

**RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 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), Tina Heath, Julia Hill, Helen Pennie, Jim Skinner.  
Tony Hill – Smartville

**APOLOGIES,** Ged Weston (Vice Chair), Nick Jones, Shantanu Tandon, Gurmail Dhokal, Kam Khatker, Kavita Deva, Kam Patel

**NON-ATTENDEES:** Sue Barber, Maureen Atkinson, Rav Hayer, Arun Gaur.

Tony Hill attended the meeting to give us an update on Smartville so we took that item first. The launch was poorly attended, around 15 in total. Seemed a poor response when there seems to be a lot of crime in the Iver area but perhaps it would have been higher with a few more high-profile burglaries or thefts in Richings Park. With the darker nights these can only increase. Tony will discuss with Dr Savi and will put together something - video / leaflet for social media about what we are trying to; that is, extend the camera sites to ensure it covers all the exit points with a link to the just giving page. **ACTION Tony**

We did not get a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner fund.

We have had a grant from IPC for £500 and there is a bid into the Community board which seems to be going ahead when we provide some more information – policies for Health and Safety, Data Protection, Safeguarding and Equality which Graham and Joyce are working on. These do seem to be a tick box exercise but could be useful for us as a Residents Association. We will get them approved by the committee.

Does anyone have any ideas for fund raising? We do have a Just Giving page and will use the social media video to promote it. Web site is [www.smartville.info](http://www.smartville.info) which links to the Just Giving page with a total so far of zero towards the £5,000 target.

Tony will also do a PDF leaflet which he will send to Joyce and we can put that onto the RP Whats app page. **ACTION Tony**

Discussion on whether it should be a charity and Janet Quinn is looking into this. The Ivers Good Neighbour Scheme is registered with HMRC which may be the way forward as they need less detailed information than the Charity Commission. Graham will investigate that. **ACTION Graham**

A camera could be useful to identify the vehicles that have knocked down the bollards at the shops, but we may not be able to do much if they are foreign trucks.

No further response from the Golf club who continue to be targeted by thieves in their car park. May need to talk to them again, although they didn't respond to Tony when he contacted them.

Comment made by a committee member about the use of the Residents Garden. How did the use of the garden and the playhouse and slide come about? One family live above the shops and have no garden and others come from Union House on the Ridgeway which also has little outdoor space. We agreed at the last meeting that they could continue to use the garden with the play equipment if it was regularly moved to allow the grass to grow. The users have been notified of this.

However, it appears that when the family have been using the garden, others have not been able to gain access.

The committee were concerned about this as it was not the intention of allowing them to put the playhouse, slide and sand pit there for the sole use of their family.

Graham will ask Shantanu to arrange a meeting with the family to discuss this further.

We also need to investigate our responsibilities as to what happens if there is an accident.

We have general liability insurance but we need to see if there should be signs about the use of play equipment, or if we should even allow play equipment to be on the garden unless supplied by us. Joyce will look into this. **ACTION Joyce/ Graham**

No movement yet on the moving of the bench and there is confusion about this and a buddy bench with the parish officials, Graham will clarify.  
We need a new dog fouling sign; Joyce will look into this.

**ACTION Graham**  
**ACTION Joyce**

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes were agreed as accurate and were approved.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

The BBQ has gone and only a small slide remains.

Need to look again at our risk assessments and insurance before any other events.

**ACTION Graham**

The three Residents Associations have discussed the Community Board and there are concerns about finding matched funding by all three RAs.

### **Centenary Events**

Invites to local residents who have a connection to the Park, as well as quilters and a couple of Women's Institute ladies have started to go out for the **Centenary Quilt** event and some have already replied. We have about 6 Eventbrite tickets booked.

Date is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 6.30 pm to 8.30pm.

Cava will be bought (no corkage) as a welcome drink and Mick is providing nibbles. Perhaps check nearer the time that we don't need to buy anything. Lynnes's husband will put the quilt up on the wall in the bar, but it may not have the permanent frame as this may not be ready in time.

More invites still to go out, so we will probably get about 40 responses.

Graham will unveil the quilt as the final event of the Centenary year.

We are on track to get to 50 or a few more as we expect most of the RPR committee and partners will attend. We need to know who is going to come so please let Joyce know how many of you are attending. We won't push the adverts.

**ACTION All**

**Richings Sparkle** – The Heathrow Rangers did a good job around the shops recently so that area is looking better, and they tidied up the tubs. The fallen bollards are still an eyesore and need regular reporting on Fix my street, so the job gets done. Bricks are also lifting where tree roots encroach the path and are a trip hazard – also to be reported on Fix My Street.

Hence, we will push the next major tidy up to Spring when the Annual Litter pick takes place. It was noted that the roads inside the park are generally not too bad but the main roads around are very littered. Someone appears to be collecting rubbish and leaving bags by the litter bins – these are collected by the waste people, no one is sure who.

### **Richings Christmas (Children's Christmas party)**

Kam let us know that she had cancelled the date set for the party as so few volunteers had come forward. The committee felt that we had enough interest among committee members and that it was a very important part of our calendar that we should make sure it happened.

We were the largest collector of presents for needy children across all of Bucks for the Bucks appeal. We can't let that go.

It may not be as big an event as in the past but it should still go ahead.

Volunteers include – Wendy, Tina, Jean, Helen, Arun, possibly Julia and Graham and Joyce (who can't be there on the day) We need to advertise widely for more and consult with Kam and the Events team as to how we can go forward.

Graham asked if the hall was free on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> which it was, but Graham will speak to Mick for other possible dates after he has discussed this with Kam (who couldn't attend the meeting).

Wendy said that the man who was Father Christmas is the person who takes the presents back to Aylesbury so we need to speak to him to see if he is free as soon as we have a confirmed date.

### **Heathrow**

Graham and Wendy attended a meeting of the Heathrow Noise and Air space forum with the Civil Aviation Authority, UK Health Security and Dept for Transport with the discussion focussing on health and the balance of health against the airport requirements.

The air space modernisation is looking as if it will have to go back to the Government as different airports were interpreting it in differing ways and it would cause problems to a cohesive approach. Night flights are being debated this month.

The Local Focus Forum is concentrating on the rogue Meet and Greet companies and are looking at how Gatwick manage this. Heathrow now realise they must do something to control this. The proposed parking for staff to avoid ULEZ payments in Colnbrook has now been dropped and bussing staff in will be looked at instead.

### **Highways update, verges, pavements and roads**

The traffic surveys have now been published but it will take some time to analyse these. Wendy has the counting loop data which also needs interpreting. It needs to consider the impact of a width restriction on Thorney Lane South. There has been an increase in traffic since ULEZ came into force.

The drains at the top of Wellesley have been inspected, and roots cut but it has now gone to the capital drainage team as they may need to replace a proportion of the drain at the crossing with Bathurst Walk. No time scale for this.

Syke Ings and Syke Cluan are now on the long list for resurfacing, but this will probably not be until 2025/6. Pavements on Bathurst are also now on the list to be resurfaced.

Thorney Mill Road is seen as a strategic road and that is looked after by Bucks Council. No time scale for resurfacing. Jim noted the pavements were in a poor state. Fix my Street – as many committee members to report as possible.

**ACTION AII**

Verges are being churned up by builders especially since the parking restrictions and any obstruction should be reported to the police – need to be able to get a wheelchair or a buggy past. Note to all – any building going on in your road, please take before and after pictures and report to the Council if left in a poor state. It is unfortunately, not a planning condition.

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

### **Kingfisher Gardens / Gardening team**

Kingfisher gardens is still at a standstill. The Chair of the Community Board Trevor Egleton was due to meet Wendy, Arif Hussein (Cabinet member in charge of the community board) and a representative from the parks division tomorrow. Joyce has not been invited.

She has so far had no response from Arif Hussain about her concerns about finding match funding and the turning down of the gardens for a grant. A decision seen to have been taken by the Chair alone. There is a Community Board meeting next week and she will consider how to broach it at that meeting.

Last cut of the grass for this season was last week, although thin on the ground there are still a couple of volunteers who take this on, and they have our thanks for doing it. One of the trees at the end of Bathurst has been vandalised but it may grow back.

The free Woodland Trust saplings will be coming early in November and Joyce will pass to Helen and Neil and hopefully they will find places where we can put them. There are 13 small trees, mainly of the woodland variety.

### **Treasurers and membership report**

Shantanu sent around membership figures but it appears it may be inaccurate so he will check and send again.

### **Planning and enforcement**

End of St James Walk house with extras proposed, house was approved but the extras were not. Fourells Paddock have put in an appeal. Graham will represent the IPC although he feels the planners will approve it despite being on Green Belt.

There is no negotiation at an appeal so if any changes were needed – i.e. to make it a smaller development, it would have to go back to the beginning and redrawn which is seen as unlikely. We don't know what type of appeal hearing it may be.

Everyone is aware of the planned Motorway Service Area (MSA) at Iver Heath and the disposal of land by Bucks Council to enable this to happen. It was noted that Trevor Egleton who represents Wood Lane and Shredding Green in Iver at Bucks unitary voted for the proposal at the Strategic Sites committee which then approved it.

Letters to be written to Michael Gove to oppose this by 31<sup>st</sup> October. More information available on the web site as well as on social media and the IPC.

### **Parish and Unitary council updates**

We discussed the switching on of the lights in Iver as there was a meeting on the same night to discuss what Residents Associations could do to help. It was felt that there is no energy to get involved in that if we are working on Richings Christmas but perhaps we could have a sing along with carols outside the shops just before Christmas – to be discussed at the next meeting. Richings Park will definitely have Christmas lights, although Wendy is unsure if they will be in Iver and Iver Heath.

ANPR cameras will be installed soon at both ends of Bangors Road South and North to monitor the weight restriction and will automatically issue fines to offending vehicles.

IPC will be looking at the precept next month but as the four-year fixed term energy contracts are now finished there will be large price increases. Also, larger staff costs.

### **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at the Sports Club.

### **Around the table**

Court Lane Data Centre has been refused as it is overdevelopment of the Green Belt (not a blade of grass to be seen) Very tall structure was a factor as well.

Link Park – the Planning Inspectorate has been refused leave to appeal the High Court decision and the appeal process need to start again. The land is for sale.

Woodlands Park is still with Michael Gove.

Ridgeway – the Amazon site is not on Green belt so may be approved.

Thorney Business Park have applied to demolish the whole site with plans for a Data Centre, housing, and a car park for Iver station. The IPC is appealing to Bucks that haulage of material from the site does not impinge solely on Richings Park.

Speed limits from 40 to 30 on Thorney Park South from the Ridgeway to the Tower Arms was agreed over a year ago but yet no signs have been changed and the Council does not appear in a hurry to do this. Please report on Fix My Street.

Question asked about our links with Colnbrook as the original Richings Park estate extended to Colnbrook. We have no formal links with them. Julia noted that there is a lovely local museum behind the George pub.

**Thorney Park**

Following the decision by Bucks Council to dispose of the Green belt land for the MSA and that they may set their sights on Thorney Park next, should we be considering making it a Community Asset? Agenda item for next meeting and possibly invite the anglers to discuss it with us.

St Leonard's mound is unused and overgrown – how do we want it to be used.  
Also, an agenda item for the next meeting.

**ACTION Chair**

Meeting closed at 9.10pm