

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Agenda/Updates for the Committee Meeting to be held on

Monday 10th May 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, Andrew Freeman, Julia Dickinson, Andrew Matthews, Chris Pullan, Nigel Smith, Cllr. Sarah Chambers, Lowes, Michael Agius, Margaret Lawson, David Cox OBE, Monica Weller, Geoff Tranter, Dan Coffin, Richard Davey Cllr. James Chambers, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Richard Moyse,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. Roger Adams,

Apologies: Martin Hollins, Luke Tye, Keith Francis, John Allen, Marian Williams, David Smith, Michelle Smith

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2 ELECTION RESULTS

2.1 **Outgoing Councillors:**

2.2 **Cllr. Simon Edge:** Simon, who did not stand for re-election, emailed Peter Seaward to say that he 'had a great time over the last five years representing Bookham South, and working with you and the BRA has been a pleasure and a privilege'. He went on to say that he couldn't 'speak too highly of the work that you [Peter Seward] and the BRA do for Bookham' and that 'without the BRA the village really would be a much poorer place'.

2.3 **Cllr. Metin Huseyin** also did not stand for re-election.

2.4 **New Councillors:** Welcome to two new councillors. Sarah Chambers representing Bookham North and James Chambers representing Bookham South.

2.5 **SCC:** Cllr. Clare Curran was returned as the SCC councillor for Bookham and Fetcham West.

3 BOOKHAM COMMON

3.1 Iain White, Chair of Friends of Bookham Common, joined the meeting to speak about issues relating to the common. The Friends of Bookham Common has, like many organisations, not been able to fundraise but membership is circa 200 and visits to their Facebook page has been strong. Ian also mentioned the Nightingales Project; an initiative that been ongoing to entice nightingales back to the common although it is too early to say whether this has been effective. Ian was also asked about a potential path from the NT car park to the station and would attend a planned walk to understand the plans better but generally the NT is opposed to surfaced paths on the common.

4 MATTERS ARISING & ACTIONS

- 4.1 **The Garstons/Mead Crescent:** The main focus is applying for Fields-in-Trust status which, in theory, is quite a simple and low cost option to help preserve the future of the Barn Hall field, although it needs the approval of MVDC as the landowner. The Council has previously given permission for several pieces of land, e.g. Cock Lane Recreation Ground, and King George's Field, Effingham, has also got Fields-in-Trust status. Two benches are planned and should be erected in the coming weeks.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1 **Bookham War Memorial:** Bill Whitman contacted the BRA as he has written an article about the WWI names on Bookham War Memorial. It was felt that this should be made more widely available and that the BCA might be interested in publishing it.

6 MANAGEMENT GROUP

- 6.1 **Company Secretary Report:** John Howarth reported that he has filed the Annual Re-registration for the BRA at Companies House and paid the Annual Registration fee of £13.
- 6.2 **Board of Directors:** As noted above, Cllr. Simon Edge has stood down as a councillor, therefore MVDC will nominate, in due course, a new nominee to be a director of the BRA.

7 PLANNING GROUP

- 7.1 **Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee met on the 29th April and considered 25 planning applications. Letters of representation were considered on two applications but, after further consideration, letters were not submitted.
- 7.2 **Tree Felling:** It was noted that a line of trees between Godstone Farm View and Norbury Park had been felled. The legal status of this is being looked into as the trees themselves were not subject to a Tree Protection Order, but they were replacement trees for some that had been TPO protected (those having been felled illegally).
- 7.3 **Youth Centre:** MVDC's Development Management Committee met on the 28th April and approved, with conditions, an outline application for the consideration of access, layout and scale in respect of the erection of a Youth and Community Centre and sporting facilities with car parking and associated works ([MO/2020/2103](#)). The detailed planning application is now awaited.
- 7.4 Surrey County Council will also need to consider the future of the former youth centre site and a planning application will be submitted in due course.
- 7.5 **Edenside:** A planning application in Edenside, that had been refused due to the inadequate provision of parking spaces, had gone to appeal. This was interesting in that a similar application in Ashted had also gone to appeal and the decision overturned, which implies people living near the station do not need parking provision. In the case of Edenside, it was noted that the Neighbourhood Development Plan does not apply as the NDP only applies to new builds! If the application is successfully appealed then on-street parking will increase, raising the threat of further parking restrictions. A further application MO/2021/0742 has also been submitted.

7.6 **Local Plan:** Geoff Tranter is looking carefully at the draft Local Plan and at the Green Belt in particular, e.g. there are some areas that lie between built-up areas and the Green Belt but are not designated as Green Belt. The issue of infrastructure to support new developments was also raised and Paul Kennedy said that this would be a requirement for new builds.

8 ENVIRONMENT GROUP

8.1 **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson reported that there are now 30 plus Wombles and the scouts and cubs are also participating as part of their service to community duties. It is hoped that the first litter-pick since lockdown will go ahead on the 6th June, meeting in the Lower Shott car park.

8.2 The Great British Spring Clean is between the 28th May and the 13th June and communities are being encouraged to report the amount of rubbish collected during these times, and individual picks can be included, i.e. anyone collecting rubbish should inform Margaret for inclusion in the village-wide report..

8.3 **Square-about:** The SGN works have now been delayed until 14th June until 14th August, which will involve road closures and diversions. Dates for the drainage works have yet to be confirmed but they should still overlap to avoid two periods of road-closures.

8.4 **Oak Processionary Moth:** Caterpillars will soon be emerging from their eggs and contractors started to spray known affected oak trees from the 19th April. The public should not approach or touch the caterpillars but report all sightings to the online portal Tree Alert www.forestresearch.gov.uk/treealert or to opm@forestrycommission.gov.uk.

8.5 **Bookham Station:** Andrew Matthews said that it would be possible to apply for Access for All funding which is designed to address the issues faced by disabled passengers and passengers facing mobility restraints. The estimated cost of a new bridge plus lifts is estimated to be around £5m and the applicant would need to raise 10%, i.e. £500k, by 2023! Andrew suggested setting up a JustGiving page, although other avenues would also need to be explored.

8.6 It was also noted that Network Rail have been doing some refurbishment work at the station.

8.7 **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle:** Les Huett and Diane Poole have been working together on a Reduce, Reuse and Recycle scheme around Bookham, Effingham and Horsley. This includes a extremely helpful tool, available on the [BRA website](#), that informs members of the public what can be recycled and where. e.g. drop-off points.

8.8 This is linked to the **Terracycle Scheme** which is for hard to recycle items such as crisp, biscuit and popcorn packets; bread bags, pet food pouches, home hygiene products, ring carriers and certain types of coffee pods. The tool mentioned above will direct members of the public how and where to dispose of such items (and many more).

8.9 **Blue Heart Wildflower Verges:** Diane Poole reported that the scheme is proving very popular with interest from 50 households and 25 blue hearts in place, ordered or making their own. More funding is needed for those not on private land, e.g. highways land and Diane thanked the BRA for funding some hearts.

9 COMMUNITY GROUP

- 9.1 **Local Businesses:** Richard Davey and Dan Coffin reported that they have held several meetings with local businesses regarding several initiatives, e.g:
- **Food Festival:** Early discussions but an event in the Old Barn Hall has been mooted for September.
 - **Post-Covid High Street Celebration:** A Saturday afternoon event to mark the end of Covid restrictions and celebrate return to normality is being discussed, with perhaps a band, BBQ, bunting, kids events, etc. This is being planned for mid-July and MVDC appear supportive of this initiative. An application to close the road would be required and other formalities addressed. Richard and Dan will report back at the next Committee meeting as plans firm up.
- 9.2 **Eastwick Schools:** Michael Lowes said that the schools will hopefully be returning to 'business as usual' in September, although some easing of current restraints will take place as from the start of the summer term, but no major changes are expected. Regarding future intakes, the school has not yet been advised, but all the local schools are in close contact.
- 9.3 **Demand Responsive Transport:** SCC has introduced this scheme, which started this week, in rural areas of Mole Valley, i.e. where members of the public do not have access to bus or rail services, who can book transport through an app, by phone or online.
- 9.4 **Buses:** Keith Francis, who was unable to attend the meeting, emailed prior to the meeting to inform the Committee that the Arriva has from the 2nd May, improved the timetable of bus 479 with the return of the weekday Epsom via Leatherhead to Bookham railway station loop service, plus, some timing changes to the early morning and late afternoon buses.
- 9.5 Regarding the Epsom/St Helier hospital bus (H1) service, as from the 28th May 2021 it will no longer be operated by Quality Line, but taken back in-house, although it is not clear whether patients and hospital visitors will be able to use this service in addition to staff.

10 COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

10.1 Communications

- 10.2 **AGM:** This has been confirmed for the 15th of July. Unfortunately Daniel Elkeles, Chief Executive of Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust is unable to attend, but Peter Seaward will invite Lisa Townsend, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey. It was also noted that Peter Seaward and Chris Pullan would, by rotation, be standing down but both are willing to stand for re-election.
- 10.3 **Newsletter:** The Newsletter should be with the printers on 21st May for distribution to road stewards in the first week of June, but additional help is required to cover the gaps This should give adequate notice of the AGM.
- 10.4 **Look Local:** There was a 'Wombling' article in May's edition, and something on the youth centre is planned for June.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 **Future Meetings:** It was agreed that the next meeting would be held via Zoom. It will be decided at next month's meeting to decide whether to meet face-to-face in July.
- 11.2 **Village Day:** This is scheduled for Monday 30th August and it was agreed that the BRA would have a small gazebo to promote the Association, plus perhaps some free trees to offer to residents if they are prepared to plant them, or provide information on oak processionary moth, ash dieback etc. and/ information on the Blue Heart verge scheme.
- 11.3 **Open Gardens:** There will be 15 private gardens open for the public to visit on the 22nd June.
- 11.4 **Access To Cash:** Clare Curran said that she had received a very positive response from the organisers of this initiative who indicated that they would be keen to set up a hub in Bookham to restore cash withdrawal and deposit-taking facilities.

12 NEXT MEETING

- 12.1 Monday 7th June 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.