

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Agenda/Updates for the Committee Meeting to be held on

Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.30 pm

via Conference Call

In Attendance: Peter Seaward (chair), John Howarth, Les Huett, Paul Kennedy, Carolyn Elson, David Cox OBE, Geoff Tranter, Diane Poole, Frances Fancourt, Nick Forrer, Martin Hollins, Andrew Freeman, Margaret Lawson, Julia Dickinson, Andrew Matthews, James Chambers. Chris Pullan, Keith Francis, Richard Davey, Monica Weller.

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Richard Moyse. Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre.

Apologies: Michael Agius, Cllr. Roger Adams, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr Simon Edge, Nigel Smith, Luke Tye, Michael Lowes, Sarah Chambers, Dan Coffin, John Allen, Marian Williams, David Smith, Michelle Smith

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 1.1 Subject to a few amendments, the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2 MATTERS ARISING & ACTIONS

- 2.1 **The Garstons/Mead Crescent:** MVDC has approved the Asset of Community Value (ACV) application. It should now be possible to go ahead with some planting and siting of two benches.
- 2.2 Regarding the long lease proposal for the Old Barn Hall field, Peter Seaward has discussed this with the BCA but the BCA are reluctant to take on the risks associated with such a move, e.g. unexpected one-off incidents could be costly to put right. Another option is to apply for Fields in Trust. Other local open spaces already have this status, e.g. Cock Lane Recreation Ground and King George VI fields.
- 2.3 **Ward Boundary Review:** Peter Seaward has learnt from Democratic Services at MVDC that the Ward Boundary Review as mentioned at last month's meeting, has now commenced and that the BRA will have a chance to be part of the consultation in the autumn. It appears that there may be several quite fundamental issues to discuss, e.g. the number of councillors, moving away from annual elections.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 There has been three pieces of correspondence of note since the last meeting.

- 3.2 **Middlemead Estate:** A local resident is concerned about the state of the recent development works and the state of the road, and wondered who was responsible for making good the damage. It was confirmed that the developers are responsible with both MVDC and SCC Highways responsible for enforcement.
- 3.3 **Potential Site for a Tree:** A resident has been in contact regarding the potential for planting a tree in Southend on a small piece of unkempt land. Frances Fancourt felt that a tree application probably wouldn't be approved by SCC, therefore action should be pursued through Clarion Housing.
- 3.4 **Norbury Park Sawmill:** It has recently been announced by SCC that the sawmill will be closing down on or shortly after 31 March 2021. All existing orders will be completed but no new orders will be taken. The sawmill, a company owned by Surrey Wildlife Trust, was not seen as part of its core business and was not making money (although other aspects of the sawmills operation may have suggested it was profitable). It is hoped that the sawmill site will be used for small rural craft businesses.

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

- 4.1 **Annual Data Protection Fee:** John Howarth said that he has been contacted by the Information Commissioner's Office in respect of the BRA's responsibility to pay an Annual Data Protection Fee. John has come to the view that the BRA is an "Exempt" organisation having reviewed the five key questions, the key one being "Do you only process information for one of the following purposes (Judicial function, elected represented function, personal family or household affairs not connected to commercial or professional activities, to maintain a public register)?" By answering yes, then the BRA is exempt. Any contrary views to John by 12th March.
- 4.2 **Accounts:** Chris Pullan reported that the accounts are with Lawrence Penney for examination, and they currently show a slight surplus of £215.

5 **PLANNING GROUP**

- 5.1 **CIL Funding:** Peter Seaward is compiling a list of Community CIL projects for submission to MVDC. The Community CIL Fund now stands at £120,398 and so far, the only call on this fund has been by SCC Highways for the crossing at the Grange and some drainage work on Lower Road. These two projects amounted to just under £19,000 and have been paid. The £120K figure is what is available now. They are:
- **War Memorial All Saints:** New granite tablet to include missing 6 names from Little Bookham from WWI. Possible cost £6,500.
 - **Power Supply at St. Nicolas':** Installation of power cable to the lychgate at St Nicolas to provide power for, Christmas lights, audio for services at the Memorial and other Church functions at that location. Possible cost £4,000.
 - **Power Supply at Lower Shott:** Lighting power output to illuminate Village Sign and Christmas tree etc on Lower Shott and power outlet for outdoor events. Possible cost £4,000.
 - **Benches:** Repair and renovate 30 benches throughout Bookham Possible cost £6,500.
 - **Shopping Area Enhancements:** Enhancement to improve the shopping areas in Bookham, (trees, planters, new plants etc). Possible cost £8,000.

5.2 **Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee met on the 24th February and six planning applications were considered. A letter of representation will be sent on one, namely:

1. **MO/2020/2357:** Location: Land r/o 27-31 Crabtree Lane, Bookham, Surrey KT23 4PJ Description: Erection of 3 No. residential dwellings with associated amenity space, Landscaping, parking and modified access. The Bookhams Residents' Association objects to this application on the grounds that it is an overdevelopment.

5.3 **Oaken Hill, Burnhams Road:** MO/2020/2150: The Committee also reconsidered this application and has written a letter of representation against the development.

5.4 **Youth Club Application, Lower Road:** MO/2020/2103: This application has been amended showing an revised building location, changes to sports pitches and trees, details of visibility for car park users.

5.5 Les Huett pointed out that Surrey County Council Cabinet had approved funding of £2.5M for the construction of a new shared-use building at the Lower Road Rec to replace the old Bookham Youth Centre on Lower Road. The development has been designed to accommodate various community uses such as the Bookham Colts - youth football team and a children's day nursery.

6 **ENVIRONMENT GROUP (Roads, Paths, Drainage, Flooding, Trees, Horticulture, Litter Pick)**

6.1 **Blue Heart Wildflower Verges:** Diane Poole said that Clare Curran, Frances Fancourt and Steve Poole and herself have been busy trying to identify suitable verges and also liaising with residents who wish to do their own. Diane hopes to finalise a list to put to Surrey Highways shortly covering non-residential verges requesting reduced mowing. About 20 roads have expressed an interest. Some other areas could be enhanced, e.g. The Garstons.

6.2 More Blue Hearts will be required for the highway verges. The ones supplied to date have been made and donated by a kind resident but, to cover costs, it would cost £10 for ones the same as those along the A246 and medium sized ones for residential areas at £8, although residents will hopefully fund their own.

6.3 **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson said that the Wombles are increasing in popularity and more equipment is required – grabbers and bags. Elizabeth Daly said she would ask MVDC about the supply of special marked bags and whether they would be collected as usual waste from the volunteers' house or whether bags could be left by public waste bins for collection.

6.4 **Square-about:** Les Huett reported that there is a delay to the start of the drainage works. They were due to start on the 15th February but have been advised by Surrey County Council that due to overrunning works elsewhere in the district works have been delayed until May.

6.5 **Air Pollution:** Elizabeth Daly said that the air pollution monitoring device had been moved from the A246 down to the square-about.

- 6.6 **Trees:** Frances Fancourt said that SCC are being very selective in which applications to approve, or not, perhaps in fear of damaging underground utilities. This is having a despondent effect on the tree wardens and is at odds with SCC's aim to plant 1m trees. Julia Dickinson said CGI had also offered 40 trees and Frances said Eastwick school had planted 5 fruit trees.
- 6.7 It was noted that SCC also wanted to plant the proposed trees at The Garstons triangle, despite the tree wardens having a better success rate. Clare Curran agreed to speak to the officers responsible
- 6.8 **Bookham Station Accessibility:** Peter Seaward and Andrew Matthews attended a meeting with South Western Railway on 23rd February to discuss the accessibility issues. SWR did not offer any views about the suggested path between the NT cap park and the station as it's not their property. However, they did suggest that to would cost £4m to £5m for a bridge with lifts so unlikely to be funded, at least for the time being. One option would be to apply for "Access for All" funding but a 10% contribution would be required!
- 6.9 **Dog Bins:** David Cox said that the bins on Norbury Park had been overflowing . They had been reported but the public need to report issues to ensure they are emptied earlier. Les Huett said that the use of a QR code to identify bins and to report them hadn't been implemented.

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

- 7.1 **School Places - Local Committee Question:** Peter Seaward has submitted a question to the MVDC/SCC Local Committee on 24th February:

Question: *Can the Local Committee provide reassurance that new housing developments in Mole Valley and neighbouring boroughs are being taken into account when future school places are being considered? And also confirm that there will be a clearer picture of this for residents later this year, on completion of various studies?*

Response: *The Surrey County Council Education Place Planning (EPP) team is working closely with colleagues at Mole Valley District Council in relation to the Mole Valley Draft Local Plan. The EPP team receive housing permissions and trajectories from the District and Borough councils in April each year (with updates requested every October), which are then combined with birth and pupil movement trends in specialist demographic forecasting software called 'Edge-ucate'. This creates pupil projections, in a variety of different formats. The pupil yield from the Draft Local Plan is not yet included in the return from Mole Valley. Colleagues at Mole Valley have been in contact again this month as part of a review of the proposed sites to be taken forward to the submission stage of the Local Plan. There will be further discussion on any potential impact to the education infrastructure across the area. However, until there is more detail on confirmed sites and phasing of developments the forecasts cannot reflect any potential pupil yield from housing. Consideration must also be given to further housing proposed in the neighbouring borough of Guildford, in particular at Effingham and Wisley, and how this might impact on pupil movement trends. It is worth noting that the birth rate has decreased by 14% in Mole Valley since 2012 creating capacity in our primary schools. Peaks and troughs are expected as the higher cohorts from the primary sector transition to secondary provision with a general decline expected in the long term. All of the above will be closely monitored over the next six months and it is hoped that more information will be available in the Autumn.*

- 7.2 **Cycling Routes to School:** Julia Dickinson gave a very high overview stating that there could be 3 'quick wins' although these would cost in the region of £100k. Funding could be sought from Phase II of SCC's Active Travel fund. The 3 quick wins were:
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 Julia will submit the proposals to the Active Travel website and discuss with the Cycling Forum. It was also agreed that more time would be devoted to this issue at the next Committee meeting.
- 7.4 **Churches Together:** Martin Hollins reported that services were continuing online and were providing outreach support to families that needed it.
- 7.5 **Surrey Police Headquarters:** It has been confirmed that the headquarters for Surrey Police will be moving from Mount Browne in Guildford to a new combined HQ and operational base in Cleeve Road, Leatherhead, on the former Electrical Research Association (ERA) and Cobham Industries site, including teams such as Roads Policing, their Contact Centre which deals with all of the county's 999, 101 and online crime reports, and the Forensics team, as well as many others, will be relocating to Leatherhead. A local policing presence will be maintained across the county, co-located with Local Authorities plus at some remaining smaller policing hubs.

8 COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

8.1 **Membership:** There are no membership promotion activities running a present, we are just taking on-line memberships payments which residents have decided to pay after visiting our website. We will be sending an email campaign out at the end of April encouraging payment online so that we know in advance people have paid before we publish the spring/summer newsletter and Road Stewards start collecting.

8.2 **Communications:** Les Huett said he had sent out one campaign in February which was on the now delayed drainage and gas main works on Lower Road / Squareabout and “Wombling” in Bookham. Audience remains steady at 1,200 active email addresses.

8.3 On the BRA website and Facebook page there were posts on:

[Peter Seaward Receives Lavender Caterings' "You're Amazing Award" | Bookham Residents Association](#)

[Surrey County Council approves £2.5 million funding for new Bookham Youth and Community Centre | Bookham Residents Association](#)

[The Garstons Triangle - MVDC Grants Asset of Community Value | Bookham Residents Association](#)

[Surrey Sawmill Update | Bookham Residents Association](#)

[Want to know about booking or managing your coronavirus vaccination? | Bookham Residents Association](#)

[Major Drainage Works at Squareabout Junction Delayed. Gas Main Replacement On Schedule from 22nd Feb | Bookham Residents Association](#)

[Future Mole Valley - February 2021 Newsletter | Bookham Residents Association](#)

[How to Start a Start-Up | Bookham Residents Association](#)

8.4 Les also said that the workload is such that the Comms team needs an additional member to work with him on the website and other comms. If you're interested in joining the team, get in contact with Les.

9 BUSINESS GROUP (External Relations) Nil to report

10 HISTORY AND MEMORIALS GROUP Nil to report

11 PROJECT UPDATES

11.1 **Village Sign:** Nil to report.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 Highways: Clare Curran reported that more funding would be made available for highways, in particular for road safety schemes. There are four Bookham schemes on the list, namely the crossing near Preston Cross, a build-out near the Eastwick Park school, speed calming in Church Road and a refuge at Groveside.
- 12.2 **Catalytic Converters:** Richard Moyse said that the police are warning of the continuing threat posed by gangs of catalytic converter thieves with at least six thefts in the Fetcham and Bookham area in one four-week period over January and February. Since then three more thefts have been reported from Ashted, Leatherhead and Newdigate. It appears that the top target models are Honda Jazz and CRV, and Toyota Prius and Auris and police say that with an angle grinder, thieves can remove a catalytic converter from under a car in as little as 20 seconds.

13 NEXT MEETING

- 13.1 Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.