

**RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING 8 PM TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2014, RICHINGS PARK SPORTS CLUB**

**Present:** Wendy Matthew (Chair), Mukhtar Ali, Alan Barrett, Matthew McEvoy, Maureen Worrall, Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Graham Young

**Apologies:** Lindsey Beagle, Daphne Wood, Maureen Atkinson

1 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (28 May 2014):** accepted as a true and accurate record.

2 **Matters Arising and Other Issues**

2.1 **Heathrow/Noise - Davies Submission, LAANC Meeting**

Heathrow Hub: efforts had been made to obtain detailed submission information on Heathrow Hub through the Freedom of Information Act but this had failed on grounds of commercial sensitivity. The published plans have very poor resolution and this makes it impossible to assess local impact. Graham will send Dominic Grieve (DG) information on the Davies Commission's refusal. Hopefully it will put pressure on the Commission to respond to us and on DG to be more active on our behalf.

**Action: Graham**

Heathrow: there will be a briefing by Heathrow PLC at Richings Park Sports Club on 23 July on the noise aspects of their proposed third runway. We also want to discuss their future plans for noise monitoring in our area. We will push them too on the flood relief scheme and its effect on houses at the end of Old Slade Lane. DG has been invited but cannot attend. He wishes to be updated. Graham has approached other residents' associations to see if they had expertise to enable us to draw up our own noise contour map to put to Heathrow PLC. However to-date he has had no success. Maureen pointed out that this week more planes have been flying over Richings Park. Wendy added that they may be testing our reaction – if we do not complain they will continue. There is an issue too about the impact of additional freight traffic brought about by Heathrow's expansion.

LAANC (Local Authorities' Aircraft Noise Council): Wendy and Graham had attended a recent meeting, at which there were separate presentations from Heathrow and Gatwick. There was nothing further to report. The next round of public consultation on the proposed Third Runway would be held in the autumn.

2.2 **Meeting Dominic Grieve:** Friday 4 July 6.15 pm, Wendy Matthew's house (23 Old Slade Lane). We intend to ensure he is fully briefed on all developments which impact on our area and will encourage him to be active on our behalf. All residents are welcome to attend; please let Wendy know in advance.

2.3 **Highway Updates:** Wendy had recently visited the Bucks County Council Highways depot in Amersham. It was clear from their records that more Richings Park residents had been complaining and this had prompted them to prioritise some issues. Urban verges (ie those within the 30 mph limits) had been cut on 13 June. Maureen reported that she had not received an adequate reply to her question about grass cutting: what was the date of the first cut of the year? We suspect that it may have been 13 June! These verges should be cut 6 times a year (reduced from 10 in previous years). Grass clippings should be cleared, not left to decompose on verges and roads. It was noted that Ruth Vigor-Hedderley was the new County Council cabinet member for Transportation. Maureen would pursue her for a response. **Action: Maureen W**

Mukhtar had asked South Bucks for a green bin so that clippings from the Residents' garden (which he offered to mow regularly) could be disposed of. They pointed him to the Parish Council. Wendy

was clear that it was not the Parish Council's responsibility to provide a bin and would chase this up.  
**Action: Wendy**

During her visit to Highways in Amersham Wendy logged all blocked drains that she knew of on the Bucks County Council system. The super sucker equipment should have been clearing the drains in Thorney Mill Road at the beginning of June. Alan reported at the meeting that Thorney Mill Road drains had not been cleared. Wendy asked that when complaints are made Committee members let her know if promised action fails to happen. **Action: ALL**

North Park: Utility works will take place during school holidays. Resurfacing should take place in September.

2.5 **Thorney Siding:** Schenkers, the present owners, are selling to Network Rail. Legal judgments and enforcement notices go with the site. We are still being told that all spoil will be removed by September, by rail. If this deadline is not met enforcement action will be put in place.

Aggregate Industries are still in the process of moving: deadline end December. They take their rail slots with them. We will wait to see who takes over their site.

2.6 **Khalsa School:** in the appeals process. There will be a public hearing in July.

2.7 **Wexham Park Hospital:** difficulties associated with the takeover by Frimley. Another new Chief Executive had been appointed.

2.8 **Verges/Pavements/Roads:** rubbish collection is a South Bucks issue. Lindsey had emailed Wendy photos of rubbish by the shops and Wendy had taken this up with Ed Barron. He assured her that South Bucks street rubbish clearers would now come twice a week, as contracted. South Bucks are still negotiating with Buckfield Court management. The flats have bins but they are not using them and if the dumping of black bags on pavements continues the District Council will investigate with the possibility of prosecution for fly tipping. Wendy has also asked for weeding between the bollards and kerbs, which is the responsibility of Bucks County Council. Matthew added that local pavements were crumbling now after years of neglect. The area around the Tower Arms roundabout was beginning to break up.

2.9 **Sunday Train Petition:** London Travel Watch, a government-sponsored agency, had undertaken to put pressure on First Great Western to reply to Graham. They too had had no response. Having gone through this process Graham is now able to escalate the problem to the Rail Regulator. **Action: Graham.** Graham had spoken to Network Rail regarding Crossrail: First Great Western would retain responsibility for major stations but would give up the intermediate stations such as Iver to TFL (Transport for London). There would be a 7-day service.

2.10 **Bus Service:** Graham reported that bookings may have been lost initially because there was no phone-answering service on the published number. Phone-answering had now been put in place. This Sunday's shuttle bus to Windsor had been cancelled because of lack of interest. Four people were interested so far in the next trip on 6 July: Petticoat Lane. The project team agreed to run at a loss on this occasion just to get started. Graham was continuing to advertise the service.

2.11 **Flies:** Graham had had an email exchange with the CEO at Thames Water, who denied that there was a problem. However, mounting numbers of local complaints had put pressure on South Bucks to respond at a higher level in their organisation. Thames Water took interest and undertook not to store sludge cake on site in summer. But they have said this before. Senior Slough and South

Bucks officials are working together and sharing costs. They met both Thames Water and the Environment Agency. They will also appoint their own entomologist. If Thames Water prove difficult they would ask the Environment Agency to remove their licence to operate. The sludge site does not normally have a manager but there will now be one in place for 2 to 2.5 days each week to monitor the situation. Wendy stressed that pressure had been applied from all sides to achieve this action. Under new legislation South Bucks also had more powers to put control orders in place.

3 **Dates of Next Meetings:** Tuesday 22 July and Tuesday 23 September, both 8 pm at RPSC. (The Clubhouse may be moving into the new building in September, so the exact venue will be confirmed nearer the time). There will be no meeting in August.

4 **Treasurer's Report:** the bank and cash balance as at 24 June 2014: £4,450.43. Our only expense since the last meeting was the monthly web hosting fee: £7.79. Subscription totals are appended to these minutes.

5 **Planning/Enforcement:** a summary of planning applications/decisions for May to June 2014 was included in the Agenda for this meeting. The following were discussed:

Pinewood New Development: permission had been given for film sets plus warehousing, the latter likely to be converted in future to housing, under brown field rules. Construction would be spread over 15 years.

Heathrow Runway Alterations: no appeal paperwork had been seen and they would soon run out of time.

Cape Boards: on-going issues. We are working with Hillingdon to ensure permanent use of the rear exit on this site.

#### 6 **Heathrow/Hub Station/Crossrail**

WRAtH (Western Region Access to Heathrow): on-going. WRAtH is a Network Rail project. An environmental assessment had been carried out on site and Wendy will meet their representatives on 25 June. The public consultation is in July. We are waiting to see their exact plans for Mansion Lane, Market Lane and the Chequers Rail Bridge. They must get all work done on the main line before Crossrail starts. Once Network Rail get permission from Bucks County Council (BCC) they must first put in an HGV-quality access road. We will work with BCC and Step Properties (owners of Thorney Business Park) to push for the incorporation of the long-awaited rear access road to the Iver business parks.

Hub Station: no further developments.

Crossrail: a letter dated 18 June had been sent to local residents about a consultation on Thorney Lane Rail Bridge from 3 pm to 6.45 pm on 24 June at St Peter's Centre. Restricted hours and short notice meant that few Committee members had been able to attend. In November a temporary two-lane traffic bridge will be installed for the duration of the work. (Two lorries will be able to pass over the bridge at the same time.) The existing footbridge will remain until the permanent bridge is in place: May 2015. The permanent bridge (concrete) will again have two lanes, and a pedestrian route. Car parking was not included in Crossrail plans/costings. We will investigate all possible options to provide additional car parking at Iver station.

#### 7 **Cappagh/Aggregate Industries/Lorries**

Translux intend to move their entire operation to Court Lane: 140 lorries. Translux provide luxury trailers to the film industry. They are also taking over the office accommodation. As reported in the last minutes, Rhodes Transport and their lorries are also on this site. Bucks County Council are working with the Environment Agency to investigate the waste on land at the back of Court Lane that is polluting the river. This is recent and damaging to the environment. However, to take action BCC must find the owner of the land.

Aggregate Industries: see 2.5 above.

8 **Report from Parish Council:** on-going work included in the above minutes. Party in the Park, RPSC, 5 July

9 **Report from County and District Councils:** on-going work included in above minutes.

10 **Any Other Business:**

Hollow Hill Lane, Iver: Wendy confirmed that Bucks CC had closed the road. It was in a poor state of repair and workmen had been intimidated by local residents. It was likely to remain closed.

Mobile Mast, Court Lane: a planning application from EE had been received for a mobile phone mast to be placed on the edge of Court Lane.

Cycle Path: the Local Enterprise Partnership, comprising Bucks Business First and local authorities, is the vehicle for the distribution of a pot of funds to help businesses. A pot with a relatively short time-frame has become available: £1.2 million. The Partnership, without consultation with the local area, has submitted a proposal to spend this creating a cycle path to Iver Station. If the funding is made available they will know in July. If they do get the funds, the best we can do is to push for a multi-use footpath/cycle path.

Local Pubs: the Chequers is on the market again. Planning has been granted for a ground-floor retail unit, office at the back and a flat upstairs. The Bull has been sold to the garage next door; the project group were outbid in their efforts to use the pub as a community facility. Fox and Pheasant: planning has been granted for 7 houses (not 14 as originally applied for). Development is awaited; the owner seems to be biding his time.

Cornerstone: looking into the possibility of an existing charity shop chain taking it on.

Meeting ended at 9.35 pm.