asking us to join RA UK and are aiming to produce a newsletter. We do not run facilities eg block of flats and joining will not be of benefit to us. There are other groups of Residents' Associations

**4 Dates of Next Meetings:** Tuesday 22 March 2016, AGM: Thurs 28 April

**5 Treasurer's Report:** no transactions as Graham has been away

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

2 Old Slade Lane: they want to install a swimming pool. There are serious concerns about implications for flooding. The land next to the Residents' Garden: a new application has been submitted for two flats, moved closer to Buckfield Court. Our main concern would be parking. **Action: Graham to object to both online.**

## **7 Crossrail**

**Thorney Lane Bridge Works:** the road will be closed for two nights - Saturday and Sunday 5/6 March.

**Car Park:** nothing more.

**Station:** Wendy has received a letter from the station developers – the department of transport wish to carry out a survey and need to establish who owns the land. Graham will check past minutes or we will contact Alan Oxley (now living in Australia) as the Residents' Association may be able to claim ownership.

Crossrail will only operate from two platforms with the other two remaining with Great Western. Wendy will ask Crossrail for plans. **Action: Wendy**

**New Works in Thorney Mill Road:** (see minutes of 27 January 2016) boring will start soon.

**WRaTH (Western Region Access to Heathrow):** Network Rail have been holding public consultation meetings in Richings Park and Iver. They propose permanently closing Mansion Lane, which they say is lightly used. There will be no contribution to a relief road and traffic will have to use local roads. We must strongly disagree. They need community support to go to the next stage and registering our disagreement is our weapon. They cannot afford time for a public enquiry. We can either use the forms on their leaflets or respond online on their website. Time limit: 4 April. Details will be put on the Richings Park website and we will organise a leaflet drop publicising this and the AGM information.

**8 Report from Parish Council:** Annual Public Meeting on Monday 7 March, 8 pm Iver Village Hall, everyone is invited.

**9 Report from County/District Councils:** SBDC Local Plan, see above

**10 Any Other Business:** all congratulated Wendy on her recent appointment as Deputy Chairman of SBDC. (This post is like that of the Deputy Speaker in the House of Commons.)

Pavements: Daphne is still pressing South Bucks District Council to clean pavements and gutters in North Park. They have still not been satisfactorily cleaned.

Matthew reported that Transport for Bucks, Bucks County Council have ignored his emails about 64 Bathurst Walk.

Maureen A added that Somerset Way pavements were impassable in many places because of mud and lack of kerbs.

Wendy recommended that all these problems be reported on Fix my Street.

The meeting ended at: 9.50pm