



RICHINGS PARK Residents' Association

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on Tuesday 16th April 2024, 7.30 pm at Richings Sports Park

(KEY: BC Bucks Council; IPC Iver Parish Council; 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, Nick Jones, Jim Skinner, Gurmail Dokal, Tina Heath, Kavita Deva, Kam Khatker, Will Goddard, Maureen Atkinson, Julia Hill.

Arun Gaur has resigned from the committee as media representative.
Sue Barber has resigned from the committee as steward for Wellesley Court.

IN ATTENDANCE: Approximately 20 residents

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Daphne Wood

2 Minutes of the last meeting the minutes of the AGM in 2023 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 and seconded.

3 Matters arising There are no matters arising.

4 Chairs report

The chair read through a report of the year's events and achievements. These included:

- Heathrow. Graham and Wendy attend several local community forums, the Airspace and Noise forum and the Community Focus forum. They keep the committee informed of what is happening with Heathrow and these can all be read as a monthly report in the minutes on the web site. They have also worked with other resident's noise groups in terms of formulating a group strategy.
- Smartville. Thanks to Tony Hill and Dr Savi for setting this up initially in Richings Park, and Tony who has managed it single handedly. A meeting to discuss extending the system was poorly attended last year despite several high-profile thefts. It has now extended to Iver and Iver Heath with several cameras strategically placed around the area. These can only be accessed with a crime reference and there need to be a few more to fully capture the area. One is proposed near to the shops to hopefully capture lorries that knock down bollards. Some grants have been applied for, but only one of £500 has been granted from the Parish Council. Some residents have contributed but we do need more if you can help? A camera installed and connected will cost just under £2,000.

- Highways. This usually works with a lot of help from Wendy as our County Councillor who works tirelessly to make sure we get the best we can from Bucks Council. Please use Fix my Street to report any unsafe roads or pavements and fly tipping. The more you report, the higher it goes up the list to be fixed. Any news on the status of the resurfacing of the roads can be found in the minutes of the committee meetings on the web site. Thorney Mill Road is on this year's list for resurfacing.
- Kingfisher Gardens. This garden is on Thorney Mill Road and is owned by Bucks Council but managed by the RPRA. The Heathrow Rangers maintain the garden, plant wildflowers, and keep the weeds down. It has been closed for about a year due to the presence of water hemlock. After extensive negotiations with Bucks Council this is being treated in May and hopefully the garden will reopen in time for summer. Plans are in hand to have events in conjunction with the Colne Valley Park and possibly as part of their July festival. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the secretary to find out more secretary@richingspark.com
- Gardening team. The gardening team led by Neil Pennie do a fabulous job keeping our verges and communal areas mowed and tidy and by planting trees and bulbs to enhance the area. Thanks to them all for doing this in their own time, but they always need more volunteers, please contact us if you would like to help – contact form is on the web site.
- Events. A very successful litter pick in March saw Richings Park win over Iver and Iver Heath in the amount of rubbish bags they collected (61), and the number of people involved (21) The trophies are at the bar in the Sports Club.

Sports day, in combination with St Peters football club was a great success with all the healthy options we can do in the Park on offer on the day.

The World Food festival was a good opportunity to get together and taste foods of the World. We could have done with more vendors, but it wound up a very successful Centenary year.

The Centenary quilt is now on permanent display in the bar at the Sports Club. Thanks to Lynne Brown and her band of stitchers for their work on this.

- Planning. Several large-scale developments are proposed for the area.

Link Park Data Centre appeal was dismissed but another application has been submitted for its use as open storage including the current Ashville activities.

Court Lane data centre has been refused and is going to appeal.

Thorney Business Park is in progress and likely to go ahead.

Ridgeway Estate is awaiting Amazon to announce their intentions.

Fourells housing development was given the go ahead with some restrictions on the type of housing and also to include low-cost housing.

Local planning applications are discussed at committee meetings where there may be an impact to the Park. Lists of planning applications can be found on the Bucks Council website.

- Residents garden. This piece of land by the station and opposite the shops is owned by RPRA as it was gifted to them by Barclays Bank. It has two trustees who manage it, and it is maintained by the gardening team and the Heathrow Rangers. The two benches were gifted to the RPRA by Network Rail but have recently been used for anti-social behaviour and drug taking. As drug paraphernalia has been found there and it is used by local children the plan is to remove the benches.
- Spiritual Hub. The RPRA maintains good relations with the Hub and on occasions when parking has been a problem, they have responded positively to requests to modify these.
- What's App groups. Nearly every road has its own What's app group except North Park and Somerset where it has been difficult to get these up and running. If you would like to be part of your road group, either contact your road steward directly or contact us via the web site or the email address given above. The Richings Park Community What's app group expands by the day and has at present 381 members.
- Colne Valley Park (CVP). We work closely with the CVP on Greenbelt issues such as the proposed Motorway Service Area (MSA) in Iver. We plan to have interpretive boards for Kingfisher garden and the Residents garden and will use the Colne Valley house style when doing these. We are applying for a grant from Heathrow for the purchase of these.
- Childrens Christmas party. A smaller event than usual as we only had the bar in the Sports club instead of the hall. It nearly didn't go ahead but was rescued by several of the committee and hopefully will be back to full strength this Christmas. This is an occasion where it is free to attend for members of the Residents Association so if you have young children, it is worth joining for that reason alone. If you would like to help with this, please let us know.
- Christmas carols. The first time we have done this and about 20 residents joined us at Costcutters for a few carols, mulled wine provided by RPRA and mince pies (thanks to Costcutters for supplying these) We will try this again this year.
- St Leonards mound. This piece of land which is accessed by St Leonards walk and alongside Richings Way is owned by the Parish Council. It has been closed and unused for a few years as there are several diseased and dangerous trees. This has now been agreed by the Parish to be cleared and the work will start soon. This includes making the entrance safe, hopefully allowing access to this area. The RPRA will look at how we can make this useful to the residents and ideas are welcomed. A survey will be held soon about this. We will try to get local voluntary groups to help clear the site of ivy and invasive weeds.
- Charity Status. RPRA is not at present a charity but we are applying for this as we have discovered other local Residents Associations are charities.

- Thanks.

To Joyce Young as minute secretary and membership secretary.

Shantanu Tandon for looking after the books and Ged as Vice chair.

Tony Hill for managing Smartville.

Julia Hill as a new road steward for pitching in with just about everything.

For all our wonderful volunteers - gardening team, litter pickers etc.

Statement and adoption of accounts, these had been circulated but the committee was not requesting adoption of these as they need some amendment. Updated accounts will be circulated electronically and made available on the RPRAs website.

The overall picture is that there are a number of accounts with a reasonable amount of reserves. Some costs are fixed – insurance and liability costs for events, 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.

5 Election of Officers Selection of the committee is done by the committee as per our constitution. Each road has a road steward, and they attend committee meetings. The officers of the committee are the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Chairman and they are elected within that committee, so the committee elects itself.

I believe everyone on the executive is happy in their role and all roads are represented. The main task during the year is distributing leaflets through the door so, if you'd like to join us you are more than welcome to come to the meetings.

6 Future projects

As we have some funds in our accounts, we would like to suggest a number of projects we may try to set up this year. Wendy has been leading the small group on this.

Wendy introduced the four projects and the lead person for each:

- Shantanu suggested we could plant more mature trees across the park – although we may have some restrictions as the verges are owned by Bucks Council, they do not actively maintain them as much as we would like. Possible cost around £1,000 for 5 trees.
- Kam suggested a mobile book swap located near to Lotus Wellbeing clinic where a mobile container could be wheeled in and out and be stored indoors out of office hours. A possible permanent storage unit like a telephone box will need planning permission.
- Wendy suggested a Notice board opposite Iver station advising what can be found in Richings Park with directional signs to Parks, the residents or Kingfisher Garden, transport options (that caused a laugh) a bit about the history of the Park. Other ideas are welcome.

- Will suggested a Repair café, possibly sited at the Sports club as the small pavilion is being vacated soon. The aims include; promoting sustainability by reducing waste, fostering a sense of community by bringing people together, and empowering individuals by teaching repair skills and encouraging resourcefulness. Insurance and liability costs would need to be factored in.

All of these will be issued with more detail for residents to vote on via What's app groups or Survey Monkey. To be agreed at the next committee meeting in May and then circulated.

8. Local neighbourhood police team report. We have had nothing from the police on this.

9. Parish and Unitary council. Nothing to report other than what comes to the monthly Committee meetings.

10. Questions

When will the bollards be mended? This is in hand and the bollards have been purchased but because there have been so many potholes to mend it has moved down the list, keep reporting it on Fix my street.

Flooding outside a house in Wellesley, next to the Sports Club but nowhere else on the road. Need to contact Fix my street and Wendy will talk to our Local Area Technician.

The kebab shop has painted over the Wellesley Avenue sign. We will investigate this.

Membership update – we had 246 paid up members in 2023 /24. Already several new members for 24/25 and an increase in new Pay Pal subs.

Should we increase the cost of membership? The membership secretary thought we shouldn't, as that may mean we get less subs. This was discussed and agreed to keep as it was.

Parking restrictions – Several residents are concerned that residents have no access to parking permits as they live outside the parking zone (Poynings, Ridings, bottom end of Old Slade Lane and the main roads around the park with double yellow lines).

It is now nearly two years since they were introduced, and we can ask Bucks to modify these as the restrictions were an 'off the shelf' solution that didn't really apply to Richings Park.

There being no other questions, the Chair thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

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