



RICHINGS PARK Residents' Association

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on Tuesday 29th April 2025, 7.30 pm at Richings Sports Park

(**KEY:** RPRA Richings Park Residents' Association.)

PRESENT: Cllr. Graham Young (Chair), Ged Weston (Vice chair), Shantanu Tandon (Treasurer) Joyce Young (secretary and membership), Cllr Wendy Matthews, Helen Pennie, Jim Skinner, Tina Heath, Will Goddard, Amarjit Dhaliwal, Julia Hill.

IN ATTENDANCE: Approximately 60 residents

The chair introduced the committee and noted that we have no vacancy for any road stewards although we would like a steward for Wellesley Court flats if anyone would like to volunteer. The stewards distribute fliers and membership information as well as attend monthly committee meetings at the Sports Park.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Committee members -Nick Jones, Gurmail Dokal, Kam Khatker, Kam Patel, Sarah Wong, Maureen Atkinson.
Residents Daphne Wood

2 Minutes of the last meeting the minutes of the AGM in 2024 have been on the website. There have been no comments on that or any changes. These were adopted as being a true record. This was proposed by Paul Griffin and seconded by Will Goddard

3 Matters arising There are no matters arising.

4 Chairs report

The chair thanked Neil Pennie for organising the Gardening team and presented him with a gift for his work. He also thanked the committee for attending meetings during the year. Thanks were also expressed to Tony Hill for managing Smartville cameras which started in Richings Park. Also, thanks to all our wonderful volunteers - gardening team, litter pickers etc.

The chair mentioned all the things the RPRA takes a lead on during the year. These included:-

- Continuing to review and comment on planning applications both domestic and commercial
- Continue to represent Richings Park at the Wexham and Ivers Community board.
- Continue to attend meetings with CEMEX and North Park Quarry
- Events we have supported or initiated include the Iver Olympic picnic in summer of 2024, the children's Christmas party and collection of toys for local children, Carol singing at Costcutters (also supported by Costcutters with mince pies) Two litter picking

competitions. This year they won the most volunteers and the most enthusiastic litter picker trophies.

The ABBA dinner dance on June 28th at the Sports Club, which is being organised by Amarjit and Ged.

- We support semi-autonomous groups and provide a banking facility to; the Events team, the Gardening Team, Smartville and the Repair Café.

Will Goddard who initiated the Repair Café reported that the café has now had 4 successful events with an average of 18 bookings each event with 25 to 30 people through the doors. Plans for another in June with more to follow this year and it is now fully self-funded. Will thanked Deborah O'Sullivan for her help and support in providing refreshments and other members of the committee as organisers or technical support. You can find more info at www.repaircafeiver.uk

The Gardening team would like more volunteers if you can help. Contact any member of the committee.

Smartville has been run solely by Tony Hill but now needs more support in monitoring cameras and a few of the committee have volunteered to help.

- The Residents Garden, which is held in trust by the RPRA and was given to the group by Barclays Bank is maintained by the Heathrow Rangers who are funded by Heathrow airport. We have designed an interpretative board for the garden which has been funded by Heathrow and should be installed this summer.
- Kingfisher Gardens, owned by Bucks Council but managed by the RPRA is also maintained by the Heathrow Rangers. There was a difficulty last year where water hemlock was found by the stream that runs through it and, after having to close the garden for a long time as the weed is noxious, it has now been removed by Bucks Council and the garden is open again. We hope to have events at the garden as soon as possible. There will also be an interpretative board which is being designed which is also funded by Heathrow. Native Rowan and Maple trees have been planted along the verge by the Rangers.
- Other projects included.

Gigabyte Broadband survey. This was as a response to the fact that although Iver had new cables for high-speed broadband, both Richings Park and Iver Heath had been missed as the interpretation of 'Iver Parish' did not include the other two parts of the parish. This raised a lot of responses and Wendy has taken the results to Bucks Council who are looking at ways to improve our high-speed access. The Government has set up a new scheme we may benefit from.

Fly tipping behind the shops which was becoming a health issue. Some was taken away by a contractor we employed with a skip, but the rest was removed by the team working on the latest litter pick. We hope this will stay clear.

We are planning a book swap library based out of Lotus Back Care on Wellesley Ave by the station and is an initiative by Kam Khatker. This is still work in progress and we have also applied to Penguin books for a little book corner which would be waterproof and possible sited in the Residents Garden.

Trees have been purchased and planted where residents have promised to water them.
We may buy more trees in the future.

Membership report

We have already 148 paid up members with 65 being by PayPal and 89 paying cash. Last year we had 263 paying subscribers by the end of March 2025. There are 730 homes in Richings Park, so approximately 1/3 of residents are members.

Statement and adoption of accounts, paper copies were available at the meeting and the committee request that they be adopted.

Some costs are fixed – insurance and liability costs for events, public liability for the Residents Garden, the web site, PayPal subscriptions etc. One account is held for the gardening team and their costs can fluctuate if they need to replace machinery. One account has been built up from past events and will be ring fenced to a certain amount in case events need funds. One account is for Smartville costs. We funded the kick off funds for the Repair café, but this is now self-funding.

The trees were an initiative from last year's AGM and paid for from the left-over funds from the playground budget.

We are in a healthy financial position.

The proposal to adopt the accounts was proposed by Paul Griffin and seconded by Amarjit Dhaliwal. No objections. The accounts were adopted.

Noted that each road has one stewards with some longer ones having two, Kam Khatker looks after the local business interests.

Future projects

The residents were asked to propose anything they would like us to do to improve life in Richings Park. No plans were submitted at this time.

6. Parish and Unitary council. The Community Board is changing and now includes all the Chalfont Parishes as well as Wexham and the Ivers – a total of 18 parish councils with a reduced budget of £40,000. This will result in less money available to small charities and voluntary groups in the area, as the Community board has given the RPRA grants for things such as, the Christmas party, tree work in Kingfisher Garden and other initiatives we have no additional funds for. It is often easier to get a small grant under £1,000 as this requires no matched funding whereas for grants over £1,000, 50% must be matched funding.

10. Any Other Business.

The chair noted that the residents committee meeting had had two groups of residents come to a committee meeting concerned about their houses being included on the Bucks Heritage List. He said that this list was compiled by Bucks Council and is managed by them. He said that despite originally contacting Bucks after the first representation to the RPRA with no response from Bucks that he had finally contacted them, and a meeting had been arranged with the officers from Bucks and the residents for Monday 12th May at 7.30pm at the Sports Park.

Hopefully they would explain the reason for the addition of the houses to the list and how they can possibly be removed. In the meantime, Wendy suggested they should still contact the Council for FOI regarding how your house was added to the list and by whom and at what meeting it was agreed.

Many residents are very concerned about their inclusion in the list of 149 houses as it has resulted in lowering house prices and an inability to sell some houses. They were assured the RPRA would do their best to support and help them.

Post boxes – can we do anything about them? a resident posted something that didn't arrive – suggested she contacted Royal Mail.

Was Richings Park holding an Open gardens event this year? It was thought not, as it would have been advertised by now. Ged offered to ask the church what was happening, as they organise it.

Speeding – is still a concern around the perimeter road as well as within the park itself. Paul Griffin has organised a Speedwatch group where residents monitor speeds of cars (but only on the surrounding roads) with support from the police. Training is needed which is online until a few people are trained, then practical training is given. Issues are that the equipment may be broken, and he will check with the Parish Councillor who is responsible for this and possibly reconvene the Speedwatch group. Contact Paul Griffin if you are interested.

Potholes – still an issue across the park, although some roads (and possibly pavements) are scheduled for resurfacing. Fix my Street is the first contact and copy in Wendy or Paul if nothing happens.

Bollards – The bollards on Richings Way are filthy and not doing their purpose, and despite reporting on Fix my Street nothing has been done about them. Previous attempts to clean them were unsuccessful as they are very scratched.

Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HOMO) – This is an issue where many people are staying in one house and needs enforcement. A licence is needed, contact your local councillors if you have any concerns.

There being no other questions, the Chair thanked everyone for coming.
Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Web site www.richingspark.com

Contacts chairman@richingspark.com
treasurer@richingspark.com
secretary@richingspark.com