

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Thursday 24 April 2014 at Richings Park Sports Club

PRESENT: Wendy Matthews (Chair), Maureen Atkinson, Alan Barrett, Lindsey Beagle, Matthew McEvoy, Chris Sprules, Judy Teader, Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Maureen Worrall, Graham Young

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Griffin (District Councillor), Ray Sangster (Parish Councillor), Ruth Vigor-Hedderley (County Councillor)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM, 25 APRIL 2013: there were no amendments.

3 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: the Minutes were agreed and signed off. Proposed: Ruth Vigor-Hedderley. Seconded: Maureen Worrall.

4 MATTERS ARISING

The sewage flies had so far been less prevalent, despite the hot weather. They emanate from the sewage works at the end of Old Slade Lane, which are in Slough. We are awaiting their proposals for control, and we report regularly to Thames Water and Environmental health. If they have a problem with these flies, Residents are encouraged to go to the RPRA website, www.richingspark.com, and submit the form found under 'current issues'.

5 STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS

2014 subscriptions had fallen slightly and Graham asked all present to remind neighbours to join the association. This year, printing and stationery costs were higher because of Heathrow communications expenditure. Legal fees were also higher because of trustee changes in respect of the Residents' Garden. Graham explained that the association was not incorporated and thus not able to own property. The Residents' Garden was therefore owned by trustees. The trustees were getting older and wished to relinquish this responsibility. New younger trustees had now been appointed: Nick Jones and Mark Wynn.

Questions from Residents:

- Why did we buy the speed watch kit? Had it been useful?

Wendy responded that while Bucks County Council runs the scheme local areas have to buy and operate their own equipment. We offer it out to others who may wish to hire it. Volunteers had used the equipment regularly and speeding drivers had been prosecuted.

The accounts were agreed and adopted. Proposed: Maureen Worrall. Seconded: Roger Sprules.

Wendy thanked Graham for his hard work as Treasurer.

6 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Alan Oxley and Shirley Simpson had resigned during the year. Chris Sprules was standing down. The following were due to retire and were willing to stand again: Karan

Bembey, Matthew McEvoy, Graham Young. Jan Wiseman had been co-opted and Lindsey Beagle joined during the year; both were willing to stand again.

There were two nominations from the floor: Stewart O'Malley and Mukhtar Ali.

The re-election of the entire committee, plus two new members, was agreed. Proposed: Paul Griffin. Seconded: Paul Dunham.

7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Wendy summarised the challenges which have faced the association during the year.

Heathrow: there had been several consultations on night flights, noise and runway extensions. We responded to all of them and also had a noise monitor installed in Richings Park. We also responded to planning applications for extensions to existing runways. However these applications have been rejected by Hillingdon and they will probably go to appeal.

In mid-December the Davies Commission report on airport expansion was published. Both of the proposed North-West options for a third runway at Heathrow had a significant impact on Richings Park, with one moving the M25/M4 interchange and resiting the M25 to the left of Thorney Lane. Heathrow Ltd had held two consultations and one presentation in the Sports Club, all of which were well attended by residents. All information, including maps showing the impact on local roads and properties, are now on the RPRA website: www.richingspark.com.

The next important date is 9 May, when the various proposers must submit the next round of detailed plans to the Airports Commission. We will also put these on the website. We have submitted a detailed technical case stressing the impact on local residents and demanding that the criteria be modified. Our comments have been noted and we hope this affects the final decision.

Heathrow Hub: this is a separate proposal for Terminal 6 and a car and freight link to the airport, affecting Thorney Park and surrounding areas. There would be connections to local roads and a huge car park. We pushed for a meeting with them at which it was clear that Heathrow Hub had not got their plans fully defined.

Meeting our MP, Dominic Grieve: we have briefed him fully on these threats to our area and raised the issue of blight. He will make representations to put in place a compensation scheme.

WRAtH (Western Region Access to Heathrow): this railway development affecting Mansion Lane is important to us because it involves the Chequers Bridge being rebuilt. This will give us a very good opportunity finally to get a relief road for the business parks in Iver, via Thorney Business Park: a significant benefit. There will be a public consultation at RPSC in a few weeks.

Heathrow Spur from HS2: this is still going forward and again affects Thorney Park and residents of Thorney. There is a compensation package for which Thorney residents can apply.

Crossrail: Thorney rail bridge is to be demolished and rebuilt, with a temporary bridge being put up first to take all the traffic. We believe demolition will take place at Christmas when the line can be shut.

HGVs: they are increasing in number, particularly from the old Cape Board site, which is in Hillingdon. Hillingdon Borough Council are taking enforcement action to ensure compliance with their conditions. Lorries come through Richings Park as well as Iver Lane and Iver Village. We need volunteers to monitor their speed.

It was noted that Aggregate Industries are moving to Colnbrook in May so there will no longer be 200 lorry movements a day from the site. However the site has been sold to a property company and we await developments.

Flooding and Roads: the Poynings, Old Slade Lane and Thorney Lane had been flooded after the local pumping station had been switched off (because of flooding!). Ditches had also been blocked. All residents who have ditches on or adjacent to their properties are asked to ensure that they are kept clear. There had been blocked drains on Thorney Lane South and Richings Way. Bucks County Council have worked on this and the end of Old Slade Lane has now been fixed by the excavation of a large gully. Work on drains in Thorney Mill Road is imminent. North Park will be fully resurfaced after two utility companies have carried out scheduled work.

Thorney Sidings: Schenkers, the owners, must remove the large piles of spoil left by the previous occupants. This removal must be carried out by rail, not road, and the deadline is September, after which time an enforcement notice will be served by Buckinghamshire County Council.

Parking near Shops: a consultation on proposals for modified parking had been held in Iver Pavillion in March. (See also under *Parking Blight* in County Councillor's Report).

Community Bus: Graham explained that we had applied for and received a grant of £20k to run the service. It is starting up and will run for a year while routes and users are in the process of being defined. He asked for volunteers to help with this project.

Sunday Train Service: Wendy thanked Graham for his work on circulating a petition - 250 residents had signed - and pursuing Network Rail. On the plus side, Crossrail had confirmed by email that there would be a Sunday service.

Gardens: Wendy thanked Chris Sprules for maintaining the Residents' Garden grass, and Alan Barrett for liaising with Aggregate Industries on their work in Kingfisher Park.

Communications: our website is continually updated and we also publish a monthly summary in *In and Around Iver*. If the matter is urgent, flyers are circulated. Please encourage friends and neighbours to join the association.

Wendy asked for questions from the floor: there were none. She thanked the committee for their hard work and support.

8 LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM REPORT

Sgt Lucy Price gave a breakdown of crime statistics for the area. Burglaries were down, as was theft of cars. But theft from cars had increased. All were warned to take care with items in cars.

The local police team have done a lot of work on burglary, concentrating on major holiday periods. Richings Park is a hot-spot and most burglaries are carried out during daylight hours. Sgt Price is the Neighbourhood Sergeant for the Ivers, Stoke Poges and Wexham. She leads a team of three PCs and six (soon to be seven) PCSOs: ten in all. Senior officers are based at Taplow.

Questions from Residents:

- We are fairly remote. Do we suffer?
- I have never seen police in the area. Can they walk, rather than drive or cycle?
- When reporting an on-going crime could an officer be speedily dispatched? Routine questioning seems to take precedence.
- Chief Constable's lengthy recorded message is unnecessary and delays reporting. Could it be removed please?
- Can the signs stressing the need for emergency services' access which are on lampposts in Bathurst Walk East also be put up in Bathurst Walk West and other areas?

Lucy stressed that our Neighbourhood Policing team worked assiduously in our area. She would make representations on the other issues.

Wendy thanked Lucy and her team for their on-going hard work.

9 UPDATE: PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Parish: Ray Sangster reported. Ray has been co-opted to replace Alan Oxley and he also attends Residents' meetings. He highlighted his work on the following local issues: working with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Fire Brigade on parking problems in Richings Park; working with Mike Tilbury and Iver Lane residents, and Hillingdon Borough Council to address illegal extended hours of working by M&M Cranes in Iver Lane. He is keen to learn more about local issues and is attending meetings and talking with the appropriate councillors.

District: Paul Griffin reported. Paul has been elected to replace Alan Oxley and has lived in Iver Village for 25 years. He has been dealing with small issues which cumulatively impact on our quality of life: littering, speeding, food hygiene, wheelie bins etc. He acknowledged the threat to the Ivers of the bigger issues: Heathrow, Heathrow Hub, HS2 etc. He stressed that he and the other Councillors take all issues very seriously. Communications have improved and Paul manages Iver Community Action Group, a Facebook group which covers Iver, Iver Heath and Richings Park.

County: Ruth Vigor-Hedderley reported. Wendy congratulated Ruth on being appointed cabinet member for transportation for Buckinghamshire. Ruth responded that she, Wendy, Paul and Ray work together as a team for the benefit of the Community. A new financial year was just beginning. County had allocated funds to resurface North Park. County are also running a campaign on ditch maintenance, on which very little has been done for many years: £1m budgeted. Potholes: category 1 are under control and work on category 2 (less serious) will be completed by mid-June. Central government have allocated £2m. There is a budget of £1.7m for footpaths this year, and £1m for each of the next two years. At Thorney Sidings we had insisted that the site be cleared by rail, not road. At Cape Boards Bucks County Council were working with Hillingdon to control illegal activity and prosecutions were pending. Parking Blight: as reported above, the consultation in Iver had been very well attended and we hope to have answers within 4 to 6 weeks. The consultation has been carried out in conjunction with local shopkeepers who need to retain passing trade. Step Property Services: we have a good

working relationship with this company who own the Thorney Business Park. They are well aware of our traffic problems and the need for a relief road. If WRAtH does not provide the road, it may come with the construction of the planned Waste Transfer Station.

Questions from Residents:

- Verges: can kerb posts be fitted? Who is responsible?

County are responsible and Ruth will take this up with the Wexham and Iver Local Area Forum (LAF) which meets quarterly. LAF is allocated 45k annually to be applied for and spent in the local community.

- Speed Humps: can they be installed on the road from Thorney Lane to the shops to keep down speed?

Speed humps are very unpopular but if the questioner is willing to survey local residents and get their support it could be progressed. It was agreed that traffic police need to continue with regular enforcement.

- Street Cleaning: could we arrange co-ordinated action round the shops eg by stopping cars parking in a particular road for a day so that cleaning can take place?

Ruth was happy to take this up and would liaise with the District Council.

- Crossrail work on Thorney Bridge: will there be night work?

When Crossrail work starts residents will get letters with contact numbers to report disruption. Night work will be scheduled and tightly controlled.

- Noise: there is noise in the early morning from Quattro, behind the railway station. Can it be dealt with?

Wendy agreed to investigate.

- Parking on corner of Somerset Way/ Wellesley: can parking be restricted as it restricts vision and is dangerous? What is the position generally about yellow lines?

As part of the parking plan, there will eventually be yellow lines on this and other local roads. In the meantime, police will move dangerously-parked vehicles so let them know. It was agreed that 'no-return' parking restrictions were effective in controlling commuter parking.

- Site opposite Ridgeway (known as Thorney Stables): what is on the site?

There are 2 mobile homes, with to-date no planning permission. We would expect the plans to be refused and then to go to appeal.

- Could County hedge trimming be carried out differently? Using flailing meant ditches were being blocked.

Ruth agreed that this was a problem and would investigate.

- What is the position with the green field site in Richings Way?

It is being sold by Semex and it is under offer.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none. Wendy thanked all for attending. The meeting ended at 9.40 pm. The next monthly meeting: **Wednesday 28 May 2014**. All Welcome