

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Wednesday 2nd August 2023 7.30PM
Richings Sports Park

(KEY: BC: Bucks Council; IPC: Iver Parish Council; RPSC: Richings Park Sports Club; RPRA: Richings Park Residents' Association; IGNS: Iver Good Neighbour Scheme)

PRESENT: Cllr. Graham Young (Chair), Cllr. Wendy Matthews (IPC, BC), Joyce Young (Minutes), Nick Jones, Tina Heath, Julia Hill, Jim Skinner, Helen Pennie

APOLOGIES, Kam Khatker, Ged Weston (Vice Chair) Shantanu Tandon, Arun Gaur, Kavita Deva

NON-ATTENDEES: Gurmail Dhokal, Sue Barber, Maureen Atkinson, Kam Patel, Rav Hayer,

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes were agreed as accurate and were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

All areas are on the agenda.

Smartville

The police (PCSO Fisher) said he could attend a Smartville presentation on Tuesday the 26th Sept at the Sports Club. This is now a confirmed date. To be advertised locally.

Graham and Wendy have met and done the Community Board bid. Tried to speak to Makyla about it but not been able to get hold of her. Hopefully he will speak to Ani before the bid is submitted.

Total bid was £13,140, but the application was for £6,570. Match funding includes £3,200 – cost of the web site and £3,500 crowd funding. Hopefully funds will also be raised at the Smartville meeting.

Heathrow

Noise forum recently attended by Wendy and Graham. Mostly concentrated on the semantics of the word 'respite' which is the scheduled relief of noise, either by amount or time. Night is defined as 5 hours between 11.30pm and 4.30am. Scheduled night flights are not included in this, as scheduled flights start to arrive from 4.30am or leave until 12.30am, other late running flights. Flights are called 'dispensed' flights (resulting from either delayed, weather affected or air traffic issues) This means that the description "nights without flights" is very misleading as the scheduled flights do not count. Heathrow is at last beginning to note that noise can also affect health and have now invited the Health Security Agency and Dept Health to the meetings.

Local Focus Forum – mainly concerned over parking, 'meet and greet' and how ULEZ will affect staff. Heathrow want to build a car park at Colnbrook to ferry staff to work but Colnbrook are not happy about it. They need planning permission from Slough.

The Air Quality Commission events did not include Iver parish but did include other areas further afield as we are not directly under the flight path. They have been informed that Iver needs to be included but we are waiting to see if this happens.

Air Space modernisation is still a vague map so we can't see where the flight paths are.

Highways update, verges, pavements and roads

The local area Air Quality and HGV groups have now combined and are meeting next week at the Iver Hub. Julia would like to replace Stafford. Joyce will contact Ani.

Roads flooded at the top of Wellesley and Bathurst – Wendy has arranged for a Jet stream cleaner to do the drain again after the Super sucker couldn't do much as the drains are old and narrow.

Please continue to report problems on Fix My Street frequently to increase the chance of action being taken.

Kingfisher Gardens / Gardening team

As notified after the meeting last time, Bucks Council will not fund the clearance as they say the water hemlock is everywhere and will be a nonstop job. Graham wrote to a number of people of influence – Councillors, Colne Valley etc. about the fact that the land belongs to Bucks Council and because of the lack of funds to clear the hemlock we are very close to handing back the garden to them as it has taken a lot of time and effort to get it to where it is today (or was before we locked the gates!)

Colne Valley are recruiting Rangers and would not like us to hand the management of the land back, as evidence of water vole was found there.

Joyce has had a frustrating time trying to contact anyone at the Community Board. Aniqah Sultan (Manager of the Community Board) was on holiday and her boss wasn't returning calls. After we originally talked to them about the bid, the impression we got then was that unless we found more match funding, we would not get the bid through to final committee agreement. They want 50% match funding which we can't raise, as the two companies we approached said it was not in their remit to cover. The chair and manager of the Community Board were willing to meet with me to explain why this was likely to happen, but it was dependent on Wendy meeting with Trevor (the chair) at the garden and this has been delayed by him as he then wanted a Bucks officer to go with him.

So, we have been at a standstill for over a month. Meanwhile the grass and hemlock grow ever higher.

Joyce spoke to Ani today about the garden and she now understands we are unlikely to find match funding (The Residents Association could contribute some funds – suggested amount was £500, but as the land is owned by Bucks Council it was felt we shouldn't offer more than that)

We need to approve that at a further meeting if the bid does go ahead.

She is willing to see if any other funder can be found (she emailed later to say she has an appointment with the Rothschild foundation next Wed)

She finally started to realise about the implications if anyone climbed over the fence and were badly affected by the weed. This would then be Bucks Council responsibility.

Let's hope we can get this moving again.

Gardening team. Rota is a bit thin for this weekend. They have bought some stakes for trees, but some are dying – the one by the Tower Arms and another one, both can be replaced by the trees we are getting from the Woodlan Trust in November.

Residents Garden is still being used by local families, but they need to be reminded to move the Wendy house regularly as the grass will die underneath it, perhaps Shantanu can let the family know? A BBQ has appeared with charcoal which cant be used as it makes the area into an amenity. Someone has mentioned it to Kam as she knows where it has come from.

ACTION Shantanu/ Kam

Littering is still bad under the benches which need to be moved ASAP. Graham will remind parish team.

ACTION Graham

Events team / Centenary / World Food day

Centenary Quilt

Joyce and about 5 others are involved in helping Lynne Brown to do a Richings Park Centenary quilt. However, it is mainly Lynne's work and although we have contributed a little, most of the work has been done by Lynne who is an experienced quilter and it was her idea. It comprises of pictures of the designs of houses which have been painted and stitched onto, in the centre will be the RP



Residents leaf logo (in the centre of the Centenary logo) logo, the Elizabeth line logo, A Dalek and the Sports Club logo.

and at each corner; the GWR

The committee discussed how the community could be more involved. Joyce has already spoke to Lynne, but she was not keen on adding any other involvement at this time. In hindsight perhaps Joyce should have let others know about it before now, but the group seemed big enough and it may have been difficult for more to be involved.

However, Joyce will speak to Lynne again about perhaps publicising it now, by a Face book page with progress made and perhaps an interview with Lynne about her idea. Perhaps some fun facts – how long each panel took to make, how much material was used, etc etc.

Lynne will be asked if she can attend a meeting in September to tell us about then work that has already gone into it. Joyce will invite her.

ACTION Joyce

Date of unveiling to be Friday November 3rd end of Centenary year celebrations. Possibly invite a member of the Syles family?

Event details to be confirmed and advertising it to be agreed at next meeting.

To be sited on the stairs in the Sports Club, where it can be seen, but is too high for damage to happen. It will be covered by a Perspex screen.

Food festival

There have been a couple of meetings of the Centenary planning group; one with Arun and Amarjit and one with Amarjit alone, but as Arun wasn't at the meeting (he said he would send an update the following day if we wanted one) we weren't sure exactly what the full status of the event was. A What's app group has been set up about it for volunteers but left off Wendy and Tina who are in the group.

Some things are uncertain. Has funding been obtained?

Are they still booking tables and chairs?

Flag hunt – Kam seems to be organising it.

Raffle – have they got donations?

There are two Food rescue stalls, Amarjit thought one would be enough, has this been resolved?

Volunteers are needed – this info went out on the What's App group today but only Graham, Julia and Joyce had seen it. Joyce asked members of the committee to let Arun know when they were available.

Fliers will be available after this weekend – Joyce will send out a message tomorrow to see who can do what streets and where there are gaps. Arun will do the missing ones.

Treasurers and membership report

Shantanu wasn't at the meeting so no new information.

Planning and enforcement

Graham has met with the Spiritual Hub about the parking and the wall. The wall is now being built. They admitted the parking was bad but said that 80% would respect parking properly and the other 20% would still park badly!

They will traffic cone it off to stop poor parking (perhaps just on one side?) and let Nick know when the next event is. They also need to monitor and patrol it.

The building at the rear of no 23 North Park is an open sided gazebo type structure but it is over the boundary – this will be changed.

They have written a petition to some members of the government as well as the planning department about allowing them to park on the field, but Wendy is sure they won't be allowed to park there.

Graham wrote to Martin Tett about the invasion of the Green Belt locally and that Bucks need a plan to manage this, so it doesn't all happen all at the same time to the same area, where the cumulative effect is worse. He received a response and replied again but hasn't heard back. He is meeting with Stuart Pomeroy of Colne Valley to discuss this. They would like Colne Valley to be a protected area so it gets better protection from planning applications.

Enforcement stands against Mercers Farm of Thorney Mill Road, Jim noted activity of vehicles moving about and Wendy said he should report it.

ACTION Jim

Link Park – the planning inspectorate are challenging the High Court decision, so it will now go to the Court of Appeal. It is on the market for 45 million. They have also been told that there is no access to extra power in the short term.

There is a plan to build a new electricity substation, but this will take a few years to come to fruition. The transformer is being moved this Sunday the 6th August.

Parish and Unitary council updates

Parish is looking at hybrid meetings so members of the public can attend but no decision has been made yet as to what system to use.

The pathway from Pinewood to the station as part of Active travel is in the planning stages.

The foot path from Iver to the station should be done this July and August – it's now August so obviously late. Capital contractors are doing it.

Wendy will find out more information as to how it will look.

ACTION Wendy

Resurfacing at the Ridgeway entrance, as the tarmac melts in hot weather, is going ahead at night this week.

Iver lane will be closed overnight next week for gas work.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5th September at 7.30pm at the Sports Club.

Around the table

Bollards for around the shops have been ordered by the last LAT (Local Area Technician) and delivered somewhere, but no one knows where they are, Wendy is chasing.

Flooding at the shops has been reported by a number of people on Fix my street.

Bucks will not allow ULEZ signs on the Bucks side of the border with Hillingdon.

The chemist has noticed increased footfall since the motorbike shop closed.

The bike man is still delivering bikes there occasionally and Tina noted that some bikes may be being stored at a house near to her. This may need to be reported to enforcement.

Tyres are still behind the shop.

Ownership of the bottom of Old Slade Lane – National Highways own a section of the road halfway down the houses. Slough Council are responsible for the surface of the bridge, Bucks are responsible for a small part near the bridge. National Highways are responsible for the culvert that crosses the field and under the road and houses.

Some parts are called 'private means of access' and it is unclear what it means.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm