

**RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at Richings Park Sports Club**

**PRESENT:** Wendy M, Margaret W, Tony C, Susie D, Sue Barber, Alan Oxley, Graham Y, Eddie W, Alan B, Maureen W, Matthew M

**APOLGIES FOR ABSENCE:** David C

**ABSENT:** Maureen Atkinson, Paul L, Chris Sprawls

**Resident – Mr Bhagat Hundal**

Mr Hundal had expressed concern at the June meeting over the addition of another Vellux window to Thorney House and had asked why people can make changes to a listed building without making a planning application. He is concerned that the council are not applying the laws fairly across the board. There was no planning request put in and there are now vellux windows around the roof. Alan has written in the past about the Vellux window but will chase it up. Alan had written again, but had heard nothing more, so will chase it up again. **(ACTION AO)**

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** Correction – Alan Oxley was not present. Minutes were agreed.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**1. Station Access:** Wendy has been collecting statements and put all the information together in a pack for the council. She has been making enquiries about the ownership, has established that the company was dissolved. It wasn't wound up until 1938. Now needs to go to the treasury solicitors to discover what happened to the ownership of the residue land. **(ACTION WM)**

**2. Dog Kennel Bridge:** Diversion across the station bridge. Cross Rail people were sent away by the lords to come to an agreement with the ramblers association. They offered a new route for the footpath up to Thorney Lane. The ramblers association wants them to build a footbridge. Link to minutes to be set up on website

**3. Width restriction sign for TMR:** AO will chase this up.

**4. Article in Iver Directory:** Wendy has written another article including info. Re Heathrow hub. Possible future articles – info to consider neighbours before using garden machinery and having bonfires.

**5. Bollards:** Matthew will try to get something sorted before next meeting

**6. Yellow Lines:** It has been passed on to county but nothing has happened as yet. Alan argued that it was a safety issue and was told that it could be enforced by police anyway without yellow lines.

Still need the disabled bay sign to be painted. Highways should ensure that it is visible. Alan to chase.

**(ACTION AO)**

Can we stop the cars parking on the pavement? Again, if it is dangerous parking then the police can enforce it.

**7. Grass Cuttings:** Alan handed out a copy of the grass cuttings schedule. No completed cuts shown on the schedule. They have not done Richings Park on the weeks they have stated. Is this due to adverse weather conditions? Place the schedule on the website and list Chris Marchant at South Bucks as the person to speak to if the cutting is not taking place. **(ACTION AO)**

**8. Dogs not on leads:** Less clear whose responsibility it is and even less clear who can take action. The responsibility has now been put on the district council who are now supposed to have a dog officer and put in an enforcement scheme with dog control orders. No name has been given to Wendy as South Bucks cannot afford to put it in place. South Bucks have taken on a private contractor who will deal with stray dogs. Alan will put a formal question to next weeks council to ask where the responsibility for dealing with

dogs not on leads, noisy dogs and dog fouling lies. They will then have to give an official written answer.  
**(ACTION AO)**

**9. Smart water:** Now down to the Council. Smart water notices etc have been demoted in importance. Maureen will continue to mention and raise it at the police station.

**10. Street light turn off:** Who has carried out the risk assessment? How can we get a copy? How much money and energy is it actually saving? Do we get a refund on our council tax? It is a danger to the public. Alan asked how many roads with footpaths had the lights turned off? 35% of the lights turned off are in South Bucks. They have no statutory responsibility for footpath lighting. They carried out a risk assessment on the highway. Wendy has asked for a copy. If she doesn't receive it soon, she will put in a request under the freedom of information act. The amount saved per light is c. £50 per year. Alan pointed out that the parish council has a statutory responsibility for footpaths and before the lights were put in, the parish had footpath lights in place and he suggested that where there are footpaths involved, they should keep every third on.

Thorney Mill Road, North Park & Iver Lane are worrying because they have footpaths.

**11. Dominic Grieve:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, Dominic will be meeting at 8pm at the sports club. One issue we particularly want to raise is the 3<sup>rd</sup> runway. Also raise the fact that we feel we get a poor deal from the local councils and his accessibility.

**12. Land to rear of shops on Thorney Lane South:** Had a communication from a Mrs Oxley who has decided that she wants to turn it into allotments.

**13. Land next to St Andrew's North Park:** Sold in blocks a few years ago. The company that sold it has now gone into liquidation. Very few of the investors ever received any ownership documentation so have no land or money.

#### **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October Apologies: TC

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Transfer for radar gun has gone through (takes about 50% of our reserves). Still have a declining membership. 290 subscribers and 402 non-subscribers. Some issues with access to properties. Graham succeeds by revisiting again and again.

#### **PLANNING**

- Land next to Resident's garden: renewed April 2007 for three years for a slightly altered application.
- Blairmore Old Slade Lane: rejected on appeal.
- Thorney Mead: Replacement planning appeal was rejected.
- Slough Intermodal Freight Exchange: pre-environmental assessment consultation went to the parish council. Parish sent back all the objections that meant it was rejected previously. Also that there were air management monitors in place now etc. (Colnbrook bypass area)
- No new application for 19 – 21 Bathurst Walk following application rejection regarding affordable homes. They still have the option on the homes until the beginning of November.
- Planning applications about operational licenses. How do we get the councils to object to them. Parish have no power. South Bucks will not object on environmental grounds, so how do we object to it. No power unless you live adjacent to it. Council had told Eddie something different. **Action: Raise with Dominic Grieve.**
- Concern about a building in the back garden of a local house. Rules are it can be 4m high maximum and 3m from back of house that is intended for garden use. Only issue will be if it is used for sleeping in.
- Project Pinewood consultation is open Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

#### **HEATHROW CONSULTATION/HUB STATION/CROSS RAIL**

Plan handed out for Hub station. Wendy met with company involved Arups. Main line just beyond the M25 bridge with a connection to the M25 and linked to cross rail. It will be connected into the high speed line that goes into the channel tunnel and the new high speed lines to go anywhere. They have reached agreement with Heathrow Connects. It will all be tunneled (They are the same company that built the channel tunnel). It will be a large affair with twelve platforms etc. Covers Thorney Mill golf course, the gravel pits, Bardens, all houses on golf course and down to the canal. It could decrease the number of short haul and domestic flights. They hadn't really considered the interconnections with local roads etc. They were going to go and consider it. They are trying to get the plan more worked up by the end of the year. It depends on many things such as links with BAA, political environment etc. Will also be included as part of the Conservative Party White paper for their transport plans. When they have anything more concrete, they will come and talk to local residents. They invited all local councils to come and talk to them. South Bucks gave no response. Hillingdon & Slough have met with them. This could help to get planning for a back exit to Richings Park and may actually help the transport issues.

Cross rail: Graham got a notification that they wanted to encourage people to join mailing lists. Put RPRA on list. First message was re. Parking. There is no allowance for changing or providing parking anywhere within the Cross Rail plan.

### **NAG**

Reinventing the group again – now looking at speeding vehicles in Iver High Street.

### **LIBRARY TASK FORCE**

Fundraiser for this Friday had to be cancelled because advance interest was too low, so will plan another fundraiser. Books are now being cleared from Iver library. Glimmer of interest in discussing the possibility of linking with Iver Junior School as they need to extend hours as part of Extended Schools Scheme. Lottery scheme with bonus ball number could be put in place. Half funds to library and half to winner.

### **COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS**

Waste & Incinerators – development plan still being written. Bucks also have to purchase or build their own municipal waste facility. They are looking at an incinerator and have reduced it down to two potential bidders. The Richings Park site could potentially be a handling station. Next info will be sometime in December.

Contract for Highways is being re-let in terms of built environment that could all be amalgamated. Reduced to two potential contenders. Potential is that it will create streamlining and there will be more funding then for actual road repairs etc. Next April.

Green waste will not be collected as there is no facility to process at present.

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

Parish Meeting was well attended by Richings Park residents. Please attend next one in as many numbers as it does make an impression.

Wendy has completed forms for the traffic camera. District & County seem to be putting obstacles in the way i.e. must have permanent poles.

Village appraisal: c.2001 Parish undertook a village appraisal. Parish need to update it. Carnival was cancelled (where they were going to be handed out). Will circulate a few questionnaires around village to analyse results and see if residents still have the same concerns etc. Could we put it on the website?

### **TRAFFIC SUB COMMITTEE**

Community Speed Watch Kit arrived last week and training will take place at Wendy's house on Friday morning from 9.30am. Once trained, then the work can begin. Gets all information and then downloads information to police computer. Two warning letters sent out and then third, they will receive a visit from the police. Concern regarding the fact that we will not be able to record the motorcyclists who drive at ridiculous speeds down Thorney Mill Road.

Had a meeting with a representative from the County Council, he will hopefully take things forward. Already, something has been done - the thirty sign has been painted again and some roads cut back.

Mick Crowther's Book – needs to be tidied up, but almost there.

**AOB**

**GY:** request from Thames Water representative who would like some figures re. flies. Not many this summer, only twenty reports on websites which Graham has passed on.

Third Runway – resident asked why there was a bus paid for from resident's money to attend when some resident's want the business. GY explained that the understanding was from AGMs that residents were against and suggested he attend the next AGM.

Equality impact assessment on third runway consultation looking at how it affects the different ethnic groups and age groups within the area. Richings Park is mentioned as younger children over represented in the area could be affected by air pollution.

Gun shooting – Poynings & Ridings are getting pellets in gardens from shot guns – where do you go to regarding this – must be a police matter.

Kingfisher Gardens – ongoing expenses being paid for upkeep as original volunteers have both passed away. We don't pay for the upkeep of the garden on Bathurst Walk. Alan will see if he can find some volunteers. (Possibility of Bardens)

**AB:** Bardens meeting – vehicle daily movements have been published but they have only been counting those leaving, so not a correct count. Wendy will write to them re. the possibility of providing us with tarmac for the holes by the shops.

**AO:** Fly tipping at station. South Bucks have said they can't because it isn't highways land. Alan chased up and has been cleared.

**EW:** Problems with recycling material collection. Timetable printed wrong. Some boxes etc haven't been collected. May be a new crew or could be down to people confused over the incorrect timetable.

**TC:** Questions re payment for drinks. Don't have to be a member to drink here, but members of the sports club get a reduction.

Meeting closed 10.40pm.