

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING, 21 OCTOBER 2014 8 PM RICHINGS PARK SPORTS CLUB

Present: Wendy Matthews (Chair), Mukhtar Ali, Maureen Atkinson, Alan Barratt, Matthew McEvoy, Paul Griffin, Judy Teader, Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Daphne Wood, Maureen Worrall, Graham Young

In Attendance: Geoff Cannon

Apologies: Lindsey Beagle, Stewart O'Malley

1 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (22 September 2014):** the minutes were agreed.

2 **Matters Arising and Other Issues:**

2.1 Heathrow, Third Runway: Wendy and Graham reported on a meeting they had recently attended in Colnbrook, organised by Colnbrook Community Association. Both Heathrow PLC and Heathrow Hub gave presentations. We have a separate meeting with Heathrow PLC on 25 November and we must be proactive as they will bring only the information we specifically ask for. We need to get noise contour maps and we will give them an agenda of items for discussion.

Heathrow PLC have set up a local focus forum and have finally given 2 seats to Iver Parish Council; we were not originally included. The forum was initially set up for consultation on terminal 5. Our first chance to attend will be 9 December. The forum covers all the issues that concern us.

HACAN (Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise) have distributed *Third Runway News* giving alternative views to the recently published pro-Heathrow newsletter. SHE (Stop Heathrow Expansion) is a new umbrella group representing all local areas. We need to present a united front.

2.2 Heathrow Hub (Terminal 6), a subsidiary of Arup: they have denied receiving any emails from us, despite the Parish Council, Wendy and Graham sending them. They also said they have given a presentation to the Parish Council and our Association. The only meeting they attended was a small meeting with a few representatives. No public consultation process has taken place and we will raise this with the Davies Commission. The Hub people claim to have few resources; they are unable to answer our questions eg whether Iver rail station would be resited and merged.

Arup seem to be working on a totally different concept to Heathrow PLC. They are not focussing on a hub station but on building a retail park with associated car parking and hotels. However we still have to respond and make our arguments.

2.3 Airspace Efficiency Trials: they appear to have given these up but there are still unofficial trials and Heathrow are working closely with BA. Please report any plane movements that cause concern on the Heathrow website and ground noise on the RPRA website (www.richingspark.com). There is also a Google app, Webtrack, which leads to a complaints process. We need enough data to report to Heathrow. The noise monitor will be sited at Richings Park Golf Club for 3 months from October.

2.4 Meeting with Dominic Grieve: Friday 24 October 6.15 pm at 23 Old Slade Lane (Wendy Matthews' house). All are invited.

2.5 Highway Updates: North Park has just been resurfaced. Church Road, Iver, is on the list to be completed in this financial year and the pavement Old Slade Lane. There is still some drain work

outstanding, including Thorney Mill Road, reported by Alan. Hedges are still an issue, which Alan has reported, and he will give Wendy the reference number so that she can chase it up.

2.6 Area Round the Shops, parking consultation/planters/trees

Parking Consultation: there has been a community consultation in South Bucks by Transport for Bucks (TfB). They now have a completely new management team who know nothing of previous matters, including the Iver and Richings Park parking consultation. Wendy is persistently chasing them but it could be back to square one. We have to keep up the pressure.

Planters: nothing further to report. Lindsey arranging.

Trees: Wendy has reported the dead tree outside the old post office, whose falling branch just missed hurting a passer-by. It is not clear when work will be done; issues reported to, and logged by, TfB have no timescale attached them. Sue Barber has written to TfB to report the trees at the flats but has had no response.

2.7 Residents' Garden: we have found a local resident, a landscape gardener, who has cut the hedges in the Residents' Garden and will continue to maintain them and mow the grass. Graham to express our thanks to him.

2.8 Thorney Sidings: nothing further to report. The site is still owned by Shenkers as Network Rail did not want the responsibility of clearing the site.

2.9 Khalsa School: Stoke Poges Parish Council are submitting an appeal at a cost of more than £50k and they have six weeks to deposit their evidence. In due course there will be a hearing but in the meantime the school will still be open.

2.10 Wexham Park Hospital: Wexham Park (including Heatherwood and St Mark's at Maidenhead) was taken over by Frimley Park on 1st October. It is now called Frimley Health Trust. Heatherwood no longer deals with emergencies, but elective surgery only. Initially the Frimley Health Trust will be controlled by Frimley Park's governors, as Wexham's were dismissed. There is funding for upgrading Wexham Park and Heatherwood but the Wexham side will have no input until new governors are in place, which is likely to be February onwards.

2.11 Verges/Pavements/Roads: see 2.5 and 2.6 above. Recently, verges in Syke Ings have been cut with a strimmer because the mower was broken.

2.12 Sustainable Access to Station: nothing further to report.

2.13 Mansion Lane Caravan Site: the site is owned by Bucks CC but run by Oxfordshire CC. Bucks CC want to sell it and if travellers are subsequently moved off by a private buyer South Bucks District Council are responsible for finding them an alternative site.

2.14 Boundary Commission

District Council: Iver and Richings Park will be one ward and continue to have 3 councillors; the ward now includes Trenches Lane caravan site and immediate area (ie the Tip). Iver Heath boundary has reverted to being the same as that for the Parish Council. Iver Heath has 2 councillors. Fulmer is in one ward with Wexham and they have one councillor. The total no of District Councillors is now 28.

Parish Council: there are still 14 Parish Councillors. Iver Village and Richings Park are one ward with 6 councillors. Iver Heath has 6. Shredding Green (bottom of Wood Lane, near the Red Lion and

Lossie Drive) is a separate ward with 1 councillor, and Wood Lane is also separate and has 1 councillor.

Colne Valley Park: they have asked us to join their interest group to give mutual support on local issues. They have already supported us over Pinewood, and it was agreed that we would join and give them a donation of £50.

Christmas Event Round the Shop: an event is being organised for the first week in December. It was agreed that the Residents' Association would co-produce and we will apply for a grant from the Parish Council. Christmas lights are being switched on on 29 November. Cornerstone has now closed, despite attempts to set up a successor.

3 **Date of Next Meetings:** the November meeting clashes with the public consultation meeting with Heathrow PLC (25 November) so it will now take place **on Tuesday 18th November, 8 pm, in the new Richings Park Sports Club**. The December meeting will be on Tuesday 16th, same time and place.

4 **Treasurer's Report:** Graham reported that there was a balance of £5,100 in the bank. 247 houses, from a total of 719, had paid membership subscriptions for 2014/15, up by 7 on last year. He noted, however, that the trend was downward: from eg 328 in 07/08; 340 in 08/09.

5 **Planning/Enforcement:** from the list included in the Agenda the following were discussed.

5.1 **Heathrow Runway Alterations:** at the last minute Heathrow have appealed. We are concerned about the noise impact for us of the wall they are planning to put up around Longford. Heathrow have not modelled what will happen to noise when it hits the Longford wall. There will be a public enquiry and we may want to attend or submit a written submission. Wendy will take advice. **Action: Wendy**

5.2 **Mansion Lane Caravan Site/ Thorney Lane North Stables Site/Sutton Lane Gypsy Caravan:** all have been given temporary (up to 4 years) permission for caravans because the South Bucks policy is not yet in place.

6 **Heathrow/Hub Station/Crossrail:** see items 2.1/2.2 above for Heathrow and Hub Station.

6.1 **Crossrail:** work is continuing on the temporary bridge which is due to open on 27th October. There have been complaints about the noise and the District Council have asked for a noise management plan. Crossrail have sent a circular to more residents than before warning about noise but it gives no dates/times. Wendy has asked for details of exactly which dates residents will be affected, particularly if there is overnight work.

6.2 **WRAtH (Western Region Access to Heathrow):** there has been a significant development which may adversely affect this project. HS2 want to move the Heathrow Express depot from Old Oak Common to the old Langley oil terminal site. The depot is a large and noisy overnight operation involving storing trains, cleaning and charging. It will need a line off the mainline to get to the relevant sidings and land will be needed on the Thorney Business Park site. This impedes both WRAtH and our hopes for a rear access road to the business parks. The situation is not clear and Wendy is meeting the WRAtH project manager shortly to get a picture of the impact of this development from his point of view. **Action: Wendy**

7 **Cappagh/Aggregate Industries/Lorries:** nothing further to report.

8 **Report from Parish Council:** LAF (Local Area Forum) is asking for proposals for highways work for next financial year: £42k budget. Daphne suggested that work be carried out on the pavements in North Park.

9 **Report from County/District Councils:** Paul had nothing further to report but he noted that other areas of South Bucks seem to get more attention than we do.

10 **Any Other Business:**

10.1 The new Richings Park Sports Club: there will be a 'soft launch' on Saturday 25 October, 12.30 pm onwards. The bar will be open, with canapes provided, and the club is open for inspection. Gym equipment will arrive later. All are welcome.

10.2 Graffiti at Iver Station, and local house plus flats: Mukhtar asked if Network Rail CCTV is working. It does not look as if any further action will be taken by police and repair work is at the expense of householders. Wendy would raise the matter again with local police and it was agreed that a portable CCTV kit might be useful. **Action: Wendy**

10.3 Postal Service: Maureen Worrall reported that recently post has been left sticking out of the letter box, and a parcel has been left leaning against the doorpost. Both are security issues and she will take it up with the Post Office.

10.4 Accident in Richings Way: there is an appeal for witnesses to a serious road accident; two young men were injured in a car which hit a wall opposite the junction with St Leonard's Walk. Their condition is not known but they had been taken to St Mary's Paddington. It was likely to have been a speed-related accident.

The meeting ended at 9.55 pm.