

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING 19 MAY 2015 AT RICHINGS PARK SPORTS CLUB

Present: Maureen Worrall (Chair), Lindsey Beagle, Paul Griffin (District Councillor attending as a Richings Park resident), Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Daphne Wood, Graham Young

Apologies: Wendy Matthews, Sue Barber

Absent: Muhktar Ali, Maureen Atkinson, Alan Barratt, Matthew McEvoy, Stewart O'Malley, Judy Teader

Residents' Questions

At the beginning of the meeting the following residents raised local issues: Julia Potter and Melanie Arnold (JAM Hairdressing), Malik Khan (Costcutters); Kam Khatkar (Lotus Backcare), Haroon Sayed and one other (living locally at Beam End)

Julia and Melanie: the owner of the shop previously rented by the Flower Academy, which is next door to JAM, has applied for planning permission to change the retail premises to a dwelling. Maureen replied that she had already been alerted by Wendy about the need to object. (See item 5 below). Lindsey offered to produce and drop leaflets to let people know. She added that this empty shop could be a new 'Cornerstone' as the rent was potentially manageable.

Julie and Melanie were also concerned about parking. Could we use a herringbone method outside the shops, using the area from the bollards to the kerb? A pay and display system would also be effective. JAM has been in Richings Park for 7 years and parking has become more and more difficult. Maureen briefly recapped the history of the parking consultation and Graham added that this is a county highways issue. We need to identify the new cabinet member responsible. The next stage is a formal parking consultation in Richings Park and Wendy and Paul are aiming to meet Pete Smyth, County Planning Officer, to show him our solutions. Action: Wendy and Paul

Malik endorsed the issue of parking and also of lorries trying to turn in our narrow roads, destroying bollards. Their satnavs are rerouting them from Thorney Bridge via Wellesley Avenue, where they get stuck. Paul has had 'no lorries' signs made and he and Graham will put them up, ideally on residential fences at the North Park ends of Syke Cluan and Wellesley Avenue: Action: Paul, Graham

Malik added that there were two trees outside Café O which still needed pruning. Maureen agreed that this was a Highways issue and the Residents' Association would report it and the damaged bollards outside the post office. Action: Maureen.

Haroon Sayed, who lives in Beam End, opposite the old sorting office site. What will happen about parking once the flats are built? Commuter parking is also an issue. Maureen responded that the development came with permission for 12 vehicles to park on-site. Lindsey added that there will be yellow lines outside Haroon's house and the parking consultation will cover this area.

Haroon was also concerned to have lower speed limits on local roads.

There then followed a discussion on the recent Vintage in the Park event. There were opposing views.

Julia said that there had been issues for shopkeepers affected by parking and rubbish. Malik and Café O were upset at the competition provided by pop-up food outlets from outside the local area; their shops had lost trade.

Kam Khatkar, the chief organiser, responded that first and foremost it was a local community event to improve footfall. This time there were 23 stalls, up from 18.

Maureen asked how long there would be before a review and Kam replied that the event would run in July and August but may be reviewed early. Maureen stressed the need to involve local shopkeepers. Did all the businesses meet? Kam replied that it was difficult to get together and many had not responded to emails.

There was a discussion on where the payment from each stall went. Kam explained that 15 stalls had been brought in by an outside agency and 8 by her. For those 8 the money is held in a separate pot set aside for promotional events at the shops, for example a Christmas event. Graham added that the residents' association hold, on behalf of the shopkeepers, £200 from a previous event.

After half an hour, Maureen, again stressing the need for all to keep talking to each other, drew a halt to discussions and the official meeting began.

1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (24 March 2015): agreed subject to Wendy's confirmation.

2 Matters Arising and Other Issues

Heathrow Community Noise Forum (HCNF), Local Focus Forum: Wendy and Graham attended a second Noise Forum meeting at Heathrow. Wendy attends on behalf of the Parish and Graham on behalf of the Residents' Association. Graham had also been to a meeting at Heathrow. To understand airport noise one must understand air traffic control issues. However NATS is privately run and their commercial objectives are those of Heathrow – they are not likely to be impartial. At the end of this meeting, Graham asked about the Third Runway, which the HCNF does not cover. Air traffic control believe that an additional runway at Heathrow makes their life easier, while development at Gatwick would be problematic and entail extensive replanning.

At the HCNF meeting CAA had the floor and they are independent. They have extensively modelled situations for noise and the noise contouring indicators seem to be heading our way, which Heathrow has always denied. They confirm our view. The CAA are confident that they can now model accurately and if one of the Heathrow options is chosen we will campaign for compensation for noise pollution.

Gatwick Meeting: Graham and Lindsey had both attended and were impressed with the presentation. They were keen to raise awareness and tried to get additional material. However their PR concentrated on other areas.

Meeting Dominic Grieve: at the previous meeting on 8 April at Wendy's house, Dominic would not commit to specific actions prior to the General Election . If she has a date for a June meeting, Wendy will confirm. Action: Wendy

Highway Updates - Verges/Pavements/Roads: the first verge cutting of the year had taken place but Maureen had complained to Wendy about poor work in Syke Ings. Wendy forwarded the complaint to the area supervisor, John Lowe, who visited and found 95% of the work satisfactory. Wendy replied pursuing the issue of uncut edges. All were asked to check their roads and Wendy will send complaints to John at County. Action: All

Area Round Shops: Lindsey will buy, plant up and position one IKEA metal planter. If it is sturdy enough to deter pavement parking and theft others will be bought and set up. Action: Lindsey.

Thorney Sidings/Thorney Mill Road: the Sidings are now clear. But both this and the proposed relief road site are pencilled in as possible waste-transfer sites. This is a cause for concern.

Stobart Biomass Application: Wendy and Paul are keen to set up a public meeting.

Sustainable Access to Station/Cyclepath: nothing further

Broadband: Dominic Grieve has emailed Lindsey to ask if she would like him to become involved and she will accept. We have fibre but BT are not using it, although another operator could if BT cooperate. Action: Lindsey to get back to DG.

Community Forum - Richings Park Today: the on-line forum is gaining more members, with local issues being added as they arise.

M4 Smart Motorway: there is consultation on the proposed upgrade between Theale and Heathrow, junctions 12 to 3. The motorway will have detection systems built in to monitor road flow. There will be no hard shoulder. The aim is to reduce stop-start traffic and air pollution.

New School: Paul reported that he had spoken to Wendy and there will be a 3rd bid.

Bucks CC and South Bucks DC Local Plans: the plans are with Wendy. We need a team of interested and committed parties from Iver, Iver Heath and Richings Park. It is our chance to set out our vision for the next 10 years.

3 **Date of Next Meetings:** 23 June and 21 July, 8 pm. RPSC

4 **Treasurer's Report:** Graham reported that prior to the meeting, at which more subscriptions had been handed to him, 96 had been received. Available cash: £4473 was waiting to be banked.

5 **Planning /Enforcement:** see list included in the agenda.

46 Bathurst Walk – shop to become dwelling (see above): Wendy had asked Maureen and Graham to raise it at this meeting. It was put to a vote and all present

agreed to support a strong objection made on behalf of the residents. Wendy will write to South Bucks planning department. A statement will be put on the website: we do not want to lose local shops which help define a community and whose loss would undermine community cohesion. Action: Wendy

6 **Heathrow/Hub Station/Crossrail:** no new bridge yet at Thorney Lane.

7 **Report from Parish Council:** none

8 **Report from County/District Councils:** none. Positions were being sorted out following the election.

9 **Any Other Business:** all congratulated Paul on his election to District Council.

Paul reported that he has access to radio mikes with 48 hours' notice.

Shops: legally, nothing can be done about the 'orange' shop reported Graham. Lindsey is keen to support our local shopkeepers – see above for issues arising from the Vintage in the Park events.

Potholes: Daphne has reported the pothole and water next to St Andrew's church following road work in the area. The contractors have apparently until October for remedial work to be carried out. She also reported the loose BT manhole cover on North Park. She will ring BT Affinity. Paul recommended reporting issues on Fix My Street.com.

Environment: some local homes are becoming rundown and Lindsey would like us to set up a group to donate services to the elderly. She has put the trade list of local contractors on the on-line forum. Graham is hoping to arrange Movers and Shakers sessions, run by Age Concern and funded by Bucks County Council.

The meeting ended at 9.50pm.