

**RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the annual general meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Richings Park Sports Club**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Tony Connolly, Matthew McEvoy, Tony Symes

**MINUTES OF THE AGM 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010:**

**MATTERS ARISING:** Little black flies – if you are bothered, please report them via the website. Smell of rotting food – please let the committee know as we need to keep up the pressure and inform environmental health. Local resident believes it is slurry. Environmental health said there was no record of a slurry pit. Environmental health had informed the committee that farmer did have permission. BAA lorries have been off loading there a few months ago.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** Maureen Worrall proposed, Eddie Wood seconded

**STATEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS**

Number of subscribers has stayed the same c. 300 paid up members. Subscription is higher because people may have put in some extra.

Web site costs have increased including software for history of Richings Park. Kingfisher gardens upkeep has reduced as Hydrex have given us free use of a gardener.

Speed watch equipment depreciation gives us a technical deficit and this will repeat over the next few years but this will disappear when the equipment is written off.

**ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS**

Alan Oxley proposed & Bhagat Hundal seconded.

**ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE:**

Due to retire and willing to stand again: Maureen Atkinson, Sue Barber, Alan Barrett, Tony Connolly, David Coppen, Bhagat Hundal, Wendy Matthews, Judy Teader, Maureen Worrall.

Margaret Wilkins, Paul Lake and Susie Davies retiring.

Eddie Wood proposed & Guy Verrier seconded

**SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION**

Would it be possible to increase the annual subscription to £5 to provide a bit of a cushion for when we may have to pay out for maintenance etc. In 1920s when the Association set up it was 5 shillings which now equates to £11.42

Agreed for next year.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mark Averill – He answered all the questions that were posed to him last year and the answers are all on the website.

HGV issues – HGVs have been increasing in number this year. Regularly discuss with aggregate industries and Cappagh about the way the vehicles are driven and sheeting.

South Bucks Core strategy – has been adopted including a commitment to reduce the HGVs on our roads.

Speeding – purchased a new speed camera and members have been out clocking speeders. The majority are from outside the area and 40% is industrial traffic.

Heathrow – 3<sup>rd</sup> runway on hold. Monitoring.

Crossrail going ahead and Dog Kennel Bridge was demolished over Christmas. There will be work done to make Iver station suitable including lowering track. They have now got all the permissions in place but we don't have a confirmed date for the work. We have raised concerns with them over the impact on Bathurst Walk, particularly Buckfield and Wellesley Court.

HS2 – proposed route is out for consultation. Phase two has an aim to connect it to Heathrow. One of the options includes a hub station at Iver. We have just heard that the Department of Transport's preferred route is through Iver and Iver Heath West from Denham to Terminal 5, going to the west of Richings Park between here and Langley.

Community Pay Back team – they have cleared along North Park to cut back trees as well as growth on trees on Wellesley Avenue as well as work in Kingfisher and Community garden.

Community Garden – a lot of work has gone on with new planting. Thanks to Chris Sprules for cutting the grass. If anyone would like to help maintain it, please contact the committee.

Kingfisher Gardens – Thanks to Alan Barrett and also Hydrex for sponsoring it last year and Aggregate Industries for taking it on for this year.

Land next to the garden is becoming a rubbish dump which has rats. If there are rats then the council needs to be informed as it is private land.

History of Richings Park – new part of website – gone live today but is a work in progress. Let us know if any further information you have that could be included.

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

### **Peter Beckford**

Development Plans:

“In dealing with such an application, the authority shall have regards to the development plan...”: In statute, when there is a planning application, the provisions of the development plan are key. When commenting, refer to something specifically in the development plan. This will carry more weight than ‘we don’t like it’.

South East Plan – sets out the future level of housing growth for each district as a minimum figure.

Local Plan – 1999 detailed plan for district with c. 120 policies. Protectionist with an awareness of needs for growth. Now have to prepare local development framework. The key part of which is the core strategy. This was adopted in February after a lengthy process. It is the bigger picture dealing with key issues e.g. HGVs.

The Government have been very pro growth over the last few years. All plans have to be based on a great deal of evidence so for this core strategy there were about 30 in depth studies carried out. The strategy goes through an examination. A government inspector examines the strategy to see if it meets statutory and legal requirements and whether it is sound. – does it set out the most appropriate way of meeting aims? Is it flexible (as it covers to 2026) and is it deliverable?

Residential design guide – has a lower weight than the key strategy.

Now looking at future needs and priorities.

County Council is also a planning authority but only for minerals and waste. It has a waste and minerals local plan and is preparing a core strategy. Consultation is due in about June or July. This would be relevant as the local plan identifies a potential waste transfer station sit in Richings Park.

Processes:

Application is checked for completeness and is then registered. First process is to look at the site and see what constraints affect that site. Town and Parish council are also a key consultee. Weekly list is published of applications received. This is also published on the web site. The application is publicly accessible and you can submit comments on the application.

Every application has a site visit.

Whether we are going to recommend that permission be granted depends on the core strategy mixed in with all other views. The more controversial applications will go to committee. An applicant can go to appeal within 6 months if an application is refused. Twelve weeks for a household application. Our performance last year was in the top five or ten authorities nationally in dealing with applications within the timeframe. Some developments do not need planning permission as long as they meet appropriate criteria. (Permitted development). Seek a certificate of lawfulness from the council.

Richings Park:

Three key things in core strategy – There is no change in protection of green belt. Hierarchy in terms of sustainability. Richings Park is in the third tier above the bottom which is small villages. This implies small levels of development. The third is the HGV issue. They have been working with the county council for some time. The strategy encourages employment usage which uses less HGVs. Thorney Lane Business Park – looking for less HGV business. Court Lane has been in single land ownership for some time, is in the green belt and has been identified as a major developed site in the Green Belt which gives it potential

for development which does not involve HGV usage. If those measures are unsuccessful in reducing HGVs then they will in due course look at other possible solutions e.g. relief road.

Recent application on part of the Bisons' site, the applicant suggested there would be 80 vehicle movements a day and argued that there were 444 in 2006 coming out of the site and that 406 were from Bisons so it was not asking too much. Used the County Council who had records that there were 96 in 2001 so 80 is a reduction. The Council said they could not support in appeal if district turned it down. It was passed but if someone else tries to use the other part of the site for HGVs, then the core strategy would kick in.

**Localism Bill:**

Neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development plans which would increase what could be done without planning permission within an area. There is still a long way to go in terms of the localism bill.

Recent ministerial statement has made it clear that there is a new presumption in favour of sustainable development saying yes to planning but areas of green belt and areas of natural beauty are not included.

**Questions:**

Refuse disposal – Colnbrook incinerator burning rubbish from Wiltshire but not South Bucks, depot being created at Amersham to transport rubbish to the North of the County.

Colnbrook is in Slough. County Council are responsible for allocating sites. Would need to talk to them but there will be a consultation on the waste strategy.

13.5% traffic on North Park is HGVs. This will increase to 16% with new granted application. There are 6 empty plots on Bisons and there will be more applications for HGVs. We need action now to cut back on the HGVs.

The operating licences come from VOSA run by the Transport Commissioners.

Can't District Council object or monitor the operators notice?

No, planning cannot make an objection. Our control is through planning not operators notice.

Enforcement – Nothing seems to happen when people have lost an appeal. Are there any enforcement officers?

Where something is unauthorized the guidance from government is that we go through a process – asking them to apply for permission and the application is then considered as any other application would be. If they never put in an application, we then have to consider whether it is expedient to grant permission. What about those that have been told to take it down? Let Peter know where they are and he will follow them up.

Lorries going into the Bisons site – the noise is atrocious because of the speed bumps. Empty lorries clattering. Who should we consult? Discuss with Wendy after the meeting.

**COUNTY COUNCIL:**

Ruth Vigor-Hedderly

- Consultation on minerals and waste. Residents can go through web site or through Ruth.
- Speed has gone from 30 to 40 on a blind corner on Richings Way. Ruth will take it back to the council. It was supposed to be implemented as part of speed limit review. Ruth will chase it up.
- HGVs – it is saturated locally beyond belief. Barry Burnell new neighbourhood beat officer recognizes the major problems with HGVs locally. He has recently carried out an operation in Court Land and was horrified by the number of tickets. Ruth has been looking at how to get the attention of VOSA to get them into Richings Park for one day initially. Ruth has e-mailed our local MP. Barry believes that if VOSA came down, it would take 30% of the HGVs off the roads because they are illegal. There are cameras by the Tower Arms and Speed Watch locally is giving us lots of information to support our claims.
- South Bucks do respond well when we report issues.

- Cappagh many meetings complaining about lack of sheeting.
- Shops by Cornerstones have agreed to give up their shop frontage to provide extra parking with restrictions to help locals.
- Local Area Forum – meetings to talk about local issues. There is funding for local concerns. Meetings are held every two months.
- Elections – support your local candidate.

#### Questions

Very concerned about parking at top of Somerset way with Wellesley Avenue. You cannot pull out. Resident has rung County Council and was told it was a Police Issue who said that it was a County Council issue. The local police will follow it up.

Parking outside sports club is also an issue on a Saturday. PCSOs will come and see.

Dangerous parking – end of Syke Ings. Also, cars parked on the pavements at the crossroads.

#### **DISTRICT COUNCIL: Alan Oxley**

Cappagh site – People were playing with statistics with the figures when applying on the Bisons site. This was recognized by planning. There are now only 16 places for HGVs left, so that is a positive step.

Mansion Lane Travellers' Site – public enquiry. They had adopted sites in farm land that was sold to them by British Rail. Outcome – 8 applications. 4 were refused as they were putting commercial tools and equipment on the sites. The other 4 have been given temporary planning permission for three years on human rights grounds (overcrowding)

Project Pinewood – South Bucks are fighting this application for 1,600 homes. Bucks County are no longer objecting on transport grounds.

South Bucks is looking to share its Senior Management with Chiltern and High Wycombe as part of cost cutting. Will save c £1.3 – 1.5 million.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM**

PC Erica King

There has been a slight increase in burglary and theft of vehicles but decrease in thefts from vehicles

One robbery

Very little drug offences

Loose dogs – any concerns you need to report.

They are focusing on speeding locally.

Iver Police station is open Tuesday and Fridays– manned by volunteers.

#### **AOB**

No other issues.

Wendy expressed thanks to Susie who is retiring – we now need a new secretary, Graham for running the finances, Alan B and Chris for their work in the gardens.

Maureen offered thanks to Wendy – for her hard work as Chairman and behind the scenes.

Meeting closed 9.35pm.