

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday 23rd June 2025 7.30PM
Chair's house

(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), Jim Skinner, Helen Pennie, Amarjit Dhaliwal, Tina Heath, Shantanu Tandon,

APOLOGIES, Julia Hill, Will Goddard, Ged Weston (Vice Chair), Nick Jones, Kam Khatker, Gurmail Dhokal, Sarah Wong

NON-ATTENDEES Maureen Atkinson, Rav Hayer, Kam Patel

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Graham was nominated and seconded as Chair, this was approved
Helen was nominated and seconded as Vice Chair, this was approved
Shantanu was nominated and seconded as Treasurer, this was approved
Joyce was nominated and seconded as Secretary, this was approved.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes were agreed as accurate and were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Heritage listing

The meeting with Bucks officers was well attended with around 70 people.

The officer from Bucks said that the one criteria for the listing of the houses in Richings Park was the technology, i.e. they were made of clay pots which was 'worthy of preservation'. This was discussed, as it is a poor insulating material and not fit for modern day houses. The attendees were advised to get independent assessments from a building surveyor and take that to planning as reason for development. The other reason was that there was one architect, and they were built to a style that was repeated across the Park. The houses were chosen by volunteers from Bucks Council visiting Richings Park to choose the houses and each house had a criterion that made it be added to the listing. A panel of experts made the final decision, but there have been no minutes released from these meetings of why each house was chosen when the neighbouring property may not be listed.

Some heritage houses have already been successfully challenged and removed by each house has to be individually challenged, you cant challenge a group of houses. Residents are encouraged to do a FOA application to Bucks, asking for the criteria their house was chosen by, who were the experts and what gave them the expertise, and copies of minutes of meetings making the decision. Julie Cook from the Parish Council is taking the issue further with a proposed removal of the heritage listing houses in the next Neighbourhood Plan.

Graham was asked if he could ask a planning officer to come down and talk to residents which he said he would do.

ACTION Graham

It was pointed out that the Residents Association Committee was not part of any of this process. A planning application is in for one of the houses on Somerset Way on the listing. No known outcome so far.

The Iver Neighbourhood Plan (2) is now in the planning stage and questionnaire has already been circulated on Facebook and What's App. Residents are encouraged to complete this as there have been no responses from Richings Park so far.

Graham will advertise it on Facebook and What's app.

Speedwatch – no news on this so far, Julie Cook is the lead at the IPC. Some trained already.

AGM

AGM draft minutes are on the web site for approval at the AGM in 2026.

Smartville

Tony has passed on the training for the cameras to Chris from the company that supplies the cameras. Nick Wendy and Joyce have all offered to be trained but have heard nothing so far.

Heathrow

The Government are moving ahead with the Airspace agency to implement the air space change (i.e. where planes fly) rather than it being in the hands of the airports so the Government will make the decision about the flight paths for Heathrow. The new process does not provide for consultation with the community and although the Parks in London will be considered in fly over areas, neither Black Park or Langley Park or any other Parks in Bucks will be.

There are two other alternatives in addition to Heathrow itself for the expansion of runways at Heathrow, and the plans will be announced in July ready for public consultation and planning. Air quality is getting higher on the Governments agenda and the impact of aircraft against the impact of traffic. Smaller particles stay around longer but are harder to measure and need more expensive monitors.

Repair Café

Next one is on the 14th July in Iver Heath at the Village Hall. Last one was a little less well attended but still busy. Next ones -2nd August, St Leonards, 6th Sept. St Peters Centre, 4th October St Leonards.

Kingfisher Gardens

Application for funding done by Wendy but she thought this was the wrong funding stream and has heard nothing

We discussed the likelihood of anyone actually using the gardens due to its position on a main road with no parking and with the majority of residents who have no active interest in it. Considering the amount of time and energy we have put into it, was it now time to just leave it as it is, not plan any activities or clearance of the bank but allow the Rangers to keep maintaining it and perhaps hold an event there at some time in the future.

Joyce will contact the Rangers to see if they are still actively maintaining it. She will also do a notice on the gate for anyone visiting – can you comment on Google maps about your visit as we are trying to ascertain how frequently it is visited. Joyce gets notifications from Google maps when people visit and make comments.

ACTION Joyce

Agreed to decide at the next meeting as we would need to formally let the Bucks Property Cabinet member know we aren't maintaining it any more.

Jim will ask his What's App group about their likelihood of using it.

ACTION Jim

Fly monitoring – Amarjit and Jim have now done two sessions. Laura who oversaw this has now left but we have been told someone else is taking this on. Next date is Sunday 13th July.

Amarjit will do a briefing paper about it for circulation on the RP Community What's App group to try and get other residents involved.

ACTION Amarjit.

Interpretative boards / Residents Garden/ Station/Kingfisher

Nicky has come up with a few examples of how the Residents Garden board could look and they were circulated for discussion. Agreed to consolidate some text with the History, take out the picture of the sports club and refine it to 2 photos with perhaps a picture of the Christmas tree and only what is appropriate for the Residents Garden. The information about the playground and sports club would go onto the station board along with a picture of a leafy part of the Park. Kingfisher would be simple with pictures of a kingfisher, water vole and what else may be found there. Wendy, Joyce and Nicky will look again at the designs and when we get a better idea of what will go on them, we will circulate to all.

Gardening team

A few new volunteers but not needed many cuts as it has been so dry. Felt we didn't need a new mower at this time. Gardening team can apply for more funds from the Residents association if they need them. Cost is around £1,000 a year for maintenance and petrol costs.

Noted that several trees need watering – some are really struggling. Committee to remind residents with trees outside their houses. Wendy has tree watering bags; Shantanu will collect one from her. Woodland trust would like to see how our tree whips are doing – if you have any photos send them to Joyce who will send them off.

Discussed hydrant access for the tubs by the shops as they are also very dry. Joyce has a hose she can give to Will if he could access water and possibly others to use it as well. Joyce has contacted Kam to ask businesses to sponsor or take care of a tub.

Finance report

Nothing to report

Membership report

Total payments so far for 2025 – 26 are 188, up from 165 at the last meeting.

Events

ABBA summer party on track for nearly a full house on Saturday 28th June. Should be a great event and the advertising of it has been really imaginative. Well done to Amarjit, Ged and Shantanu.

Planning and enforcement

Car park for Thorney Business Park has been approved, waiting for Network Rail to put in plans.

Court Lane Data centre may not happen due to a change of ownership.

New Substation for National Grid will be going ahead with possible advantages monetary wise for the community, but this may not be easy to access. Still probably not enough power for all the proposed Data Centres as power is going to Slough as well as Hillingdon.

Thorney Business Park monitoring noise along Bathurst Walk alongside the railway.

Local – Balcomm site is in planning for different use.

Parish and Unitary council updates

Chair of IPC is Kevin Brown with Julie Cook as Vice Chair.

Wendy is Chair of the Bucks Community Board of 9 wards including 18 Parishes. There is no longer any grant funding available. Next meeting in Sept will be live but will also be enormous.

Date of next meeting

Monday 21st July 7.30pm at the Sports Club.

Around the table

Need to organise another litter pick for September – agree a date at next meeting.

Hi speed broadband – we are not getting it from City Fibre who are delivering to Iver, provider yet to be agreed but includes all streets and roads in the Park including Private roads.

City fibre is going via Five Points and because of the work planned there it may take longer that was originally thought.

Jan Wiseman who deals with the defibrillator has noted that Moza are turning off the electricity to this and is looking to re site it outside Costcutters. Graham has asked her to do what she needs to do and let us know.

Running costs for Smartville – we should apply to IPC for this ACTION Graham
Consultation for CCTV from Bucks appeared this week on Facebook. They plan 2 new cameras for Iver. We could possibly ask them to take over Smartville but would we really want this to happen?

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm