

**RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the annual general meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 at Richings Park Sports Club**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Sue Barber, Margaret Wilkins, Joan Angell, Mr and Mrs Greenwood

**MINUTES OF THE AGM 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009:**

**MATTERS ARISING:** Flies – still keeping a record of any occurrences, so if you get bothered, please report on the web site.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** Tony Connolly proposed, Judy Teader seconded

**STATEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS**

- Subscriptions slightly down – if you can't get down to road warden please drop them off in the post office and encourage the neighbours.
- Christmas Tree Grant is in.
- Bank interest down.
- Kingfisher Gardens sponsorship no longer in place. Alan Barratt is seeking sponsorship
- Speed equipment grant - £1000 Parish Council £1500 Thames Valley police to buy new equipment. However, we still need to raise £1000
- Expenditure – public liability insurance dropped. AGM food and drink not offered this year because uneaten last year.
- Currently £5000 in bank but new equipment purchase will drop us down to below last year.
- On website – you can see membership numbers and how it has fluctuated.

**ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS**

Alan Oxley proposed & Guy Verrier seconded

**ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE:**

Due to retire and willing to stand again: Paul Lake, Matthew McEvoy, Alan Oxley, Chris Sprules, Eddie Wood, Graham Young

Jeanette Watkins proposed & Ruth Vigor-Hedderly seconded

No one else wished to join the committee

**ADOPTION OF NEW RULES FOR THE ASSOCIATION**

Have not been updated since 1985 and have updated. They have been circulated and shown on website. Voted unanimously in favour.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- The core strategy has now been changed to show that there is a problem with HGVs here following our constant raising of the issues.
- Cappagh got permission despite all the opposition. Seems that very little is done to enforce the restrictions. We have met with them and one point that came up was there were frequently unsheeted lorries. We have been told that they must all be sheeted. If you see one unsheeted let us know the time, date, direction of travel and if possible registration. The company will then be informed.
- Speeding 12% local residents 40% commercial cars or lorries, 30% near area, remaining from all over the place. Parish council has purchased two speed indicating devices and two hard standing areas for police enforcement areas.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> runway given go ahead but 2M group took govt. to judicial review and won so govt. will need to do further work.
- Hub station – the high speed connection rail link with Heathrow is now going to be at Old Oak not Iver, but report does now state that Iver is being considered as a potential “at airport” station – Terminal 6?

- Crossrail – discussions still ongoing. Work will be done by First Great Western in our area. There is a suggestion that it may actually now terminate at Hayes.
- Iver Neighbourhood Action Group – looking at litter, graffiti, anti-social behaviour. Quite a lot of success with station path carried out by Verdant – phone box cleaned and repaired and talking to FGW about cleaning around the station itself.
- Community payback – scheme run by probation service. We have a team hopefully coming to RP and Iver from mid May – will begin by working down North Park clearing verges etc.
- History of Richings Park – many thanks to Stella Rowlands and others for all the information. Did you know the original daleks were made in Richings Park?
- Thanks to the committee for their hard work. Graham for work as treasurer, Susie as secretary and Chris and Alan B for looking after the gardens.
- Age Concern want to put in a new community volunteer service for people over 60. There are forms around to fill in.

## **UPDATE ON PARISH, DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

### **Ruth Vigor-Hedderly**

- Bucks has started on a relatively poor note with regards the poor road surfaces. CC released £2 million to main contractor to try and get them repaired as best they can. Some have been temporary repairs.
- Yellow lines have now been completed and hopefully the PCSOs can go out and ticket to ensure access for emergency access etc.
- Road signs we have been waiting for will be put up in first week of May.
- Ruth will look to see if she can fund some of the speed camera money from her community fund
- 20<sup>th</sup> September Ruth will be at Cornerstones for 9.30 surgery any issues – please come and let her know.
- LAF – formed with Wexham meets four times a year – looking for people from the community to come and say what concerns are. 28<sup>th</sup> April Harvey Memorial Hall George Green is next meeting of Local Authority Forum. Residents get three minutes to speak.
- Personal note of thanks to Jackie Griffiths and Rose (at the post office) who worked very hard to ensure the bus stayed linked in with Iver Village.
- Please contact Ruth through the County website or phone.

### **Questions:**

- One resident has been trying to get Richings Way pathways redone for the last 15 years. Alan Oxley asked and every time was told it was not high enough priority.
- Speed signs indicating 40 limit are too close so when you pull out of Richings Way, the cars are already moving at 40mph. All of the road will soon be 30mph. Should be changed in June or July. PCSO will go back and ask for some police speed presence in that area.
- Width restriction at bridge in Hillingdon – Mark Averill will take that back.

### **Mark Averill – represent transport for Buckinghamshire**

- April 2009 was infrastructure manager responsible for lighting bridges etc. New contract was brought in where vast majority of work was outsourced – so now works for Ringway Jacobs Is responsible for client side of maintenance.
- Budget – have around £7.5 million gives value c. £2 a metre of road. Hence – the roads and pathways etc. will always have to prioritise dangers.

### **Questions/Concerns:**

- Concern expressed that we are ignored as we are the bottom of the borough - Aylesbury was named as a place with more money spent on roads etc. Explained that actually Aylesbury received additional government money.
- Is there a programme to put the quieter surface on the M25 roads that run through bucks? - As a county, we are only responsible for County roads. Highways Agency is responsible for motorways. Mark's belief that it won't happen until the surface actually needs resurfacing.

- Potholes – does anybody check that they actually do them properly? - What we have tried to do is affect a first time fix. The majority of the network we can do that but if there is nowhere to cut back to, you can only fill with material. Staff have to take a picture before defects and a photo after. 5% of work is audited. Poor quality repairs cited on several of our local roads. Is audit process working?
- North Park and Richings Way are narrow roads that now carry 12-15,000 movements per day with numerous HGVs. They still have the original road substructure. . It wasn't designed to take that level of traffic. It is constantly patched and then needs to be redone again later.
- Outside 30 North Park there is a pothole which was filled in three weeks ago and is now already 8 inches wide inch deep.
- 30mph signs – assured all year that these would be replaced. They were originally promised in May 2009. Now promised in May 2010.
- How do we know the tonnage on lorries is within the law? - From an operator's point of view, it is not worthwhile because you will lose your lorries until the weight has been removed. This would be VOSA's responsibility. There has been at least one check and all but two were okay. RPRA trying to work with the police to get VOSA down.
- Service Level Agreement – Can we see it to see what Bucks are not doing in terms of monitoring you? - We have a suite of indicators that we have to achieve. We provide the information but have regular audits from the client. We have struggled over the last few months to reach indicators because of the poor state of the roads after the bad weather. We can say what is needed to invest in the highways but the council can decide against it. Bucks County may be a wealthy county in terms of housing etc but they are a capped council.
- Is there a customer satisfaction survey? – yes carried out by an external body who consult residents around the county. However, not one person at the AGM had ever been consulted.
- Between North Park Traffic lights and golf course, road is in a dreadful state. It is breaking up.
- When are the street lights going to be turned on? What assessment was carried out prior to them being switched off? The assessment, we have read in your offices, did not take account of pedestrians. We sent you a full risk assessment in August 2009 which included risks to pedestrians. Your office's reply was – it is a trial – that is negligence. B470 Langley Park Road and Trenchers Lane had a fatality during a bright sunny day and now you have turned the street lights off. There is a 3 foot by 2 foot by 2 foot deep hole on one unlit path. – The street light switch off trial is ongoing was introduced three years ago in Wycombe. It's all undertaken by Bucks County Council. Why haven't we had a reply to the risk assessment? Tony Connolly would like a reply.
- Layby in Richings Way why spend money on this when the width restriction lights were out of order for 5 months? – It is a police enforcement area.
- In this area, we have several industrial estates – 600 'O' licenses – should show the sort of traffic levels we get.
- New website – to report concerns. It comes up and says completed. This is a glitch and is being fixed.

**Mark will come back with proper robust answers. When will we have the answers? He will get these questions fired out to relevant people and will have answers by end of first week in May and send to Wendy who will put on the website.**

## **LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM**

### **Sarah Jane Scammell Community Police Officer**

Parking issues – 4 PCSOs, 2 PCs and sergeant – trying to combat those who park in the two hour bays and commute from Iver. A lot of the people in the bays are actually shop staff and residents of the flats. Can only keep ticketing.

### **Questions/concerns:**

- How regularly? – dependant on shifts – twice a week.

- What would you think about residents parking, parking meters etc? – Parking meters much better as people do travel in a long way to park for free.
- Round the shops there is a very large pavement with a black line. Told you can park between the black line and the shop. Surely this is where the pedestrians should be able to walk – If a double buggy can get through, then they are entitled to park there. The land in front of the shops to the black line belongs to the shops, so they can in fact park on it, but the issue is how they get to there.
- Is it true that funding is being sought to narrow the gaps between the bollards? Yes it's on the list for the Parish to deliver this year, so those gaps will be narrowed and people will not be able to drive onto the corners.
- North park – On the north side, there is quite a wide pavement and sometimes contractors park fully on the pavement. Could you drive round and ticket the offenders.
- Somerset way/Wellesley Road corner – it's very dangerous to pull out. – They can also be issued tickets. They should be C. 10 – 15 metres away from the corner.
- District Council is responsible for taking up decriminalization of parking what is happening with this? District will have to agree with council that they will take on the responsibility of monitoring i.e. parking attendants. In return they would get some revenue from the parking. In Richings Park there is no income; that would only come from tickets for illegal parking. South Bucks are therefore concerned that not enough will be taken to make it financially viable. It is being discussed at District. Wycombe, Chiltern and Aylesbury have taken it on and found that they have lost money.
- Is there nowhere to put parking? The footpath, by the station? The land belongs to the railway.
- Fliers were put out to offer parking at the sports club for a reasonable cost. No take up.
- Everyone needs to write to district council to say what we want. People have been driving from as far as Staines to catch the train and use free parking.
- Dangerous dogs' situation – he is not committing an offence that the police can enforce. The district council has refused to put into effect legislation to give the police powers.
- Thorney Mill Road – there are vans etc parked on the pavements. Could they get ticketed?
- Carpet Van – parks in Old Slade Lane at night appears to be over the weight limit for not showing lights at night.

#### **DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

- South Bucks were written to by Lord Adonis about possibility of HS2 linking through to Heathrow via a hub station at Iver and he has commissioned someone to investigate. South Bucks said there is no business case to link through here.
- Many planning enforcement issues that are not being pursued adequately by South Bucks. Alan Oxley is chasing. Some large issues currently under enforcement: Traveller site in Mansion Lane has been expanded into neighboring farmland and Jasmine Cottage in Wood Lane was built originally without planning permission and went to the high court.
- Project Pinewood – has to appeal by today.
- South Bucks is also looking at ambulance response times. A paramedic should arrive within 8 minutes and vehicle must arrive between 17 minutes. Richings Park is very poorly served. We are trying to get statistics. The issue is that there are only 2-3 calls per day in the area, so there isn't anyone close. Trying to get a secondary level target as if they fail the first target, then it actually doesn't matter how long it takes after that. Anyone who has an experience, could they let Alan or Wendy know.

#### **AOB**

- Speed watch – If anyone has any ideas for raising money, please talk to Wendy or Eddy.
- Please come to meetings any time if you want to raise an issue.
- Vote of thanks for Wendy for her tenacity and leadership

Meeting closed 9.50pm.