



# RICHINGS PARK Residents' Association

## **RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on Tuesday 26th April 2022, 7.30 pm at Richings Sports Park**

*(KEY: BC Bucks Council; IPC Iver Parish Council; RPRA Richings Park Residents' Association; RPVAG Richings Park Village Action Group); WRATH Western Rail Approach to Heathrow; Q Questions from the floor*

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Graham Young (Chair), Ged Weston (Vice chair), Shantanu Tandon (Treasurer) Stafford Salt, Helen Pennie, Nick Jones, Jim Skinner, Arun Gaur, Kam Patel, Kavita Devi, Maureen Atkinson, Gurmail Dokal, Tina Heath, Cllr Wendy Matthews, Joyce Young (Secretary)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Savi Aurora (Smartville) Heather Harper, approximately 25 residents and members of the Residents' Association, Representatives from SEGRO regarding proposed Data Centre on Thorney Business Park.

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None
- 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019:** The proposal to adopt the minutes of the last AGM, was put to the meeting.
- 3 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:** the minutes were agreed and signed off.  
Proposed: Stafford Salt, Seconded: Wendy Matthews
- 4 MATTERS ARISING:** The Chair told the meeting that since the last AGM, Maureen Worrall had passed away. Her valued and extensive contribution to RPRA and the local community was noted, she will be sadly missed. We did not mention Alan Barratt and the contribution he made !  
It was noted that minor Constitution changes had been made and the constitution had been updated.  
Heathrow airport expansion now seems unlikely. Regular meetings are held with Heathrow and the local community. Graham and Wendy attend these meetings on behalf of the RPRA. Information is fed back to the monthly meetings; minutes of these meetings can be found on the RPRA website.  
Iver Station car park. The proposed car park seems unlikely as the developer has pulled out; the parking restrictions are now in force.  
The new Unitary Authority has been established. We have three local County Councillors, Wendy Matthews, Louisa Sullivan and Paul Griffin.  
Industrial development. Ashville aggregates are still operating out of Link Park, although alternative proposals for the site are in motion. The first Data Centre proposal was turned down by the Council.

Thorney Park Lake infill seems to be on hold but if Heathrow expansion goes ahead then they will take precedence over the HS2 infill scheme.

Thorney Business Park – agenda item.

WRATH – this will not now happen in the foreseeable future

Further proposals for gravel extraction on another field next to CEMEX are in the pipeline.

Grundon energy for waste building. The move to another site will also now not go ahead.

MP – our MP Joy Morrissey is involved with the RPRA and the IPC on supporting local concerns and opposing issues.

## **5 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

All officers were willing to stand again. Stafford Salt proposed, and Wendy Matthews seconded the motion and all were elected.

The Chair introduced the Committee to the meeting. All committee members were in attendance. (Attached a list of committee members as of April 2022) All are volunteers, and the committee meets monthly at the Sports Club with a slot at the beginning of every meeting held for any representations from residents.

Shantanu has taken over the post of treasurer from Matthew McEvoy.

The subs we collect help us to do more with our voice when planning disputes are held.

A continued thanks to those who pay, which has continued to increase with a larger number now paying by Pay Pal.

We published a 'Living life in Richings Park' booklet last year which we hope to repeat.

The web site is managed by Arun Gaur who is our media member of the committee.

All members of the committee were willing to stand again, and this was proposed by Stafford Salt and seconded by Wendy Matthews.

Loiuse Stevens offered to take on the role of steward for Bathurst Walk East. This means all roads now have a steward with Wellesley having two new stewards, Kam Patel and Kavita Devi. Syke Cluan also has a new steward in Gurmail Dokal. All others are long standing members of the committee.

## **6 POLICE REPORT** Unfortunately the police were on a shout and couldn't attend.

## **7 SMARTVILLE** Savi Aurora gave a presentation about SMARTVILLE and how it worked in helping to catch criminals engaged in illegal activities in Richings Park. SMARTVILLE RP has just been awarded £5000 to support the work the volunteers do in monitoring the cameras at every entrance to the Park. The cheque was presented to Savi by the Chair

There are five cameras at the moment.

£9,000 has already been contributed to the scheme.

It is GDPR compliant.

The monitoring volunteer receives a crime No. from the police and the cameras monitor and tracks vehicles. Already prosecuted fly tipping and an abduction attempt.

Phase 2 will form an inner mesh with a thinner network in a smaller area which will make it easier to capture number plates.

Reports back quarterly. More cameras will be installed, and information is shared across other areas. They also work with Neighbourhood Watch. It is a pioneering approach first suggested by a visit to Ickenham where it has been working very successfully.

Q – where are the cameras? This cannot be divulged and only a few know where they are.

Savi asked if anyone wanted to help, they would be welcome, contact him at [cctv@richingspark.com](mailto:cctv@richingspark.com)

Estate agents have been approached but are disinclined to help.

Timetable – 3 to 5 months to spend the money.

Presentation will be put on the web site.

- 8 PRESENTATION BY SEGRO** Andrea, Dan and Colette from SEGRO are representing a bid to put a data centre on the site which is partly occupied by tenants on Thorney Business Park. These include Tomato plant, Cemex, Speedy Fuels, STS, Hire companies, etc.

All the land from the Canal south to the railway line and from Thorney Lane North at the East, to a point at the West where Dog Kennel Bridge crossed the canal is all owned by the same company. This is now called Thorney Business Park Limited Liability Partnership (this is assuming they have other partners now) Previously called Stepp properties who proposed Richings Park Garden Village north as a development.

SEGRO have sent leaflets to all in Richings Park about the proposal. This includes a diagram of where they plan to develop, although it was noted that it is very difficult to see where that is.

The proposal is the regeneration of the Business Park using the Real Estate Investment Trust as the funding body. They own Slough Estates as well as other large industrial sites.

It is a hybrid plan. The proposal is for a data centre on the south west of the site with a proposed expansion of two more data centres in phase two. These will run concurrently with planning permission being sought for all three.

They said there would be a significant reduction in HGV movements.

Thorney Lane North would have improved road access. All access will need improvement.

Why a data centre? Need for more interconnection and it will take some of the extra demand needed.

They will significantly improve the Canal side. (Will there be public access to this?)

It will be a corporate framework with a community improvement plan. They aim to work with local schools, Groundwork Trust and consider biodiversity and environmental aspects. There will be jobs in the construction phase, and they want to fill these locally. There will be 300 jobs on site but realistically these will not be local jobs as it will be a secure site with staff with specific qualifications which may not be met locally. They would like to upskill local staff. They also have links with the Colne Valley Park.

Q There seems to be a lot of interest in Data Centres, Link Park Palmers Moor, Iver Heath – why here?

*It isn't Green Belt, there is a large demand for them.*

Q What is the time frame re reduction in HGV movements, modelling of movements etc?

*First phase is 18 months and second phase 12 months after. It will include all developments (canal etc) Traffic modelling, now it is 550 HGVs a day with a reduction to 500. All plans will be submitted together, with the detail in the first phase and then phase two if they get an agreement in principle.*

Q Will it be environmentally friendly?

*Aim to be carbon neutral. Centres do use a lot of energy but will use renewable resources.*

Q What about vehicle movements? How many cars will use the site?

*Unknown but hopefully not more than 300.*

Q What noise impact will there be?

*It may be noisy. Use air cooled units.*

Q Your assumption is that most of the businesses on Thorney Park will move out, what if they don't? Where do they go? Will it then be a double whammy of a data centre PLUS the HGV movements we get now? When will you know who is moving out? This needs to be known before any planning application goes in.

*They don't yet know who is moving out. They will look into it.*

Q We need a diagram of what is moving out and when, how it is now and how it will be. An aerial diagram will help.

*They will share an aerial diagram.*

*Main areas they want to address are education and employment, the environment, and the local economy.*

Q How much are you likely to put aside for local projects and support?

*Probably around £50,000 to £80,000 a year for the community. It needs to be meaningful.*

Q What if you don't have the internet? How do I access this information?

*They will hold a local exhibition, probably at the Sports club.*

*They aim to have a travel plan, cycle lanes, links to the station.*

They promised to update the brochure with a clearer plan and get in touch with Graham to arrange a demonstration exhibition at the Sports Club.

Preferably before they apply for planning permission.

- 9 STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS:** Shantanu took over and discussed the RPR Annual Accounts April 2021 – 2022. He reported that there had been a slight increase in subscriptions especially those who pay with Pay Pal as these carry forward to the next year payments unless you stop it. He explained the income and expenditure which shows we are in credit this year. The large printing and stationery amount was the printing of the Loving Life in Richings Park booklet. Kingfisher Garden and the Residents Garden have no cost as they are being maintained by the Heathrow Rangers. The company is paid by Heathrow.
- The accounts were agreed and adopted. Stafford nominated and Wendy seconded.

**10 QUESTIONS ON PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:**

Report on County Council:

There has been drain clearance on Thorney Lane South and at the shops.

Q A resident of Thorney Lane South said that there was still flooding as the drain all led back to a drain at the back of Somerset Way. Wendy said that she was sure it had been done but would check this.

**11 CENTENARY PLANNING**

Ged informed the meeting that the inauguration of Richings Park was 100 years ago and that there were plans to celebrate this with a number of events in the Park. A small committee has been working on this.

The first event on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>, to which our MP has been invited, will be a display of photographs, maps and other memorabilia over the last 100 years in the Sports Club. This will stay there for the rest of the year until October 2023. Residents will be invited to this.

There will be a Murder Mystery gala evening on Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> with a local theme and a 1920s themed meal.

A Richings Christmas Centenary special for the children 4<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Quiz night in February 2023

Richings Park Sports day June 2023

Food festival grand finale Sept 2023. We hope to invite another MP, Dominic Rabb who went to the playgroup in Richings Park.

Centenary trees

Hoping to also republish Living life in Richings Park with a Centenary issue.

When all the dates are firmed up then a leaflet will be sent out to everyone.

**11 GENERAL QUESTIONS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were none

The Chair thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.