

**RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING, 8 PM WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2014 AT RICHINGS PARK SPORTS CLUB**

**Present:** Wendy Matthews (Chair), Mukhtar Ali, Lindsey Beagle, Judy Teader, Daphne Wood, Maureen Worrall, Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Graham Young

**In Attendance:** Geoff Cannon

**Apologies:** Maureen Atkinson, Sue Barber, Matthew McEvoy, Stewart O'Malley, Ray Sangster

**1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (27 March 2014):** accepted

**Minutes of AGM (24 April 2014):** the following amendments were requested: Daphne Wood had sent apologies which had not been noted; the header on each page gave the wrong date. Wendy would check the minutes. **Action: Wendy**

**2 Matters Arising and Other Issues**

**2.1 Heathrow/Noise – Davies Submission:** Heathrow PLC had submitted their preferred option for the third runway: North West, moved south to avoid resiting the M4/M25 interchange. This obliterates Harmondsworth and affects Colnbrook. We have very little information on how it affects Richings Park. There are no noise contour maps and the very small map issued with their presentation does not make it clear exactly how we will be affected by noise. It appeared that there was a flood plain balancing pond beside the end of Old Slade Lane, alongside the Poynings and the Ridings. This could affect the value of property and cost of insurance. All documents are on the website: [www.richingspark.com](http://www.richingspark.com).

The North runway option had also been submitted. Again the map is on the website. The link between the M25 and the proposed hub station, terminal 6, would take out most of Thorney Lane South and North, the golf course and surrounding area. A proposed access road from the M4 near the Tower Arms would remove the cul de sac, and all shops plus houses slightly north of Ridgeway entrance. There seemed to be access roads joining the hub to local roads but this was not in their submission. We have asked for another meeting to try to pin down the detail. We must also keep up pressure on our MP, Dominic Grieve. Wendy has had no further response from his office. He is meeting us again in July.

Heathrow PLC are not fighting Gatwick. They argue that Gatwick is doing something different and Heathrow needs a third runway whatever the decision over Gatwick expansion.

LAANC Noise Meeting: Wendy and Graham would attend the meeting next week.

**2.2 Highway Updates:** we are waiting for North Park to be dug up as the proposed date of 27 May has not been kept. No paperwork has been submitted. BT Broadband work, which will affect the pavements, has moved from May to July – September. Again we are keeping up pressure.

**2.3 Area Round Shops: Rubbish:** Lindsey had taken photos of rubbish (possibly dumped) and weeds and would contact Highways about the area round the shops in Richings Park. **Action: Lindsey.** Shopkeepers were responsible for the frontage of their shops but the area from the bollards to the kerb was the responsibility of the Highways authority. Lindsey also reported that hanging baskets had not been put up in Iver or Richings Parks. They had been paid for and Wendy would check. **Action: Wendy**

Planters: we planned to set up large wooden planters to prevent parking on pavements by the shops. Graham had been actioned to arrange, collect and set up the planters, which the Flower Academy would plant and maintain. Because of pressure of work, he asked to hand over this action and Lindsey agreed to take over. **Action: Lindsey**

We agreed that the area round the shops was dilapidated: litter, rubbish bags, weeds, broken paving, residents' garden unmown. It was clear that Biffa were not doing a twice-weekly sweeping, as contracted. Also there were overgrown trees on the path from the station to the Ridgeway. Road signs were obscured. The overgrown canopy of trees at the end of Old Slade Lane restricts road width and is dangerous. There is the same problem in St Leonard's Way. Wendy stressed that all should report problems to the Bucks Highways department and should be persistent. All were asked to encourage residents to do the same. **Action: All.** Lindsey would ask her son if he would cut the grass in the Residents' Garden during his vacation from University, Mukhtar also volunteered to help. **Action: Lindsey/Mukhtar.** Daphne had reported the state of pavements in North Park which were covered in grit, and abandoned roadworks signs to Ed Barron at South Bucks. Signs had been removed but there was no satisfactory response to the issue of dirty pavement. Daphne would persist! **Action: Daphne**

Trees: action on hold pending the return to health of Sue Barber.

Parking: pending consultation on parking in Richings Park.

#### **2.4 Thorney Sidings**

Schenkers have sourced some rail wagons and are loading and removing spoil from the stockpile between June and September. It will take some time as they cannot get rail slots. We believe that the site has been sold again. The new owners will want to exploit the rights as a rail head. They will not be allowed to stockpile or transfer waste. Existing enforcement notices and court orders are still in force. Aggregate Industries are moving this week and they will clear and decontaminate their old site. Buildings etc will be dismantled piece by piece. The new owners have asked for some of the office buildings to be retained.

#### **2.5 Khalsa School**

District has turned down another planning application which has now gone to appeal. There will be a 2-day planning inquiry, date to be confirmed. Home to school transport will still be impacted if the school becomes permanent.

#### **2.6 Home to School Transport**

We are awaiting plans from County on home to school transport

#### **2.7 CQC Wexham Park Hospital**

The hospital was now in special measures; the CQC report was appalling. In two months' time they will be taken over by Frimley, who have an outstanding record

There has been a Healthwatch survey on doctors' surgeries in Bucks. Ours had come bottom for patient satisfaction.

#### **2.8 Verges/Pavements/Roads see 2.3 above**

#### **2.9 Sunday Train Petition**

Graham is still being stonewalled by Great Western and he has spoken to various commuter groups. London Travel Watch have agreed to take up our case by pressurising Great Western to give us a response.

## **2.10 Bus Service**

We have given up providing a Thursday bus service on a membership basis. We have applied for a permit to allow general picking up of passengers but this process takes time. However, Graham handed round flyers advertising special Sunday trips in June and July. They will go on notice boards, eg in sheltered accommodation, Cornerstone etc. Notices will also go into Parish magazines in the area and in *In and Around Iver*. People can book individually in advance. We hope this is attractive and that we can sustain a service, and also find out how a sustained local bus service can help the community. But this is our last resort.

## **2.11 Flies**

Flies are back for the fourth year. Thames Water do not seem to be grappling with this. They produce sludge cake to sell to farmers as manure but dealing properly with flies would undercut their profit. Graham has written to the Chair and CEO of Thames Water asking for a more senior person on their side to deal with this problem but has been fobbed off. The South Bucks environmental officer is dealing with Slough Council. Flies are transported on the prevailing wind which unfortunately blows them in our direction.

Lindsey recommended a fly catcher product developed for commercial chicken farms and it was agreed that the Residents' Association would buy a few to test locally: **Action Graham**

**3 Dates of Next Meetings: TUESDAYS 24 June & 22 July, 8 pm, RP Sports Club – note new day.**

## **4 Treasurer's Report**

Graham reported that he had received £655 in subs for this new financial year, under 50% of the expected total. Mr Ali offered to canvass Bathurst East and Graham will email him the central log. He would also send Lindsey the log for Richings Way and Thorney Road South. There are 719 properties in Richings Park and usually about half renew, at £5 per property.

The current account holds £628.92 and the savings account £3,275.67. With £98.50 in petty cash and the speed gun valued at £503 (probably overvalued) income/assets at May 2014 total £4506.09. From this, website expenses of under £10 were deductible.

## **5 Planning/Enforcement**

A summary of plans/decisions for April to May 2014 was included on the meeting's agenda. None was discussed in detail. For Cape Boards see item 7 below.

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

WRAtH (Western Region Access to Heathrow): a 6-week consultation process will start in June, venue probably RPSC.

Crossrail: work started on Thorney Lane Rail Bridge without permission and County had stepped in. There had been no public consultation on the plans in terms of road changes, and no timetable has been published. We assume work will begin at Christmas. A circular dated 15 May 2014 about track works at night in and around Iver had been sent to residents. It covered the period 25 May to 3 August and gave contact email and phone details in case there were queries or complaints. If there were problems all were asked to contact Crossrail direct. If there was no response, let Wendy know and she would take it up with Crossrail.

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

**Rhodes Transport:** Rhodes had relocated from the Cape Board site to Court Lane, near Iver station and were again operating 24/7. This was not a good result for residents and we are trying to get enforcement officers to take action. Separately the Environment Agency have taken samples of waste in Court Lane as the Colnebrook is being polluted.

**NWP Crane Hire:** are also moving from Cape Boards to a site by Langley Station and will still use Wood Lane. The new crane people at Cape Boards are supposed to be using the rear exit and not Iver Lane.

## **8 Report from Parish Council**

Nothing new to report. Work on issues was ongoing.

## **9 Report from County/District Councils**

The Boundary Commission have reported. Richings Park and Iver Ward would remain the same with 3 Councillors. Iver Heath would have 2, rather than 3, Councillors. If the proposals are agreed we would also have 5 not 6 Councillors at District level.

## **10 Any Other Business**

Maureen Worrall confirmed that the shop signs have been officially removed from the verge outside the old sorting office. The shops were given 7 days' notice to take their signs away. No more free advertising in this form would be allowed. Mr Khan at Costcutters has volunteered to canvass the other shops and put forward a proposal for proper signage. White 'disabled' markings have been repainted near the chemist's.

The meeting ended at 10 pm.