

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of BRA Committee Meeting

held on Monday 1st November 2021 at 7.30pm

in the Harrison Room, Old Barn Hall

In Attendance: Peter Seaward, Andrew Freeman, Chris Pullen, Monica Weller, Keith Francis, Martin Hollins, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Metin Huseyin, John Howarth, Carolyn Elson, Andrew Matthews, Paul Kennedy

Councillors: Cllr. Roger Adams, Cllr. Sarah Chambers, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. Richard Moyse

Apologies: Frances Fancourt, Diane Poole, Nigel Smith, Margaret Lawson, Geoff Tranter, Michael Agius, Cllr. James Chambers, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Michael Lowes, Nick Forrer, David Cox MBE, Les Huett, Julia Dickinson, Jacky Seaward,

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 **Durleston Park – Trees:** Frances Fancourt contacted SCC about the poor state of three trees in the road and they confirmed that they were already noted as requiring work, but as they were not immediately dangerous, they were a low priority. Frances will keep a watch on them and could consider replanting if necessary and allowed to do so.

2.2 **Mole Valley Boundary Review:** Peter Seaward, Richard Moyse and Andrew Freeman attended the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's stakeholder [presentation](#) on the 20th October which was very informative. In brief it is planned for the number of MVDC councillors to be reduced from 41 to 39. This would translate to 13 wards, with each ward having circa 5,800 voters (+/-10%) and three councillors. Bookham has a predicted future 'eligible voter' population of 9,973 in 2027 therefore there is likely to be two Wards, i.e. six councillors serving the Bookham villages, unless there was a desire, albeit very unlikely, to configure this differently.

2.3 Broadly the existing boundaries are the Bookhams with Lower Road being the dividing line between Bookham North and Bookham South, although there are some anomalies which could be resolved through this process.

2.4 The Association has been asked to contribute to the [consultation](#) by the 6th December and the Commission will take the following into consideration:

- New wards should leave each councillor representing roughly the same

number of voters as councillors elsewhere in the authority.

- New wards should, as far as possible, reflect community interests and identities, and boundaries should be identifiable. Consider transport links, community groups and facilities, natural or physical boundaries, parishes and shared interests.
- New wards should promote effective and convenient local government. Consider the number of councillors for, the geographic size of, and the links between parts of the ward

2.5 Action: Peter Seward, John Howarth and Andrew Freeman to respond on behalf of the Association.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 **Flooding at Merrylands Road/Little Bookham Street:** Michael Agius responded to a resident regarding flooding in the area 20th/21st October which entered their house from a ditch at the rear and Merrylands Road to the front. They and two of their neighbours will have to move out for 6/9 months while flood damage is repaired. Unfortunately the solution is 'complicated' with probably blockages in other connected ditches and muddled responsibilities between the National Trust and the riparian responsibilities of local householders along the ditch. A more detailed investigation is needed by the houses that lie alongside the ditch.

3.2 **Surrey Local Heritage List Project 2021/22:** As part of the Government's [Build Back Better](#) initiative, the Government, in association with Historic England, is developing local heritage asset lists in 22 areas, one of which is in Mole Valley. This project is seeking to identify and include on lists those assets, not just building, most valued by their local communities. Nominations are being sought with a closing date for submissions of 16th November. [Selection criteria](#) includes Rarity, Group Value, Architectural or artistic value, Archaeological Value, Historic Association, Landmark Status and Social and Cultural Value.

3.3 **Barking Dogs:** A resident contacted the BRA about loud and repeated dog barking in the Grove estate. They had reported this to the RSPCA but they suggested that nothing could be done. Nancy Goodacre is following this up.

3.4 **Traffic in The Lorne:** Following the closure of part of the Lower Road due to the square-about drainage works, traffic is being diverted along The Lorne and a local resident reported that the amount of traffic, including buses, and the speed of some vehicles is causing concern, and requested that Highways put up a 'please slow down' or similar signs at the junction of Hawkwood Rise with the A246 and Lower Rd. This message was conveyed to the council.

4 MANAGEMENT GROUP (Finance, Secretariat, Project Control)

4.1 **Succession Planning:** John Howarth raised the need for succession planning as Peter Seaward will be stepping down at the next AGM. In addition Michael Agius has already stepped back from being the deputy chairman, John Howarth has indicated his desire to step back as company secretary and Andrew Freeman will also stepping down a minute secretary. Anyone willing to fill any of these posts should contact Peter in the first instance.

4.2 **Public Liability Insurance:** Chris Pullan said that the Association's £10m insurance

policy needed renewing. He had received a quote with only a very minor increase. This was approved.

4.3 **Corporation Tax:** John Howarth reported that he had submitted a nil Remittance Advice to HMRC in respect to the Association's Corporation Tax.

4.4 **AGM:** Minutes of the AGM will be uploaded to the BRA website.

5 PLANNING GROUP

5.1 **Local Plan:** The BRA has employed a planning consultant, Brian Madge Ltd, to help with the response to the Local Plan, which will be circulated as soon as it is available, ready for submission on the 5th November. In brief Association's response will suggest that the proposal fails four of the tests to demonstrate exceptional circumstances in that;

- The development would inherently be sprawl
- The development would further merge Bookham and Effingham
- The development will urbanise the area and encourage encroachment
- The development in part releases the pressure to develop in the urban area and particularly its town centres.

5.2 Nigel Smith, Deputy Chairman BRA Forward Planning Group, had submitted a resolution and asked if the Committee would consider endorsing it. The Resolution was discussed and the following wording was agreed:

The Bookhams Residents' Association fully supports the rights of local groups to oppose the changes in Green Belt policy and the allocation of land as specified in the Draft Mole Valley Local Plan (as published for Regulation 19 purposes). [DN: Not sure if this was the final agreed wording]

5.3 **Planning Applications:** The Planning Committee has written letters of representation, objecting to two planning applications since the Committee's last meeting,

- MO/2021/1585 and 1586: The Royal Oak, 12-16, High Street, Bookham regarding new signs, including illuminated signs.
- MO/2021/1739: 40 Durlleston Park Drive, Bookham, regarding the erection of two storey side and front extensions.

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

6.1 **Drainage:** The Bookham Flood Forum will meet by Zoom tomorrow, 2nd November. Amongst other items to be discussed, flooding experienced during the night of 20th/21st October, due to the torrential rain experienced, will be raised. Amongst other areas affected were A246 at Chandlers Yard, Proctor Gardens, Greenway, Sole Farm Road, Oakdene, Merrylands Road. A notice posted on 'I Live in Bookham' asked for reports of any flooding to be sent to <https://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/contact>

6.2 **Bookham Station Signage:** Andrew Matthews reported that a planning application had been submitted to install 32" displays which would show static information as

oppose to running commentary which will aid readability, and asked if the planning committee could write in to support this application.

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

7.1 **Churches Together:** Martin Hollins said that Churches Together had recently met, the first time in 2 years. The Golden Years initiative is working well and service dates will be advertised in Look Local. A carol service is also being discussed.

7.2 **Bus Services:** Keith Francis said that the new timetable for the H1 bus service running between Epsom Hospital and St. Helier Hospital, had now been published.

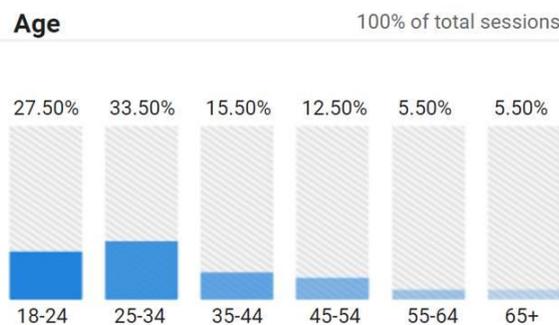
8 **COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP GROUP**

8.1 **Autumn Newsletter:** The Newsletter preparation has been completed and content contributors will have received a draft for review this weekend for sign off. The signed off version will be sent to Surrey Litho and we will be starting distribution on w/c 8th November. This will be distributed to all households in Bookham.

8.2 **Email Campaigns:** In October we sent the MVDC Local Plan Regulation 19 notification and also a campaign to Road Stewards advising of the newsletter. Carolyn Elson produced the Road Steward's campaign – so good skills transfer!

8.3 We have 1300 active subscribers to our email service.

8.4 **Website:** Site visitors for October was 700 which is a little down. Interestingly, according to Google Analytics, 27.5% of visitors are in the age range 18-24, 33.5% are in the age range 25-34 and 15.5% are in the 35-44 age range.



8.5 The new website is almost ready to go live just a few tweaks and content from the current site to complete before switching over.

8.6 Committee members may view [here](#):

8.7 Everything should be accessible in one or two clicks.

New features include a calendar of events and a revised subscriptions page which is easier to use.

8.8 Les would appreciate any comments on the new site including anything that doesn't work. Les has also added additional fields on the "Contact Us" page to capture the address so we can validate if the person making the enquiry is a member.

8.9 **Branding and Logo:** As part of the website and newsletter refresh Les has created a new logo and used a different, more modern font.

8.10 **Membership:** An update on the Autumn Newsletter has been sent to all Road Stewards and subscriptions continue to arrive. Several Road Stewards will be using the Newsletter to do a final follow up for payments.

9 BUSINESS GROUP – Nil to report

10 PROJECT UPDATES

- 10.1 **BMX Track:** The skateboard park in the Lower Road rec is in a poor state and should be taken down. It is hoped that, in its place, a BMX track could be installed although the cost would be in the region of £50k. David Cox, Metin Huseyin and Jenny Coffin are looking at possible funding sources.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 **High Street:** David Smith mentioned that people are still parking illegally on the double yellow lines in the High Street, which were installed to provide passing points to aid traffic flow, and enforcement action is rarely being taken. The councillors agreed to try and get the parking enforcement officers to visit more frequently.
- 11.2 **Remembrance Day:** It was noted that there will be services at St. Nicolas church and All Saint's church on Remembrance Day plus a service on Remembrance Sunday at St. Nicolas'.
- 11.3 **Lloyds Bank Site:** Elizabeth Daly reported that the site had now been sold and would be a business centre and an antiques centre with flats above.
- 11.4 **Norbury Park:** Clare Curran reminded the committee that Surrey County Council has published its [long-term vision for the Norbury Park Estate](#) for consultation which will run from 19 October to 29 November 2021.

12 NEXT MEETING

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