

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING: 27 JANUARY 2015, 8PM, RICHINGS PARK SPORTS CLUB

Present: Wendy Matthews (Chair), Muhktar Ali, Maureen Atkinson, Lindsey Beagle, Stewart O'Malley, Jan Wiseman (Minutes), Daphne Wood, Maureen Worrall, Graham Young

Apologies: Sue Barber, Matthew McEvoy, Judy Teader. Sue Barber in hospital and we all send her our best wishes for a full recovery.

1 Minutes of the Previous Meetings (18 November and 16 December 2014): the November minutes were agreed. There is an amendment to the December minutes: Maureen Atkinson had sent her apologies in advance of the meeting. Jan was asked to amend and resend the minutes. **Action: Jan**

2 Matters Arising and Other Issues:

Heathrow Third Runway: we are seeking individual responses which need to reach the Airports Commission before the 3 February deadline. After this date we can make no further submissions. The RPRA website (www.richingspark.org) has a list of relevant points with a link to the SHE (Stop Heathrow Expansion) site where an on-line form can be completed and submitted. Some flyers are being sent out by Costcutters, and are also available at the Post Office and at Tip and Toe.

As the matter is urgent and a good response is essential, Lindsey volunteered to print and circulate leaflets to all residents asking them to write to, or email, Sir Howard Davies. Graham agreed to cover costs, Maureen Worrall will help with wording and delivery, and Maureen Atkinson will also help deliver. **Action: Lindsey, Maureen W, Maureen A.**

Graham attended a recent SHE meeting and he has put up notices and a banner locally. The Residents' Association has compiled a detailed technical response to the Commission which we will be submitting. Wendy went to the Local Authorities' Airport Noise Committee (LAANC) meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. LAANC covers issues that affect us all: HGVs; airborne and ground noise; displaced infrastructure (such as the waste plant); air pollution etc.

Ground Noise: we have information from the monitor we installed in the RP Golf Club grounds during October and November. Heathrow's consultants are analysing this and other noise data as well as any ground noise reports submitted by residents. More reports need to be submitted from residents via our website. We are waiting for Heathrow's response. Gatwick have done a good deal of ground noise modelling, Heathrow very little and Heathrow Hub none.

Heathrow Hub: a presentation/public meeting was held recently in the Sports Club. They have a very poor website and only one published leaflet. There has been no genuine public consultation and we will report this to the Commission. Their proposed site between Iver and Richings Park is still being earmarked for development and we must keep a watching brief on the situation.

Heathrow Local Focus Forum: a forum for residents' associations and some local councils to discuss interests of joint concern and raise them with Heathrow. We have had to push for an invitation to attend and Wendy reported that it is a very vocal group which takes Heathrow to task. We are happy to add our voice. Graham will attend the next meeting in March.

Gatwick Presentation: Gatwick gave a presentation in Colnbrook at the invitation of their residents' association. We attended and invited them to give us a short presentation at a public meeting: 25 March, the Sports Club.

Meeting Dominic Grieve 17 January 2015: Maureen W reported on the meeting, held at Wendy's house, at which we pressed our MP again for action on Heathrow and related local issues.

Highways Updates:

Pavements: Somerset Way is very dangerous and one recent accident has been reported to Bucks County Council (BCC) Highways Department. There is a small pot of money from BCC distributed by the Local Areas' Forum (LAF) which Iver Parish Council has agreed will initially be allocated to pavements. In Richings Park, North Park will be resurfaced first, then Somerset Way, which will have to wait for funding.

Poor Lighting: all agreed that poor lighting in side roads is a problem for pedestrians: the LED bulbs are barely adequate and are sometimes obscured by trees. See also item 7 below.

Verges: Stewart raised the issue of stone/posts on verges as a health and safety matter. There was some discussion: it was agreed that some local residents have placed stones on their verges but on the other hand parking/driving on verges is also a problem. Both the stones and uneven verges make life difficult for pedestrians.

Area Round Shops/highways:

The pavement by the shops has not been properly repaired after workmen dug it up. However the area between the bollards and the shop is private land. The relevant shops have been encouraged to complain.

Old Sorting Office: there are still branches from the old tree on the verge. Wendy reported that BCC have been told.

Dog Waste: there is still a lot on verges and pavements. Next financial year there may be funding for dog mess/litter bins and one has been requested by Jan for the end of Syke Ings, near the post box. All were asked to suggest other useful sites. **Action: All**

Potholes: Lindsey has reported the 17 potholes in St Leonard's Walk on-line to BCC, Transport for Bucks. She has also asked for the road to be swept.

Parking Consultation: it was noted that a meeting with BCC, Transport for Bucks, was held one year ago but nothing has happened and no more has been heard: there has been a

complete change of council staff. The parking consultation needs to be implemented, especially with the advent of Crossrail.

Planters: Lindsey will ask her father if he can make the planters, which are intended for the area between the bollards near the Residents' Garden. As he is still recovering from illness he may not be able to take this on and if so she will let Wendy know. **Action: Lindsey**

Thorney Sidings: nothing further to report.

Sustainable Access to Iver Station: we have heard that this is apparently going ahead (with £1m special, dedicated funding) and possible options are being drawn up for a cycle path between Iver Village and Iver Station: funding deadline end 2016.

3 Dates of Next Meetings: Tuesday 24 February (note change of date) and Tuesday 24 March 2015, RPSC, 8 pm.

4 Treasurer's Report: Graham gave his report: bank current account £1,035.92. Bank Savings Account £3,276.75. He has settled an invoice from a local landscape gardening firm who are now maintaining the Residents' Garden.

5 Planning/Enforcement: in addition agenda list, the following was discussed: Thorney Business Park: change of use from open storage, car breaking to a wood recycling yard. We need to watch any application closely for its impact on HGV movements. Wendy reported that Bisons had an allocation of 150 a day, but each business using the Bison land is pushing for 75 movements individually. Apparently South Bucks cannot determine which piece of ex-Bison's land has the movements attached to it.

6 Heathrow/Hub Station/Crossrail:

WRAtH (Western Region Access to Heathrow): Wendy has a copy of the final proposed route for the tunnel. There are now dates for public consultation in Richings Park, at the Sports Club: 13 February 12 – 6pm, 14 February 12 – 4pm, 26 February 2-8.30pm, 27 February 12 – 6 pm and 28 February 12 – 4 pm.

We hoped that a planned route from the WRAtH development would provide the long-awaited back route for the Iver Business Parks. However, the competing HS2 proposal will block this. There are no firm proposals but development will be based at Langley Oil depot, a site already owned by Network Rail. (See previous minutes). Wendy has asked for a meeting with Slough Council as the same area has been allocated for future housing.

Crossrail - Thorney Lane Bridge Works: Muhktar reported on the latest noise issues and emphasised that we need our own noise monitor as we are relying on readings taken by the contractor. Work continued overnight at Christmas, despite reassurances to the contrary. There will be more work for the next 10 weekends. Wendy added that Balfour Beatty, the contractor, are under time and cost pressure: they have already had 3 'stop' notices.

7 Report from Parish Council:

Lighting: the Parish Council is reviewing the new street lighting: the lights are generally thought to be too dim and not fit for purpose. However it is difficult to find legal grounds for

challenging the contractor and Bucks County Council had only a statutory requirement to light main highways, not side roads.

Shrubs: there is an issue in some recently-developed areas with placing shrubs on verges. Licences are required for any planting on verges.

8 Report from County/District Councils: nothing further to report.

9 Any Other Business:

Naming New Sports Club Road: Apsley Walk, named after Sir Peter Apsley who built the original manor house in the 16th century.

Community Library: Graham has had an indication that South Bucks planners may be sympathetic to the requested extension to Iver Village Infants School for a community library. The headteacher is supportive and we have advice from a professional school librarian.

Movers and Shakers: following the closure of Cornerstone, Bucks County Council localities' officer expressed concern and prompted by Graham is looking at a monthly Movers and Shakers group – workout and lunch – at the Sports Club.

Width Restriction North Park/Wellesley Avenue: the pavement width has been narrowed by shrubs. Daphne reported this in August and sent a reminder. Nothing has been done to-date. Wendy asked Daphne to persist: it is Bucks County Council's responsibility.

Speeding: Muhktar raised the issue of speeding on local roads, particularly in Bathurst Walk from the shops to the Old Sorting Office. Wendy responded that Barry Burnell, one of the Neighbourhood Officers, will respond if he has the offender's registration number.

Broadband: Lindsey asked why fibre connectivity was not yet available. Originally it was due to go live by the end of January 2015 and now March 2016 is being quoted. Why has the date been moved? She has contacted BT Open Reach and our County Councillor. Fibre broadband was laid in August 2011. The Exchange is accepting orders but the relevant section would not be activated until 2016. We are not included in the Connected Counties project which receives government help but are now part of a commercial rollout.

Electricity Sub-Station: Lindsey reported that there is what seems to be a sub-station opposite the Tower Arms, near the phone mast. Recently she has seen the padlock cut and the gates open. Wendy reported that Colin Rayner leases the land to Heathrow Gun Club and Lindsey will also pursue with him the matter of used gun cartridges on the site.

The meeting ended at 10 pm.

The Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 February 2015, 8 pm, RPSC