

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Agenda/Updates for the Committee Meeting to be held on

Monday 5th July 2021 at 7.30 pm (via Video Call)

In Attendance: Peter Seaward (chair), John Howarth, Andrew Freeman, Julia Dickinson, Margaret Lawson, Geoff Tranter, Dan Coffin, Richard Davey, David Cox OBE, Keith Francis, Nigel Smith, Michael Lowes, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Martin Hollins, Luke Tye, John Allen, Andrew Matthews, Les Huett, Carolyn Elson, Frances Fancourt, Chris Pullan, Nick Forrer

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

Apologies: Michael Agius, Paul Kennedy, Cllr. Sarah Chambers, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. James Chambers, Diane Poole, Monica Weller,

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

2 MATTERS ARISING & ACTIONS

There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 **Anti-Social Behaviour:** It has been reported that there have been several incidents around SPACE, the Bookham Tennis Club and Chrystie rec in recent weeks, with three severe cases, e.g. a junior tennis coaching session was disrupted by youths hurling abuse and stones frightening the children. A similar incident occurred during a boot camp fitness session, with again abuse and stone throwing and also the serious disruption of a pole fitness class when police were called. There has also been several incidents of youngsters breaking up the wall by the steps to the tennis courts and climbing onto the roof of SPACE. CCTV footage has been provided to the police. The police are investigating.

3.2 **Hanging Baskets:** As issue arose regarding the baskets that had been erected but had subsequently been taken down again due to the lack of a licence. The licence and baskets are now in place although it has been advised that the poles are load tested. Sarah Chambers agreed to speak to MVDC officers to see how this could be done.

4 MANAGEMENT GROUP (Finance, Secretariat)

4.1 **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:** The planning committee met on the 16th June and there were 24 applications on the Running List. One letter of representation has been sent regarding Edenside House, Edenside Road (MO/2021/0742) for the demolition of the existing building and the erection of 8 new homes over 2 to 3 storeys, to include a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom affordable and open market apartments with on-site parking and private and communal amenity space. The main objection was the lack of adequate off-street parking spaces. There were several points raised where key organisations, e.g. Clarion, had not been consulted, but it transpires that only residents are consulted, not necessarily land owners, landlords, etc.

5.2 **Howard of Effingham Site:** Berkeley Homes has submitted two planning applications to Guildford Borough Council as follows:

5.2.1 [21/P/01283](#) – Variation of Condition 1 (approved plans) of planning permission 14/P/02109: This removes two pieces of land that were earmarked for planting and landscaping thus potentially opening them up for development instead.

5.2.2 [21/P/01306](#) - Hybrid planning application for outline planning permission (only access to be considered) for the erection of 4 self-build dwellings on land at 408-410 Lower Road, Effingham following demolition of all existing buildings; and full planning permission for the erection of 110 dwellings, with access, parking, community assets, landscaping, and associated works on land at Effingham Lodge Farm, Lower Road, Effingham.

5.2.3 Effingham Residents Association and Effingham Parish Council will be opposing the plans, as will the 'Say No to Berkeley Homes' group. The Planning Committee will also consider the applications.

5.3 **Local Plan:** MVDC's Local Plan, 'Future Mole Valley', will set out plans for land use for the next 17 years, including targets for delivering new development as well as setting out those areas which will continue to be protected. The draft Plan will be debated at a MVDC Cabinet meeting in early September and then, at a proposed Extraordinary Council meeting on the 15 September 2021. Assuming it is approved, it will then be published for a period of at least six weeks to gather comments on whether the Plan meets the legal requirements and whether it has been positively prepared, is justified, is effective, and consistent with national policy.

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

6.1 **Flood Forum:** The Forum had, on its agenda, the square-about, the A246 near Chandler's Building Supplies and Preston Cross area.

6.2 **Speeding Traffic:** There are ongoing issues with speeding traffic in Little Bookham Street (where two speed activated signs are planned) and Church Road. The police are also undertaking unannounced surveys. It was suggested that a 20 mph speed limit or a 'build-out' could be sought for Church Road although all solutions come with their disadvantages – health and safety, cost, etc.

6.3 **Litter Pick/Great British Spring Clean:** Les Huett reported that a number of

volunteers had collected 4 or 5 sacks of rubbish during the litter pick on Sunday, 4th July.

- 6.4 **Bookham High Street Party:** It was reported that a new website – [Bookham Street Party](#) - had been developed to help promote the event planned for 31st July. Road closures had been approved and funding secured.
- 6.5 **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle:** The tool has been updated to cover additional collections of a wide range of soft plastic packaging at a number of local sites, e.g. Sainsburys and Tesco Brooklands.
- 6.6 **Blue Hearts and Wildflower Verges:** Diane Poole reported that blue hearts for the main highway verges are still awaited due to a backlog. Residential enquiries for them continue to come in and Diane is trying to separately source plain blue hearts for people to decorate.
- 6.7 Diane has also seen pyramidal and bee orchids come up along the A246 verges which have been left unmown.
- 6.8 **Grass Cutting:** Leading on from the blue hearts issue, there are some concerns about SCC not mowing areas that should be maintained/mown. Originally it was agreed with SCC that on agreed Blue Heart verges the contractors would mow a metre-wide strip alongside paths and roads and ensure sight lines were maintained. Certain areas have not been mown with comments being received from residents about long grass near roads blocking the drain grids. Clare Curran added that the contractors should be cutting a meter's worth of grass to ensure sightlines, etc. are maintained, which can otherwise be a danger, particularly near junctions. Diane is seeking clarity from SCC as to their mowing strategy and schedule.
- 6.9 **The Garstons/Mead Crescent:** It was noted that this triangle of land had not been cut, and it was suggested that perhaps MVDC took over responsibility as an extension to the Barn Hall field. It was important to be maintained as part of the Fields-in-Trust application.
- 6.10 Frances Fancourt reported that concrete had now been sourced and the benches would be installed shortly.
- 6.11 **Rectory Lane Safety:** Previously it had been suggested that a painted path could be painted on the road to slow traffic speeds. Clare Curran said that the suggestion was noted on Highway's maintenance investment programme although any changes would be difficult, e.g. painting a path would need the speed limit changed to 30 mph which would be complicated.
- 6.12 **Square-about:** The Lower Road SGN gas main replacement works started on the 14 June 2021 and will run for two months. The SCC drainage works is due to start at the end of November 2021.
- 6.13 **Bookham Station:** Andrew Matthews reported that he had met with Staff and students from the Grange on the 22nd June to discuss possible improvements to station signage to assist passengers with disabilities. A list of possible improvements was drawn up in preparation for a meeting with South Western Railway, e.g. a change in signage so that pictures could be used to indicate the direction of travel using buildings for London and perhaps trees to indicate away from London.
- 6.14 Andrew was due to meet with South Western Railway on the 2nd July to put forward

the findings from the meeting, but unfortunately the meeting was cancelled and is replanned for the 16th July.

- 6.15 Andrew also met with the National Trust and Natural England on 29th June, where representatives from Mole Valley Access Group were also in attendance. The meeting was disappointing as the National Trust and Natural England appeared to have already decided that they were not going to support the footpath (a boardwalk would cost circa £250k although just enhancing the part would be significantly less, in the region of £25k) and were not helpful in trying to solve some of the issues raised from the meeting. Further discussions to be had with the BRA to establish what to do next.
- 6.16 Clare Curran suggested, and agreed to facilitate, a meeting with Sir Paul Beresford, MP, to discuss the issues.
- 6.17 **Bookham Shopping Area Planting and Planters:** Frances Fancourt has submitted a PIC application from SCC and is awaiting quotations for the labour, plus for permission from SCC to place items on their land.
- 6.18 **Norbury Park Community Forum:** The first meeting was on the 22nd June. No one from the BRA was able to attend although Cllrs. Roger Adams and Clare Curran are members.
- 6.19 **Dog Bins/QR Codes:** Les Huett reported that he had not heard back from Nick Gray at MVDC regarding his proposals. Richard Moyse agreed to chase Nick.

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

- 7.1 **Surrey Transport Plan:** The current plan, adopted in 2011, needs to be updated to reflect changes to national and local policy. The draft new plan has been published for consultation. It plan sets out plans for transforming Surrey's transport system to 2032 and beyond aiming to significantly reduce transport carbon emissions to meet the net zero challenge and to improve public transport, road safety and pollution for all modes of transport. All comment must be submitted by midnight on 24th October 2021 by visiting <https://surreytp4.commonplace.is/>. John Howarth pointed out that SCC are promoting agile working thus reducing travel amongst its staff.
- 7.2 **St. Nicolas Church:** Peter Seward reported that the church was planning to remove the pews and replace with flexible seating, thus opening the space up for other community purposes, which it is hoped could realise significant additional funding.

8 **COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP**

- 8.1 **Subscriptions:** Carolyn Elson said that around 600 people had paid online, with a number also making additional voluntary donations. To date about £4k had been raised although she hasn't heard from a number of road stewards.
- 8.2 **Communications:** Les Huett said that there were now 1,300 residents on the BRA's email distribution list (MailChimp) and if this continues to rise then we might have to start paying for the service.
- 8.3 The website continues to be updated frequently with newsworthy items and that the Newsletter had been distributed.

9 BUSINESS GROUP (External Relations) – Nil to report

10 PROJECT UPDATES – Nil to report

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 **Village Day:** Frances Fancourt said that the tree wardens would be attending and had 15 trees to give away to residents, with certain caveats, e.g. they must be planted in front gardens so that they are visible to other residents.

11.2 **SCC Tree Planting Scheme:** Clare Curran said that the Council was aiming to plant 1.2m trees by 2030 and had made good progress by planting 500k to date.

11.3 **Surreyi:** Clare also mentioned the [surreyi](#) website which contains very helpful and insightful data on the population down to Ward level in some cases, e.g. on health, population and the economy.

11.4 **Giant Hogweed:** Andrew Matthews reported that giant hogweed, that can cause severe burning, was present in Bookham, at least on SWT land and that all sightings should be reported.

12 NEXT MEETING

12.1 Monday 2nd August 2021 at 7.30pm. Note: This meeting will be face-to-face in the Harrison Room, Old Barn Hall. If Government restriction change then the meeting may revert to a Zoom call.