

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Agenda/Updates for the Committee Meeting to be held on

Monday 2nd August 2021 at 7.30 pm (via Video Call)

In Attendance: Peter Seaward (chair), Chris Pullan, Nick Forrer, Andrew Freeman, John Allen, Les Huett, Carolyn Elson, Keith Francis, Martin Hollins, Frances Fancourt, Michelle Smith, David Smith, Geoff Tranter, Julia Dickinson, Margaret Lawson, Monica Weller, Diane Poole, Jackie Seaward,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Richard Moyse, Cllr. Roger Adams, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre,

Apologies: Michael Agius, Paul Kennedy, John Howarth, Nigel Smith, Cllr. Sarah Chambers, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. James Chambers, Andrew Matthews, Michael Lowes, Dan Coffin, Richard Davey, David Cox OBE

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

2 MATTERS ARISING & ACTIONS

2.1 **SPACE:** It was reported last month of some unsociable behaviour in and around the centre, with police involvement. The intervention of the police has now, hopefully, resolved the matter.

2.2 **Giant Hogweed:** Andrew Matthews had previously contacted Surrey County Council about Giant Hogweed possibly growing in Bookham, however, the council have assessed the plants and, despite the size, assure him that it is not Giant Hogweed, but ordinary Hogweed.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 **Cut-the-Clutter:** Peter Seaward had been copied into an email from Eloise Appleby, Chief Executive Officer at The Grange about some of the challenges some people face, especially those with a disability, when they are out and about, e.g. A-board advertising on pavements, excess or unused street furniture (e.g. signs and poles, guard rails, utility boxes, etc.), overhanging trees and hedges, etc. Clare Curran said she would be happy to receive ideas from committee members, for further discussion with Eloise and SCC officers.

3.2 **Political Boundary Review:** Under the Boundary Commission for England's proposals the MV constituency would more closely follow council boundaries and would therefore lose Guildford wards and Leatherhead but would gain Horley. Peter Seaward said he had written to the Commission to say Leatherhead is firmly part of the local north MV community and therefore should not be removed.

3.3 **South Western Trains Timetable Consultation:** The company is consulting on a proposed new timetable post Covid. If they go ahead, changes would be

implemented from December 2022 onwards with proposals to reduce the number of off-peak trains between Leatherhead and Epsom from six trains an hour to four. There will also only be one train per hour off-peak between Guildford and Leatherhead via Bookham. The [consultation is open until 19th September](#) and Committee members may wish to express their own views.

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

- 4.1 John Howarth has updated the Companies House records to show that Nancy Goodacre is now a Director of the BRA in place of Simon Edge.
- 4.2 **AGM:** Due to the ongoing Covid 19 restrictions an executive decision was been taken to postpone the scheduled AGM on 15th July when Lisa Townsend, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, was due to speak. Notices have been put up on the notice boards, the website and a message will also go out via the BRA email distribution list. A new date of 16th September has been scheduled and Lisa has been informed. If there are new restrictions in place in September then the AGM would revert to a Zoom meeting.

5 **PLANNING GROUP**

- 5.1 **Planning Committee:** Since the last committee meeting the planning committee has written to object to the following planning applications:
- MO/2021/0813: Woodleigh, Church Road, Bookham, Surrey KT23 3JT to erect a pair of semi-detached dwellings and a terrace of three dwellings, including associated access, parking and landscaping, following demolition of existing dwelling.
 - MO/2021/0976: Fir Tree Farm, 101 Woodlands Road, Bookham, Surrey KT23 4HN for the demolition of existing kennels building 1, 3 and 4 and erection of one dwelling with associated access, parking and landscaping.
 - MO/2021/1051: 7, Howard Road, Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT23 4PW to erect a single/two storey rear/side extension following demolition of existing, demolition of garage and shed, new roof with rooflights to create a room in roof space.
 - MO/2021/1192: Runfold, 37 Woodlands Road, Bookham, Surrey KT23 4HG to erect a detached annex in rear garden.
- 5.2 **Howard of Effingham Site:** This application was also discussed as Berkeley Homes has submitted two planning applications to Guildford Borough Council, one for an additional 110 homes and the second which would remove two areas of land that were earmarked for planting and landscaping facilitating part of the 110 home development on one of them.

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

- 6.1 **Litter Pick/Great British Spring Clean:** Margaret Lawson reported that the litter picks had recommenced and would continue on a monthly basis, although it was felt that there was now less litter about.
- 6.2 **Roads and Pavements:** Clare Curran said that there are plans to build a refuge on the A246 near The Lorne; that the works in Middlemead had now been completed and that several pavement improvements were underway or would be starting shortly, e.g. Dawnay Road, Down's Way and Eastwick Drive.

- 6.3 **Flooding:** It was noted that there are drainage problems on the A246 by Chandlers Building Supplies and that sandbags are being used to protect one or more houses opposite. The drains are to be jetted soon which will hopefully alleviate the problem.
- 6.4 **Trees:** Frances Fancourt said she had received some quotes to plant some trees between the Lower Shott and Church Road. Approval is awaited from SCC to confirm suitability of the proposed sites. CIL funding is also being sought from MVDC. Several planters are also being planned.
- 6.5 **Bookham High Street Party:** The Bookham Street Party on 31st July went ahead and was very successful, despite the rain. The committee wished to convey its congratulations to Dan Coffin and Richard Davey for their tremendous efforts in organising it, alongside MVDC, and their tireless contribution on the day.
- 6.6 **Village Day:** This has been rescheduled to 30th August and the BRA will have a stall with several tree wardens in attendance. A number of trees will also be given away although recipients would need to fulfil several criteria, e.g. BRA member, willingness to plant it where others can also see it, etc.
- 6.7 **Blue Heart Scheme:** Diane Poole said that there was still a high level of interest with many sites now looking 'wild'. It was noted however that a one metre cut is still required to ensure sightlines are maintained and that all areas will be cut in November.
- 6.8 **Hanging Baskets:** Andrew Matthews has spoken with the Shopkeepers in Lower Shott and Mr Jeffrey's Hair Salon and Harvey Fab are willing to water the hanging baskets there. Mrs Casselden has tentatively agreed to water the ones in Church Road, and has expressed interest in the watering machine that Laytons have bought.
- 6.9 **Bookham Station Signage:** Andrew Matthews met with David Wilby from South Western Railway on Friday the 16th of July, and David seemed happy to look at upgrading the station signage to make it more suitable for passengers with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, provided the BRA is willing to pay half of the cost. If we agree then Andrew will reply to David to get a figure for the amount we need to raise and submit a CIL application.
- 6.10 **Bookham Station Accessible Path:** On 23rd July Peter Seaward and Andrew Matthews met with Paul Beresford MP to discuss the accessible path to the station. Sir Paul is going to approach Natural England Senior management to try and get them to help move the project forward.
- 7 COMMUNITY GROUP (Education, Police, Transport, Emergency Services, Health, Churches Together)**
- 7.1 **Police:** It was noted that CCTV monitoring centre in Reigate is to be closed. The committee expressed its concern of this development and wondered how CCTV footage would be monitored in future.
- 7.2 **Churches Together:** Congregations are now opening up and getting back to normal. St. Nicolas Church is also planning to remove the pews to allow the church to be opened up and used for other community purposes.
- 7.3 **GP Surgeries:** Keith Francis said he'd heard of some complaints about the surgeries, e.g. having to wait weeks for an appointment, not being seen in person,

online booking slots are limited.

8 COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

- 8.1 **Subscriptions:** Carolyn Elson said that around 1,200 people had paid online, with a number also making additional voluntary donations. To date about £7k had been raised although she hasn't heard from a number of road stewards.
- 8.2 **Communications:** Les Huett said that no one had come forward to help with the communications activities, and would widen to net to the wider community.

9 BUSINESS GROUP (External Relations)

High Street: David Smith commented on the High Street Party and that footfall had certainly be very good, although perhaps the elderly had stayed away due to Covid (and the weather). It had largely been funded by MVDC so it is probably unlikely to be repeated next year. The challenge to local traders is now to encourage local residents to continue to support them now restrictions are easing.

10 PROJECT UPDATES

- 10.1 Peter Seaward gave a very brief synopsis of ongoing projects, including the regeneration of the High Street (with a budget of £9k), benches (a number need repairs), war memorials and need to add several names, and the skateboard part in the Lower Road rec which is no longer fit for purpose and could potentially be replaced with a BMX track if funding could be found.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 **Fundraising Event:** Richard Moyses mentioned that he is organising a fundraising event for the Alzheimer's Society and the Dementia Care Trust in the Old Barn Hall on 30th October, the idea being to interview elderly people to help raise awareness, etc. The Committee agreed to donate £100 and help with advertising would be appreciated.
- 11.2 **Surrey Hills Forum:** One recurring issue is off-road bikes with some developing their own tracks. Issues should be reported.
- 11.3 **Bookham Diamond Jubilee Sign:** This is being repaired at no cost by the supplier. Hopefully it will be in place again soon.
- 11.4 **Youth Centre:** MVDC and SCC are negotiating regarding the lease arrangements for the new centre in the Lower Road rec.
- 11.5 **Surrey Transport Plan:** Clare Curran said that SCC's draft [Transport Plan](#) for 2022 to 2032 and beyond is out for consultation. The plan promotes healthy lifestyles, affordable, low carbon travel choices, etc. The consultation is open until the end of October 2021.

12 NEXT MEETING

- 12.1 Monday 6th September 2021 at 7.30pm in the Harrison Room, Old Barn Hall.