

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Wednesday 17th January 2024 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), Julia Hill, Helen Pennie, Nick Jones, Ged Weston (Vice Chair), Jim Skinner, Shantanu Tandon, Kam Khatker, Kavita Deva, Will Goddard

APOLOGIES, Tina Heath, Arun Gaur

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

WELCOME Will Goddard attended the meeting as a prospective steward for Bathurst East.

Introductions were made and he was welcomed to the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes were agreed as accurate and were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising are on the agenda.

Smartville

A charity subset of the Residents Association is unlikely as the RPRA is not a charity as it is seen as a campaigning organisation.

Ani from the Community Board has been in touch with Graham, and it now appears that it is now not their policy to fund CCTV cameras despite them having funded them in the past to the Parish and in other areas of Bucks. Graham has a chance to talk to Councillor Arif Hussain who oversees the Community board at a Teams meeting on the 30th January when Arif is talking to Joyce about Kingfisher Gardens.

Graham has a meeting on the 25th January with Iver and Iver Heath Residents Associations about all the Res Ass's concern with the way the Community board is allocating funds. It appears that very little has been spent of the £90,000 allocation. These grants should be localised and targeted funding, but the system is becoming more bureaucratic and has to pass through a higher Funding forum before being agreed. All our local Parish Councils have concerns about this.

The Police and Crimes Commission allocate grants from money collected from the proceeds of crime. There is another round of funding available now which Graham has applied for. We have previously received £5,000 from this fund at the startup of Smartville.

Graham will also apply to Heathrow.

There have been £200 personal donations as of yesterday. £500 from IPC. We need a post from Tony that we can circulate on our street Whatsapp groups to seek contributions

Heathrow

Local Focus Forum – this is mainly looking at illegal Meet and Greet companies. There are a number in our area.

Noted that the entrance to Thorney Park, by the Tower Arms and St Leonards walk still have HGV parking issues. Sutton Lane, some roads in the Park and Bathurst West have had long term car parking with a number of parking tickets on them.

Noise forum – Still looking at air space changes and Heathrow have been stopped progressing to the next step as there has been little consultation.

Third runway – this is still an unknown and any time there is uncertainty, all plans stop. There are new owners of Heathrow. All passengers in transit will soon have to get an e-visa and this may prevent some passengers using Heathrow as a hub.

Night flight consultation starting soon – Wendy will advise us when and we should let Whats app groups know.

ACTION Wendy

Highways update, verges, pavements and roads

Work starting on the Thorney Lane footpath next week for a month. Drainage will be a big part of this as the owners of Thorney Business Park have blocked the ditches. It will be traffic light controlled but not have a raised path as this is too expensive.

Discussion on the new 30mph speed limit along Thorney Lane South and signage. A working party will look at this.

Working party Members, Ged (lead) Nick, Helen, Joyce Ged to convene.

Kingfisher Gardens / St Leonards Mound / Residents Garden

As mentioned previously, Joyce and Graham are meeting Cllr Arif Hussain.

St Leonards Mound – This land is owned by IPC and they will be cutting down the approx. 30 dead trees (mainly Ash) in Spring. This will open up the space. IPC have asked RPRA what we think they should do with it.

At present it is being used as a toilet by itinerants who are also sleeping there.

Committee members said that it would be nice to have a view of St Leonards chapel, the area could be used as a wildlife habitat or a space for families / the children at the nursery in the hall to use.

Possibly an adult gym? Use by the Scouts?

Perhaps speak to Colne Valley.

ACTION Graham

Survey-monkey residents?

Negatives – it is very close to a VERY busy and fast road. Risk assessments would be needed. May not be safe. We don't know if it will encourage the itinerants to move in permanently.

Lyndsey Beagle, who lives on St Leonards Way is very concerned about this and has still to receive a response from IPC about her concerns.

ACTION Wendy will speak to the clerk.

We need to have some ideas, but it may be best to see what the site looks like when it has been cleared.

Agenda item for next meeting.

The Residents Garden is being used as a chatting place for DPD drivers who are also using the place as a toilet. This needs to be discouraged and the bench removed. This is on our agenda but has been delayed and needs urgent action. **ACTION Graham (PC have confirmed that they will not undertake this, RPRA need to arrange)**

Gardening team – need more volunteers.

Treasurers and membership report

Membership – Joyce has taken this on as part of her secretary role and will manage the PayPal payments and update the spreadsheet.

Current membership is 245 paid up members. We had a flurry over Christmas and all PayPal payments are recurring.

Currently, 125 PayPal, 91 cash, 27 DDs and 2 cheques.

Finances

We have two bank accounts, the first is a deposit account with around £4,750 and a current account with £2,000 in it.

There are 3 other bank accounts which have a link to the resident's association. One is holding sums from events and playground fund raising, this is intended to continue to support events that may need money support as well as promoting the use of, signage for and developing the use of the playground. IPC pays for the maintenance of the playground.

A small one holds £500 which is used by the gardening team for equipment.

Another holds Smartville grants and contributions.

Our regular payments include; insurance, the web site, stationery, printing and publicity. These are funded from subscriptions.

Possible extra funds will be needed for any extra liability insurance we should have for the use of the Residents Garden. Although we do not own it, it was given in trust to the Residents Association and there are a couple of trustees who are responsible for it. Nick Jones is one and Mark Wynn is the other trustee.

Similarly, we do not own Kingfisher Gardens, as Bucks still own this land, although it was passed to the Residents Association to manage it. It is unknown if we would have responsibility for personal accident liability for the garden.

This avenue is being explored as to our responsibilities for liability for these as well as events we hold by Graham. Hopefully he will get a final answer soon.

ACTION Graham

Should we talk to Jonathan Sykes? He indicated that he owned the road outside the railway station and would be happy to help us.

ACTION To be agreed

There was a discussion as to what projects would support the Community so that residents wanted to pay to be part of it? What do we want to achieve? How do we get people together?

We discussed signage for the resident's garden and the subgroup for highway signage was asked to discuss this as part of their brief. Interpretive boards for both gardens would be a useful addition.

Need to plan for some sort of presentation / working groups at the AGM. Come up with some projects and submit these to residents for opinions,

Working group to include Wendy (lead) Shantanu, Will and Kam.

Noted that we should thank Move Inn for their contribution of £100 for the use of fences to put up an advertising banner over Christmas. Graham has already written to thank them, we just needed to publicly acknowledge their contribution so we can go back and ask for more when we have something we want.

Events

Richings Christmas (Children's Christmas party)

This was a smaller but successful event with about 75 attendees as well as volunteers from the committee. There are a number of volunteers who are already happy to organise this year's event. The next one is on the Sunday of the first week in Dec – this is already booked.

Christmas carols at the shops.

This was a new event but had about 30 attendees. RPRA provided mulled wine and Costcutters the mince pies. It was well received and should be repeated but with an earlier planning time scale.

Summer Ball This was raised as an option for this year, and all were in favour of it.

Shantanu will investigate it. Possible dates – will have to be a Friday as Saturdays are always booked out.

ACTION Shantanu

Other ideas included;

Family friendly disco – to be discussed further.

Easter / Harvest celebration egg hunt at the Sports Club. – may be short time scale to do anything.

Easter is late March. Discuss at next meeting.

Agenda item

Race night

Litter picks – Richings Sparkle - This should be aligned to the Iver and Iver Heath ones already scheduled for Saturday 16th March. We have the equipment – Ged will check in the shed.

Graham will find out more and circulate info – Whats app advertising early March.

ACTION Graham/ Ged

Planning and enforcement

Local - Planning applied for a change of use to a flat behind Jam hairdressers.

Large Scale Fourells Paddock appeal was Jan 16th. IPC asked Graham to represent their views that it is Green Belt and should not be developed. Bucks supported this and Wendy also attended as a Bucks Cllr. Graham talked about the area being blighted by overdevelopment and that it is not acceptable development.

It was an unusual meeting where the views of Wendy and Graham were actively sought. A site visit was also arranged on that day. Julia attended and said it was worth going to one of these to see how the process worked.

The ruling will be a subjective opinion as how important is the green belt as opposed to increasing housing stock.

It was noted that the developers mention an excellent bus service – a ghostly Number 9 no-one has ever seen.

Horses were seen rather as an ornament to underpin their assertion that it was used by horses, as no feed or hay was noted as present.

The land is for sale and if the appeal gets approval then it will be sold to another developer who may have wholly different views of the density of homes or even providing any low cost housing.

MSA – documents can be read at IPC offices.

Ridgeway data centre. Waiting for Amazon to do something

Thorney Business Park. Demolition in progress and waiting for the outcome of the datacentre application. They are considering a car park north of the station which has TFL support. Access will be needed over the line.

Court Lane – appeal is expected.

Link Park – applied again using the old application for use of Ashville aggregates with no restrictions on use.

Parish and Unitary council updates

Neighbourhood Plan

Working group on this and revision in progress.

Vulnerable open spaces into a Community Asset, namely Kingfisher Garden and Thorney Park

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 6th March 7.30pm at the Sports Club.

Around the table

Rubbish at the end of Wellesley is causing issues as well as bins around Bathurst near the shops.

Mixed rubbish with recycling, although Paul Griffin has been helping with this.

Possible ANPR outside Costcutters – this is already a possibility.

Litter bin has disappeared on St Leonards Walk - need to email the clerk.

Issues with new build in Bathurst West blocking pavement with litter bins – Fix my street / obstruction?

Syke Ings and Bathurst on the Bucks list for pavements but no date as yet.

Vacancies on the Parish council – noted that if enough electors call for an election this will cost the parish £15,000.

Will agreed to become the steward for Bathurst East, he was welcomed to the committee.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm