

# THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

**Agenda/Updates for the Committee Meeting to be held on**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30 pm (via Video Call)**

**In Attendance:** Peter Seaward (chair), John Howarth, Les Huett, Paul Kennedy, Carolyn Elson, Diane Poole, Frances Fancourt, Nick Forrer, Martin Hollins, Andrew Freeman, Julia Dickinson, Andrew Matthews, Chris Pullan, Nigel Smith, Luke Tye, Sarah Chambers, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Richard Moyse, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly,

**Invited Councillors:** Cllr. Roger Adams, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr Simon Edge

**Apologies:** Michael Lowes, Michael Agius, Margaret Lawson, David Cox OBE, Keith Francis, Monica Weller, Geoff Tranter, Dan Coffin, John Allen, Marian Williams, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Richard Davey.

## **1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

- 1.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted subject to a few very minor corrections.

## **2 MATTERS ARISING & ACTIONS**

- 2.1 **The Garstons/Mead Crescent:** The suggestion that the BCA enter into long lease for the barn hall field is unlikely to materialise due to the potential financial risks. However, a Fields-in-Trust application looks feasible and will be pursued. It was also noted that SCC had planted two trees on the site.
- 2.2 **Sawmill:** There was a brief discussion about this following last month's more in-depth discussion. Apparently the sawmill has been asked to remain open until new arrangements for the site can be agreed as there are a number of interested parties.

## **3 CORRESPONDENCE**

- 3.1 No correspondence of note received.

## **4 MANAGEMENT GROUP (Finance, Secretariat)**

- 4.1 **Accounts:** Chris Pullan reported that the Accounts for 2020 have been examined by Lawrence Penney and signed off, showing a confirmed surplus of £215.
- 4.2 **Christmas Lights:** Chris also said £500 had been received from the Mole Valley Chamber of Commerce and cheques/cash totalling £160 had been received from local traders.

- 4.3 **Information Commissioner's Office:** John Howarth said that he had replied to the ICO to say that the BRA doesn't believe it falls within the criteria to pay the Annual Data Protection Fee. A response had not been received at the time of the meeting.

## 5 PLANNING GROUP

- 5.1 **Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee met on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February and considered 16 planning applications. A letter of representation may be sent on two, namely:
- a. 21/0099: 6 Griffin Way, Bookham KT23 4JL Erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
  - b. 21/0100: 26 Groveside, Bookham KT23 4LD Erection of a first-floor side extension, conversion of garage into a habitable accommodation with a new front porch.
- 5.2 The Planning Committee also met on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March and considered 6 planning applications. A letter of representation will be sent on four, namely:
- a. 21/0139: 16 Griffin Way, Bookham KT23 4JL Erection of two storey side extension with replacement rear dormer and rear single storey infill extension following demolition of detached garage.
  - b. 21/0184: 48 Dowlans Road, Bookham KT23 4LE Erection of two detached four-bedroom houses following demolition of the existing bungalow and garage.
  - c. 21/0202: 53 Dorking Road, Bookham KT23 4PY Erection of a detached bungalow following demolition of existing garage.
  - d. 21/0352: Howard of Effingham School, Lower Road, Effingham, KT24 5RJ Reserved matters application pursuant to outline permission 14/P/02109 approved on 21/03/2018, to consider appearance, landscaping, layout and scale in respect of the erection of 99 dwellings.
- 5.3 **Howard of Effingham:** It was noted that a planning application is awaited from Berkeley Homes for 110 dwellings on the existing school site, without which the school development might not be financially feasible.
- 5.4 **Youth Centre:** An outline planning application for a new multi-purpose centre in the Lower Road recreation ground is scheduled to go to MVDC's Development Management Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. It appears that an issue has been raised, very late in the day, regarding perceived 'insufficient' parking. Peter Seaward made the point quite strongly that any issues should have been identified much earlier, and pointed out that with the additional ten spaces being proposed by SCC, this would give more parking spaces than nearly every other building in Bookham.
- 5.5 **Parking Provision:** Nigel Smith raised an issue where there was disagreement between SCC Highways and MVDC as to the number of parking spaces that should be allowed for in new developments. Clare Curran pointed out the MVDC is the planning authority and should use their own guidance, although better still, use the Neighbourhood Development Scheme.

## 6 ENVIRONMENT GROUP (Roads, Paths, Drainage, Flooding, Trees, Horticulture, Air pollution, Litter Pick)

- 6.1 **Litter Pick:** Diane Poole fed back that Margaret Lawson and other litter pickers are looking at holding an in-person litter pick on the 6<sup>th</sup> June as part of the Great British Spring Clean initiative. It was noted that there is now a dedicated litter-pick email address to avoid using personal email accounts.
- 6.2 **Square-about:** Clare Curran reported that the gas supply and drainage works will start on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Notices and communication materials are being drawn up and copies will be sent to Les Huett for inclusion on the BRA's website.
- 6.3 **Trees:** Besides the two trees planted by SCC on The Garstons' triangle, two further trees had been planted in Hill Top Rise, also by SCC.
- 6.4 **Blue Heathers Campaign:** Diane Poole said that SCC had been very supportive of the initiative in her discussions with them, and they are working on finalising which sites could be included in the scheme. Diane also said 25 local residents had come forward wishing to participate.
- 6.5 **Air Pollution:** Readings from the monitor at the square-about will take several months before they are known. Elizabeth Daly said that she would look onto whether another monitor could be cited by the zebra crossing on the Lower Road to see if there are differences between the two, given that the health of children is one of the concerns.
- 6.6 **Bookham Station Accessibility:** Andrew Matthews reported that his [presentation](#) on a potential new path to Platform 1 had been uploaded to the BRA website. He has also been in discussion with the National Trust and has planned a 'walk the route'. The alternative would be a new bridge with lifts although this would cost in the millions and would take up to ten years to come to fruition, even if the funds could be found. One of the funding options being explored is "Your Fund Surrey" which is an initiative by Surrey County Council giving local communities up to £100m over the next five years to spend on projects that improve their local area. Members of the public can show their support by going to the presentation and following the ['Click here to support the application and follow the discussion'](#), and clicking on 'Like' icon.
- 6.7 **Dog Bins:** Diane and Peter Seaward are pressing MVDC to consider QR codes on litter/dog bins to allow people to report them on the go. This type of technology could also be used for other purposes, e.g. recycling bins. It was agreed that local councillors would keep up the pressure within the council to progress this simple and cheap solution.
- 6.8 **Recycling Bins:** Diane Poole has been working with MVDC and contractors on reporting of overflowing recycling banks (e.g. Lower Shott) by getting MVDC's report-it form updated to cover them. Once updated, the website's Street Cleaning quick link should automatically cover them.
- 6.9 **Recycling:** Diane has also been working with Les Huett to provide some updated information on the BRA site about recycling, cribbing the term Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, which including a search tool that Les has developed so that a member of the public can enter a product and receive information as to whether it can be

recycled and how/where.

## 7 COMMUNITY GROUP (Education, Police, Transport, Emergency Services, Health, Churches Together)

- 7.1 **Churches Together:** Martin Hollins said that churches had booking systems in place with services continuing, including online. Some of the services also allowed singing, with suitable social distancing measure in place.
- 7.2 **Cycling Routes to School:** For discussion. Julia Dickinson to report back. There were three suggested quick wins reported at last month's meeting, i.e:
1. A new surfaced, segregated cycle track from The Howard's new location on the Lower Road either running parallel to existing footpaths to Fox Lane &/or a spur on unclaimed footpath across Preston Farm site.
  2. Create short cycle bypasses (close to school entrances, at key cut-throughs between quiet roads & at traffic lights, especially on the A246).
  3. Reduce motorised traffic on the Lower Road near the Howard & Manor House schools by creating a modal filter at the junction between Manor House Lane & the Lower Road and/or bringing forward the parking element of the school's redevelopment, providing access to it from Effingham Lodge Farm's existing site entrance.
- 7.3 Details about plans to improve walking and cycling can be found on the SCC website [here](#).
- 7.4 Unfortunately the previous Cycling Forum had been taken up with other issues but she will endeavour to get this on the agenda for the next meeting. Julia is also planning to meet with SCC and the police to gain support for the above, and other, initiatives, with a view to applying for funds from the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure fund.
- 7.5 **Buses:** An issue was raised about the possible cessation of the H1 Quality Line bus service between Epsom Hospital and St. Helier Hospital being withdrawn. **[Post Meeting Note: It has transpired that Quality Line will no longer be providing the service which will be continuing with another bus company.]**
- 7.6 **Demand Responsive Transport:** Julia Dickinson mentioned that this service might benefit Bookham. Whilst providing a service on the south of MV, the buses may be travelling into the north, and there could be some potential to expand.
- 7.7 **[Post Meeting Note provided by Clare Curran: The Department of Transport approved Surrey's bid for £660, 000 to improve bus travel in Mole Valley as part of the National Bus Strategy announced by the Prime Minister on Monday.**
- 7.8 **Known as 'Demand Responsive Transport', the frequency of bus services in the rural areas of Mole Valley will significantly increase, be fully accessible and available on-demand by booking through an app, by phone or online. This will also enable residents to access real time information about availability and vehicle proximity of the four new environmentally friendly, electric buses."]**
- 7.9 **Speeding Traffic:** Peter Seaward has been in touch with David Munro, Police and

Crime Commissioner for Surrey regarding speeding traffic. In his response David said that where there is persistent speeding then solutions are sometimes difficult and enforcement by itself doesn't work if the issue is a significant minority of motorists flouting the law. An alternative is highways measures e.g. humps, bumps, road-narrowing etc, in addition to enforcement although this is primarily the province of the Highways Authority.

- 7.10 One particular hot-spot is Little Bookham Street where there was evidence of speeding following a survey in 2016. Local residents formed a speedwatch group but, due to police inaction, interest has waned. However, recent pressure had been exerted by Peter Seaward and Clare Curran and some action appears to have been taken.
- 7.11 David Munro added that he would alert the road casualty officer for Bookham to reiterate the issue of speeding traffic and that the recent uplift of police funding will mean that the Roads Policing Unit will double in size. Finally, he offered to meet with Peter, Clare Curran and Surrey Police to look at possible solutions.

## **8 COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP**

- 8.1 **Communications** Les Huett reported that he and Carolyn Elson had produced an A2 sized poster with a Spring Update for all the BRA Noticeboards. Thanks to Nick Forrer for putting them up.

- 8.2 Website and Facebook posts have been limited to public services information (six posts) and we also posted the Bookham Station accessibility project with Andrew Matthews report.

[Bookham Station Platform One Accessibility | Bookham Residents Association](#)

- 8.3 There were no email campaigns this month and our MailChimp contacts database remain at circa 1,200.
- 8.4 In Look Local the BRA had a full-page article on the SCC funding announcement for the new Youth and Community Centre and in Bookham Bulletin a piece on Wombling Litter Picking.
- 8.5 **Membership:** There is no push on membership at the moment but there is a steady trickle of people renewing each week online.
- 8.6 Carolyn and Les have started planning for the Spring newsletter and membership campaign and will update the committee at the next meeting when finalised.
- 8.7 **AGM:** This has been confirmed for the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. Twenty-one days' notice is required. Les Huett confirmed that the next newsletter would be ready approximately five weeks in advance. As for a guest speaker, Daniel Elkeles, CEO of Epsom & St. Helier Hospital would be a good option, although a National Trust representative may be an alternative.

- 9 BUSINESS GROUP (External Relations) - Nil to report.**

**10 HISTORY AND MEMORIALS GROUP** - Nil to report.

**11 PROJECT UPDATES** - Nil to report.

**12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

12.1 **Vehicle Recharging Points:** Nancy Goodacre said the MVDC had received funding for 90 vehicle recharging points across MV, and that the Council was looking at both of the village's car parks are being looked at as possible sites.

12.2 **Ashdale Right-of-Way:** An application by local residents is due to be submitted to ensure the access from Ashdale to the footpath becomes a Right-of-Way, and therefore cannot be closed off with a gate.

12.3 **Bookham Station Railway Bridge:** Andrew Matthews said that he has learnt that the painting of the bridge had been halted due to the bad weather, but the works will be completed by the summer.

**13 NEXT MEETING**

13.1 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.