

# THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee – Number 10053863

## Minutes of meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**In Attendance:** Peter Seaward (chair), Andy Freeman, Julia Dickinson, Les Huett, Zena Rose, Martin Hollins, David Cox MBE, Keith Francis, Monica Weller, Clare Curran, Richard Moyse, John Allen, Roger Adams, Eloise Appleby, Carolyn Elson, Metin Huseyin, Geraldine and Mick Sims-Brassett

**Apologies:** Chris Pullan, John Howarth, Paul Kennedy, Simon Edge, Frances Fancourt, Elizabeth Daly, Diane Poole, Geoff Tranter, Sarah Chambers, Andrew Matthews, James Chambers, Nancy Goodacre, Margaret Lawson, Nick Forrer, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Agius, Michael Lowes

**The Grange Centre:** Peter Seaward opened the meeting and thanked Eloise Appleby, on behalf of [The Grange Centre](#), to allow the BRA Committee to meet at the centre. Eloise then gave a brief outline of the excellent work of The Grange Centre, the services it provides including the new Courtyard Café (which opens on 7<sup>th</sup> June, open Tues to Friday 12.30 to 2.30pm), and some of the future developments planned such as new outdoor learning facility.

**Tim Waller, Chairman of the Fetcham Residents' Association:** On a more sombre note, Peter paid tribute to his counterpart in Fetcham, Tim Waller, who sadly passed away on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May in Epsom Hospital. Peter had known Tim for a number of years, working closely on a number of north Mole Valley issues, and his enthusiasm and zest for the wellbeing of Fetcham and its residents will be sorely missed.

**Local Election Results:** Peter Seaward welcomed Monica Weller to the Committee as the newly elected councillor for Bookham North. Peter also thanks outgoing councillor Richard Moyse for his constructive and helpful contributions, to which Richard replied to say he had been grateful to have served the community as a councillor and fully intended to remain active within Bookham and engaged with the Association.

- 1 **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
- 2 **Matters Arising & Actions:**
  - 2.1 **Boundary Review:** Peter had a conversation with Arabella Davies (MVDC Democratic Services) who asks that we reply to the Boundary Commission, possibly with information also road by road from those locations in both Bookham and Fetcham in this new ward. One thing we FRA and BRA will have to agree is what will in future be the boundary between Fetcham and Bookham, or indeed confirm to the BC that our boundary would continue to follow the present ward boundary line.
- 3 **Correspondence:** There was no correspondence of any note.
- 4 **Grants and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding:** Peter explained that CIL funding comes from developers, as a levy, when building new dwellings. there are two elements to CIL funding – 'strategic' and 'community'. The strategic fund for Mole Valley stands at about £5m and can be used anywhere across the district for major projects.

Community CIL funds have, in the past, been reserved for the local community in which the levy had been raised. This is automatic for parish councils. Also, as Bookham has a Neighbourhood Plan in place, we are entitled to 25%, the same as parish councils, although we need to submit bids and all councillors need to endorse the various projects.

However, not all communities are applying to use their reserved allocation therefore all community CIL funds, excluding that given to parish councils, will held in a central pot and bids allocated to any community if they apply. Given that the majority of CIL funding is raised in the north of Mole Valley, there is a risk that Bookham, for example, would miss out. Peter then summarised the projects that the BRA has applied, or are considering applying for are:

- Lynchgate at St. Nicolas Church (approved)
- High Street improvements (approx. £9k)
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee (a bench near the diamond jubilee sign)
- Netting at the Chrystie Rec
- BMX track in the Lower Road (cost estimated to be £40k to £50k)
- Changing room facilities at the Chrystie Rec.
- New display screen on platform one at Bookham station (cost of £12,024). Requires approval from the MVDC cabinet.

**5 Medical Centre:** Peter mentioned that one of the priorities for the Association is to improve the medical facilities within the village, and Simon Edge has had some discussions with Eastwick, MVDC and others in exploring the opportunity of developing a polyclinic, i.e. a range of services wider the primary care services usually provided by GPs. NHS England and Improvement would also need to approve such a development and strategic CIL funding could perhaps be sought. It is very early days, but the attitude of the Council Officers was very positive about seeing what can be done (not looking for reasons why anything would be too difficult) which was very encouraging.

It was also noted that:

- ownership of Leatherhead Hospital would be transferred to St. George's Hospital which may result in some new services being provided there, or even withdrawn.
- The CCG (soon to be replaced by an Integrated Care Service (ICS)) is conducting a review of all GP premises across the areas, which might also come up with its own recommendations.

**6 Lower Shott:** Another priority is Lower Shott (the shops, flats and garages), which is largely owned by MVDC but also Clarion Housing Association and one private owner. This is rather dated and the garages in particular are in a dilapidated state. This would be an ideal redevelopment site for new, modern shops and new housing. Peter has approached MVDC on a number of occasions over the years and wondered whether the councillors could look at this and take up with the council as his approached=s have, so far, not led anywhere.

## **7 Planning Group**

**7.1 Planning Committee:** Peter Seaward reported that Keith Wale has taken over the chairmanship of the Planning Committee and thanks outgoing chairman, Nigel Smith, who will remain on the committee, for his sterling help over the years.

7.2 **Planning Applications:** The Planning Committee has written to MVDC on the following applications:

- Planning Ref: MO/2022/0318: 81, Woodlands Road, Bookham KT23 4HL. Description: Proposed erection of 5 No. new dwellings with associated landscaping, parking and vehicular access following demolition of existing buildings and re-siting of an existing mobile home on the site
- Planning Ref: MO/2022/0493: Woodleigh, Church Road, Bookham, Surrey KT23 3JT. Description: Erection of 2 No. pairs of semi-detached dwellings, including associated access, parking and landscaping, following demolition of existing dwelling

7.3 **Tree Preservation Orders (TPO):** MVDC have limited resources which prevents the tree officer from going through the necessary procedures to make a TPO. In this case, the tree had already been pruned by the occupant. There followed a general discussion about the how trees are managed by MVDC through TPO's etc and it was suggested that a meeting be arranged between BRA Planning Team, Bookham Tree Wardens and MVDC Planning.

## 8 Environment Group

8.1 **Trees/Horticulture:** Update from Frances Fancourt:

- SCC have planted a cherry avenue outside the Lower Road Recreation Ground and we hope to extend the avenue in the autumn. They also planted 4 Sorbus trees in Oveton Way, and 2 on The Garstons triangle. The triangle has been well mowed now and is looking much more like the parkland which was hoped for. The BRA tree wardens bought the trees which SCC planted.
- Planting in SCC verges is again becoming possible, although the method and costs will be different from previously. However, SCC are keen to plant trees now, and the tree wardens are actively looking at sites to recommend to SCC for new plantings.
- The tree wardens have been visiting and photographing the Front Garden Trees given away at the last Village Day, and mapping them on the Queen's Green Canopy website map. Because it will in future be possible to plant in Bookham's verges, the idea of giving away Front Garden Trees again at 2022 Village Day is being reassessed. Possibly another tree related exercise can be run, as people were keen to visit the stand because of the trees being given away: this is being discussed by the tree wardens.

Peter Seaward reported that on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March at Bookham Library SCC were giving away 140 trees and when he arrived there was a queue of 20 to 30 people and most of the trees, if not all, went.

Also, it has been confirmed that the £800 grant suggested by Clare from her allocation has been approved and this will fund the Jubilee plantation to be put in on the Lower Road by the recreation ground plus other trees and shrubs. Others will be planted in Oveton Way and the Garstons.

8.2 **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson reported that 20 people attended the monthly pick on May 1st and managed to collect 20 bags of litter. This was in addition to many bags collected by residents from the Grange only 10 days earlier. They were very grateful to borrow our equipment.

## 9 Community Group

- 9.1 **Youth Centre:** David Cox said he had a productive meeting with Colin Galletly, the new SCC Lead on Estates, Land & Property, who had been involved with the meeting with MVDC to resolve the deadlock between the 2 authorities. It seems both the Local Authorities have resolved matters pretty quickly, especially the conditional demands being made by MVDC.

He has confirmed that the new lease for BYCA will be much as the one we had at the old centre on a pepper corn rent. He is keen that SCC continue to work closely with BYCA, LYP & Bookham Colts and to mould the lease to help us be successful within the conditions set out in the planning consent. I have dealt with the SCC Officer who will be working on the lease before when we renewed the lease on the old centre and found her pragmatically helpful.

The design & planning application has, of course, now been delayed due to the blockage but he is expecting to be able to produce a time frame in the next week or so.

SCC is working with MVDC to provide a Community communication on the new centre.

- 9.2 **Village Day:** The Tree Wardens would like to repeat what they did last year so we (BRA) could have a joint presence with a gazebo and trying to get new members.
- 9.3 **Police - Hylands Garage:** At the last meeting there was a discussion about the lack of a police response to the various activities at this garage and where the owner has complained that there is no or little police response to his reports or CCTV evidence.

Nancy Goodacre raised this with Lisa Townsend on Monday who suggested that Hylands would benefit from input regarding Designing Out Crime to help prevent future occurrences. Nancy has contacted the local DOCO and asked him to help Hylands in this matter.

- 9.4 **Churches Together:** Martin Hollins reported that meeting hub was very popular and the Community Fridge were now visiting too. Also, support is being provided to Ukrainian refugees. The Golden Years initiative is also very popular.

## 10 Communications and Membership Group

- 10.1 **Website:** Web site visitors remain buoyant with 1258 visitors viewing 2,126 page views during April. The photo gallery area on the homepage has been updated with images of the new village sign, Garstons Triangle seating, Blue Hearts and Litter Pick team on the Great British Spring Clean campaign.

Latest new posts during April included 465 bus route timetable change, regular planning updates, Great British Spring Clean campaign, Local Plan - HM Government Inspector's Initial Questions, Mole Valley Business and Boots Pharmacy.

The recycling database has been reissued with input from Diane Poole for Plastic Free Bookham. With a large number of changes to recycling in the area it has been a major task to rebuild. However, it is now straight forward for updates to be added. Details of the service have been posted to social media. It has also been promoted through Plastic Free Bookham channels as well. You can read more here <https://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/blog/post/16736/new-free-online-recycling-guide-released-by-the-bra-and-plastic-free-bookham/>.

On the About the BRA <https://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/about/> page the role of

the BRA in the community has been published following strategy work by Simon Edge and agreed by the BRA Directors.

10.2 **Email Service:** There were no campaigns in April, however as start to the membership season campaigns to all of our 1,300+ subscribers have been implemented. To allow us to deal with the large number of on line payments the campaign has been staged over a period of two weeks and should finish on 10th May. We have seen a significant number of payments come through so far each day.

10.3 **Social Media:** In addition to Facebook we now post to Next Door which is popular in the area. The posts are always linked to the BRA website so people can read more if they wish to. On Facebook we have 691 followers. On Nextdoor there are 2,500 people registered in the Bookham area.

Overall our online reach is in the order of 4,500 although of course there will be residents who are on multiple platforms.

10.4 **Newsletter:** The Spring newsletter should be hitting doormats at the beginning of June in time for the AGM on 13th July. A request for content has been sent to the relevant committee members to be with me by 15th May.

There will be two versions of the Newsletter - the normal edition for delivery by our Road Stewards and a second edition for roads without Road Stewards to appeal to residents in these roads to volunteer and also to pay their subs online.

## 11 Any Other Business

11.1 **Green Waste Collection:** This service is due to resume in full in the weeks commencing 18 and 25 April. This is part of a full resumption of service across the Joint Waste Partnership. Woking will also re-start at the same time as Mole Valley. Elmbridge and Surrey Heath will restart in the weeks commencing 2 and 9 May.

11.2 **AGM:** There was a discussion as to who to invite to be the guest speaker. Monica Weller suggested someone to speak on the challenges of speeding traffic which seems to be a major concern for local residents. This will be looked into further.

11.3 **Sports Strategy:** Julia Dickinson reported that Mole Valley has a 'deficit' of sporting facilities and was concerned this if planning permission was granted for more housing on the Howard of Effingham site then valuable sporting facilities would be lost, exacerbating the deficit. Julia and Peter will speak to MVDC to ensure this point is understood.

11.4 **Bookham Youth Project:** Clare Curran reminded the Committee that, despite the closure of the Youth Centre, the BYP was still providing much valued youth services across Bookham, albeit in different locations.

11.5 **Baptist Church Family Centre:** Clare also reported that the Community Foundation is stopping its funding for the Family Centre which has been successfully run at the church for the last 3 years. New funding streams are now needed and Clare would support any applications made.

11.6 **CCTV:** Peter Seaward has spoken to the Police Commissioner about the value and future viability of CCTV, and it appears that future funding is now the responsibility of the individual district and borough councils.

12 **Next BRA Meeting:** 7.30 pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in the Church Room, St. Nicolas Church