

# THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

## Minutes of BRA Committee Meeting

held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 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, Carolyn Elson, Andrew Matthews, Paul Kennedy, Nick Forrer, David Cox MBE, Les Huett, Julia Dickinson, Jacky Seaward,

**Councillors:** Cllr. Roger Adams, Cllr. Sarah Chambers,

**Apologies:** Frances Fancourt, Diane Poole, Richard Moyse, Cllr. Clare Curran, Nigel Smith, Margaret Lawson, Geoff Tranter, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Agius, John Howarth, Cllr. James Chambers, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Cllr. Richard Moyse, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Michael Lowes, Dan Coffin, Richard Davey

## 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 There Were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

## 3 CORRESPONDENCE

## 4 MANAGEMENT GROUP (Finance, Secretariat, Project Control)

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

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

## 5 PLANNING GROUP

5.1 **Local Plan:** Peter Seaward summarised the current position in that the current draft plan allows for 469 new dwellings in Bookham, down from 800 in the previous draft plan. Potential development sites in the latest draft include Preston Farm (212) and Chalk Pit Farm depot, with circa 88 already built so a shortfall of around 300. Ad hoc / windfall applications may well reach or even exceed the required level over the duration of the Local Plan (15 years). One of the BRA's main concerns remain the infrastructure (drainage, road capacity, schools, health services, etc.).

5.2 Peter also said that that the BRA had commissioned a consultant to aid the Association's response to the Government Inspector.

5.3 **Planning Committee:** The committee met on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, and letters of representation were sent on:

- **MO/2021/1585 and MO/2021/1586:** The Royal Oak, 12-16, High Street, Bookham: Advertisement Consent for various signs.
- **MO/2021/1472:** Land south of Lower Road, Bookham: Change of use from Use Class F1 (education) to F2 (outdoor recreation) for the provision of public open space on land south of Lower Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, including areas of planting, a feature pond, community orchard and outdoor recreation.

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

6.1 **Drainage Works – Squareabout:** The works are planned to start on the 4th October for 10 week with road closures on Lower Road and East Street. The 479 bus is also on diversion using Leatherhead Road, The Lorne and Sole Farm Road.

6.2 **Litter Pick:** The latest litter-pick on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October had been very successful and supported by around 10 volunteers. It was noted that there has been less litter about in the past few months, in part due to all the Womblers, (folk who adopt a road, or part of road near their home, to keep litter free). As a reminder, the litter-pick takes place on the first Sunday of each month at 11am at Lower Shott Car Park.

6.3 **Sewerage Leak:** It was noted that there was a leakage at the junction of Water Lane/Lower Road/Manor House Lane.

6.4 **Trees:** Following the Village Day, Frances Fancourt, who was notable to attend but provided an update prior to the meeting, reported that she and the other tree wardens, are checking the suitability of the sites of those residents requesting a free tree.

6.5 **Great Big Green Week:** Frances also reported that a donation of £102, raised from a cake sale, had been offered in support of the Association's trees efforts.

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

7.1 **Education:** David Cox said that he is not aware of any potential intake issues this year, although with new developments expected in the coming years, which need to be taken into account, issues may arise in the future. These would be exacerbated in there is a new development at Wisley airfield and should the new Howard of Effingham school not materialise. If there is a shortage of places then children from Bookham could be expected to go to Therfield School in Leatherhead, but there are also significant developments planned for Leatherhead! The only way to challenge the impact on Bookham children is for parents to challenge it through the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, although there is no sign that parents are aware of the potential issues.

7.2 **Police:** A meeting had taken place with the neighbourhood officer who said they wished to reenergise and engage more fully with the community. A Policing Plan is also being drafted which may help to address the dilemma of the CCTV cameras, i.e. the Association is willing to invest in new cameras but the CCTV monitoring centre in Redhill is being closed.

- 7.3 **Burglary Warning:** PCSO Marion Hawkins had also been in contact to warn that there have been a few burglaries in the area over the last few weeks with access gained by back doors being smashed. Advice is for people to leave a light on when leaving their property in the evening.
- 7.4 **Churches Together:** Martin Hollins said that congregations were now normalising and Churches Together had been involved in a new 'Golden Years' initiative to engage and support older people.
- 7.5 **Youth Services:** Martin also mentioned links with the Bookham Youth Project, something that David Cox is also closely associated with. David added that new trustees are being sought for when the new centre in Lower Road is built and that fundraising initiatives are being initiated.
- 7.6 **Norbury Park Sawmill:** The Norbury Park Community Forum is meeting to discuss the future of the sawmill and will be undertaking a consultation of the stakeholders. Following that, recommendations will be submitted to SCC and a public consultation will ensue.
- 7.7 **Garden Waste Collection:** It was reported that a one-off collection would be scheduled to empty the currently full bins, however, residents will be urged not to fill them again as regular collections remain on hold indefinitely.

## 8 COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP GROUP

- 8.1 **Website:** Les Huett said that he is in the process of finalising the new BRA website which will be a simpler and easier to manage. The current site has grown significantly during the last 18 months and has got to the stage where it needs slimming down. Part of this will include transitioning to Rocketspark, and away from Wordpress.
- 8.2 **Autumn Newsletter:** Articles are requested from a number of contributors, the outline timeline being:
- Call for content by 11th October
  - Final publication completed by 22nd October
  - Go to print: 25th October
  - Newsletters prepared for Road Stewards: 1st November
  - Distribution by w/c 8th November
- 8.3 **Membership:** Carolyn Elson reported that subscriptions continue to trickle in and amount to around £8,500 so far.

## 9 BUSINESS GROUP – Nil to report

## 10 PROJECT UPDATES

- 10.1 **Hanging Baskets:** Andrew Matthews reported that the watering machine had been purchased and was now located in the carpet shop for anyone who needed to use it.
- 10.2 **Train Station Signage:** Andrew also said that progress had been slow but costings are required before progressing.

## 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 **Groveside and Hawkwood Rise Junction:** Nancy Goodacre said she had reported this junction to Highways as the new layout appears to have issues with turning, which is tight, with some vehicles veering into the middle of the road and some mounting the pavement. The Traffic Engineer has agreed to install some road studs at the edge of the carriageway and the edge of the central hatching on the westbound approach to the new pedestrian island to further highlight to drivers the change in the kerb line.
- 11.2 **Boundary Review:** Peter Seaward reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission is conducting [a review of MVDC's boundaries](#), and that the BRA has been asked to respond. Peter and F- will be attending a virtual stakeholder session on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.
- 11.3 **Village Map:** Nick Forrer said that he had now received an updated village map from Squiggle and he would be putting it up in the Lower Road car park shortly.
- 11.4 **Trees in Durleston Park Drive:** Monica Weller said that one of the trees, perhaps a Mountain Ash, looked as if it had died. Frances Fancourt to investigate.
- 11.5 **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Consultation:** Julia Dickinson said a consultation had commenced to expand the Surrey Hills AONB. Julia was asked to respond on behalf of the BRA.
- 11.6 **MVDC Welcome Back Fund:** Roger Adams said that MVDC has money available to fund live music on each of the five Saturdays leading up to Christmas. There was broad support for such an initiative, and Peter Seaward agreed to speak to Dan Coffin and Richard Davey to seek advice following their successful High Street event earlier in the year.

## 12 NEXT MEETING

- 12.1 **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Harrison Room, Old Barn Hall.**