

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, 23 JUNE 2016, RPSC 7.30 PM

Present: Graham Young (Chair), Mukhtar Ali, Maureen Atkinson, Alan Barrett, Lindsey Beagle, Paul Griffin, Wendy Matthews, Matthew McEvoy, Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Maureen Worrall

Apologies: Sue Barber, Stewart O'Malley, Daphne Wood

Introduction: Graham Young's first meeting in the chair. The meeting time is earlier because RPSC now closes at 10 pm.

1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (26 May 2016): after correcting the list of those present – Paul Griffin's name was listed twice – the minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2 Matters Arising and Other Issues

Heathrow Community Noise Forum/ Local Focus Forum: The Heathrow Community Noise Forum runs as a series of subgroups; four are currently in operation. Wendy attends the Research Policy and Communications workshop, while Graham attends Monitoring and Verification. No groups are allowed to discuss issues relating to the third runway. Wendy reported on a recent meeting of the Research subgroup: there had been a discussion on growth and Heathrow Airport Limited's (HAL) claims on this topic. A HAL representative attended. The representative was questioned on the airport's projections but had little information available. HAL are researching the impact of respite, that is the hours when an area is not overflown. They are producing health and noise updates as well as trialling reports which will be emailed to group members. Graham added that his subgroup are currently concerned with where to deploy new mobile temporary noise monitors: they meet next on 29 June. There is a separate noise group which deals with our ground noise issues. It is run by local resident Lisa Popa who is now our aviation expert: next meeting 27 June at Graham's house.

Local Focus Forum (LFF): Graham had circulated copies of the last LFF minutes with the agenda for this meeting. He went through key aspects of the forum meeting at which the new Head of Cargo and HAL gave a presentation. HAL depends as much on cargo as passengers and when passenger numbers are low on a flight extra cargo is loaded for transportation. The UK air freight industry has dropped to 4th in Europe. HAL are aware that they must work with the industry to modernise shipping and are working on a new electronic freight management system. On the problem of HGVs parking up on local roads, HAL have identified land for a 70-capacity truck stop which will alleviate matters.

Local Authority Aircraft Noise Committee (LAANC) Report: this forum, which we also attend, has good links into parliament. A 'holding' statement from the government on airport expansion is expected shortly. A final decision is not likely to be made before the end of this year.

HAL Local Neighbour Pledges: HAL have set up a roadshow on topics covered in the open letter John Holland-Kaye (CEO) wrote to David Cameron about the Davies Commission criteria (see item 2, minutes of 26 May 2016). HAL list five pledges and have confirmed that they relate to all 12 boroughs around the airport: Help Communities Prosper; Be a Good Neighbour; Tackle Local Traffic Congestion; Work with Local Businesses; Build a Lasting Legacy.

On Tuesday 21 June, Iver Parish Council hosted a meeting with John Holland-Kaye and his officers to discuss airport-related HGVs and local traffic. HAL's transport manager

attended. The Parish Council gave them specific details of the problems we face. A future relief road was discussed. In the meantime, HAL will consider putting routing agreements into their proposed new electronic freight management system. The meeting also discussed the implications of Slough International Freight Exchange (SIFE) and various railway developments such as Heathrow Express and WRAtH (see previous minutes). The next meeting will be held in the autumn. HAL are now fully aware of our issues.

Highways Updates – Verges/Pavements/Roads: Wendy had emailed Committee members a Buckinghamshire County Council, Transport for Bucks, bulletin listing Local Area Technicians. It seems the position is reverting as we again have a dedicated highways technician for our area, Zoe Ford. From 30th June work will start on Thorney Lane North. It is not clear whether this is resurfacing or repair or both. There is no sign of drainage work. Gas work has stopped on Richings Way. Residents have been warned about a service outage but no date has been published.

Area Round the Shops – Parking Consultation/Planters/Trees: the three new planters have now been put in place so we now have four in total, one at each corner of the crossroads by the Residents' Garden. The planter outside Café O has been moved slightly and will be moved back. Alan suggested drawing lines on the pavement to mark its intended position. This was agreed. **Action: Graham.** Wendy has spoken with a concerned local resident who has offered to go door to door in Wellesley Avenue to canvass support for residents' parking. After discussion it was agreed that ideally a working group should be set up. **Action: Graham, Lindsey.**

Broadband: The next rollout is due at the end of this year. We may be included.

HGV Signs: Graham reported that the sign at the end of Wellesley Avenue had been repaired by an anonymous resident and he was encouraged that a resident had taken action. Paul reported that he had asked for a quote for six new signs but neither he nor Graham had received it. **Action: Paul.**

Local Area Forum (LAF) Meeting: in the absence of our County Councillor who should chair this meeting it has been rescheduled to 7 July at 6.30pm and Trevor Eagleton will chair. The venue is the Jubilee Pavilion. Transport for Bucks will have a representative at the meeting and all are welcome to attend. Lindsey will raise the issue of flooding outside Blu. The Iver Traffic Action Plan is the agenda item and both Lindsey and Paul will encourage attendance via the Iver Communities Group Facebook page. Wendy added that there is a small sum of money from BCC covering the next financial year, which can be applied for through the Forum. Presentations should be made at the meeting and all proposals should be in by the beginning of August so as to allow time for costing before October's LAF meeting. Parking is not a BCC priority and any scheme now needs matched funding. We as a Residents Association may also apply by the beginning of July for Active Bucks money: Health and Activities for the Young, Walking Groups, Community Involvement.

Home to School Transport: funding is under threat. There is a survey and a Facebook page. The BCC Cabinet member has been asked to come and talk to parents but he declined. He is being pressed.

3 Treasurer's and Membership Figures Report: Lindsey is the new Treasurer and she has drawn up a spreadsheet for each road in Richings Park showing who has paid their Residents' Association subscription and who has not. She and Paul will go door to door in Wellesley Avenue to speak to residents and increase membership. **Action: Lindsey, Paul.** All Committee members were asked to take the relevant spreadsheet page for their road.

Lindsey also reported that she had lost communications following a recent storm. The Treasurer's report was therefore carried forward.

4 Planning/Enforcement: of the items listed on the agenda the following were discussed.

HS2/HEX: Locus Standii objections have been withdrawn. HS2 objected to residents' associations petitioning the House of Lords (see previous minutes). The House of Lords Select Committee ruled that such objections must be evidence-based. Many were therefore withdrawn and our petition has been allowed to go forward. We are waiting for a date for the full hearing. However Iver Heath Residents' Association has to appeal. The House of Lords also insisted that noise is a valid issue. Transcripts are available on the House of Lords Select Committee website.

Crossrail/Bridge Works: BT are scheduled to finish their work on the station path by the end of June. Then the pathway will be resurfaced before being opened. Sustainable Cycle Path: as previously minuted nothing more had been heard about the proposed cycle lane from Iver Station to Iver Village. In fact funding has been withdrawn from this project by BCC and allocated to another region. The cycle path might have fixed the problem of the pavement flooding. There was no consultation and we are pressing for a full explanation. **Action: Wendy.** The bridge is now finished and Matthew raised the issue of protecting its surfaces from graffiti.

WRAtH: the issue of the closure of Hollow Hill Lane is being bounced between Slough Borough Council and BCC as the Lane is on the boundary. Slough will be responsible for any permanent closure. The BCC traffic survey is on-going; they are counting traffic movements and collecting routing information to assist their modelling. The traffic survey was triggered by LAF. Network Rail traffic information has been provided to BCC and Slough but their modelling systems do not agree. We await developments. We must keep pushing for BCC to act on our behalf.

Slough Local Plan: the Plan includes a proposal for a retail park in the Sutton Lane/Brands Hill area next door to the planned SIFE site.

South Bucks Local Plan: there were 7000 responses. The next consultation will be held on 31 October and run for six weeks. There will be an exhibition in Iver Village Hall in November covering the Ivers as a whole. When we have more information and can assess the impact we will arrange for a presentation for Richings Park.

Iver Parish Neighbourhood Plan: following a reasonably well attended meeting there was a disappointingly low response from Richings Park. Only 11 filled in the forms and parking was not highlighted as an issue. We need an evidence base. The second stage of the consultation will start soon and all Committee members were asked to encourage others to participate. It is our chance to define what we want in our area. **Action: All**

The Iver Parish Council noticeboard in Richings Park needs to be replaced rather than repaired. A Community noticeboard is part of the provision when the Post Office is re-sited to Costcutters.

Local Planning Applications Submitted: Graham will monitor applications and list them on future agendas. If the application is likely to be controversial he will register an interest on the South Bucks website and he will be sent further details automatically. Cape Board have applied for permission for warehouses and we need to monitor HGV movements through Iver.

5 Report from Parish Council: Wendy as a Parish Councillor reported that the Neighbourhood Plan is still the major item. A Flooding Strategy Update has been issued by South Bucks District Council which made no reference to recent flooding in Richings Park. **Action: Jan** to check minutes for date of flooding. Policing is likely to be further cut back. However they are considering the introduction of Community Wardens and we need to establish that they have powers of enforcement. We have a new Chief Constable: Francis Haggood.

6 Report from County/District Councils: nothing to report from BCC; we do not have an effective representative. District Council: Wendy and Paul, both District Councillors, reported that having a unitary authority is again under discussion.

7 Date of Next Meetings: Monday 25 July 2016, 7.30 pm. No meeting in August. Tuesday 27 September, 7.30 pm.

8 Any Other Business

Walking between Iver Station and the Ridgeway: an incident had been reported. There is poor lighting and the undergrowth needs to be cut back by BCC: Zoe Ford is our contact (see item 2, Highways Updates, above). Highway maintenance issues can also be reported on Fix My Street.com.

Old Bardon Site: Alan asked about monitoring the hours of work. Lorries were moving both early and late. Wendy asked that locals log occurrences, even without registration plate details. The hours of work are restricted and enforceable by South Bucks District Council. **Action: Alan** to inform Thorney residents.

Kingfisher Park: in response to a query from Graham, Alan reported that Kingfisher Park's grass is still being mown although the schedule has slipped because the volunteer is fitting mowing into his work schedule. The gate is left open deliberately to encourage visitors. **Poisoned Water** (see previous minutes): if Alan has heard nothing in a couple of weeks he will let Wendy know and she will press again for action.

In and Around Iver Magazine: Maureen Worrall had not received their last two issues. **Action: Paul** to raise it with Angela, the editor.

Manhole in Bangors Road South: Maureen Atkinson reported that the manhole had been raised by water pressure and was hazardous.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm