

The Bookhams Residents' Association

bookhamresidents.org.uk

Tel: 0300 030 9890

June 2024

Working for Bookham since 1926

Diary date: 2024 AGM

Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Great Bookham on Thursday, 18th July 2024 commencing at 7.30 pm.

In this edition:

1 Wanting a fair deal for Bookham

3 Preston Farm Planning Application

3 Residents Preston Farm Planning Application concerns

6 Main Modifications to the Local Plan

7 Whatever happened to our new Youth & Community Centre?

9 BRA Community services

10 Transport and Environment

12 Membership and subscriptions



www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Green Belt land on Preston Farm facing north east from The Saddlery

Wanting a fair deal for Bookham!

Simon Edge—BRA Chairman



There is always a lot more happening in the Bookhams than meets the eye and I suspected that being BRA Chairman would keep me busy. I was right!

The last six months have been outstanding. BRA volunteers have worked harder than ever on behalf of residents and I hope you will enjoy reading about what they have been doing. I will start by mentioning three particular issues, all with a theme of wanting a fair deal for Bookham.

Planning issues have dominated recent months with many hundreds of hours being spent commenting on: the Local Plan, the Planning Inspector's Main Modifications (changes necessary to make the Plan sound) and on the Preston Farm planning application. The BRA's Planning Team have done excellent work in representing resident's views and trying to get a fair deal for the Bookhams from these

(Continued on page 2)

Chairman: Simon Edge: chair@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Company Secretary and Communications: Les Huett: publicity@bookhamresidents.org.uk

©Bookhams Residents' Association 2024. Registered Company No. 10053863

Registered Address: Bookhams Residents' Association, 11 Church Road, Great Bookham, KT23 3PB

The Bookhams Residents' Association Newsletter is published twice a year in the spring and autumn and is distributed by a team of volunteers to all BRA membership households.

You may contact the BRA via our website:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or call: 0300 030 9890

Our website is updated weekly with BRA news and local authority information. You may also sign up for our occasional e-mail service and pay your annual subscription. We also publish on social media

planning issues. We are delighted that so many residents have thanked the team for what they have done and who have sent their own comments to MVDC and the Inspector. I am pleased that our local Councillors have also supported the BRA and resident's views and look forward to that continuing.

The Planning Inspector is nearing the end of her examination of MVDC's Plan. At the time of writing, she is consulting on her Main Modifications which the BRA has also commented on in detail.

The Inspector's job is to say whether the Plan complies with relevant legislation and is "sound". "Sound" is defined as the Plan being positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. The BRA's view is that the Plan does not pass those tests.

The BRA is not anti-development, indeed Bookham's Neighbourhood Development Plan explicitly notes the need for appropriate development. The Bookhams do take their fair share of new building, mainly through redevelopment of larger domestic plots and infilling around existing properties. A fair deal should recognise that and means saying a clear NO to inappropriate development in the wrong places, especially not in the Green Belt.

Getting a fair deal matters to all residents. Whether it be environmental damage, choking traffic, overloaded infrastructure or an inability to access services, inappropriate and over-development will affect all of our lives.

The final decisions on the Plan will be made by the Inspector and Mole Valley Council - whether they deliver a Plan that gives the Bookhams a fair deal remains to be seen.

The Bookham Youth and Community Association (BYCA) and the BRA are working together to try and break through the unacceptable delays in getting the new Youth and Community Centre built. We lobbied SCC's Leader to organise a "round table" meeting between him, the Leader of MVDC, their senior Councillors and Officers, three Bookham Councillors and local community representatives. The meeting resolved some historic misunderstandings between the two Councils and everyone there committed to building the new Centre at the Lower Road Recreation Ground. Both the Leaders of SCC and MVDC gave their clear backing to building the new Centre and cleared the way for their Senior Councillors and Officers to get on with the project. On that basis, we finally have clear assurance that the project to build the new Centre is 'on the move'.

We want to celebrate our Councils working together to deliver this much needed facility for our community, BUT, we will hold our Councils to account for progress until the new Centre is built.

Speaking of celebrating collaborative working with our Councils.

For some time we have been trying to get the Lower Shott Public Toilets and their environs improved. The toilets are a well-used asset for the Village, but they do look a bit tired and shabby.

Working with our SCC Councillor, the BRA has obtained money from the SCC Small Community Projects Fund. The money has enabled us to renovate the existing planting around the toilet block, including new flower beds, trees and planters.

We were also asked by MVDC to work with them on a separate grant application to: install a water refill station, clean and re-lay the wobbly paving, clean the exterior of the toilet block and get light and power to the area.

The intention is to do the work alongside that planned by MVDC to renovate the toilets themselves. We are even thinking of including some art-work in the bus-shelter part of the block.

We eagerly await confirmation from MVDC that it will award us the necessary grant money to do the work. Fingers crossed!

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter; and I wish you a happy, healthy and warm Summer and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.



Annual General Meeting

To all members:

This is the formal notice of the 2024 Annual General Meeting to be held at the Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Great Bookham on Thursday, 18th July 2024 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Agenda will be published on the BRA website and noticeboards.

If you would like to nominate a Director for the Board of Directors or would like to present Motions for Discussion please advise Les Huett, Company Secretary, no later than 29th June 2024 in writing to the Registered Office or by email to: company.secretary@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Preston Farm Planning Application

(officially known as Land north of Lower Road and west of Little Bookham Street, Bookham)

Keith Whale - Chair - BRA Planning Committee reports:

Following the planning application submitted on behalf of Thakeham Homes, the BRA Planning Committee set about compiling a detailed Letter of Representation (LoR) that strongly objected to the application.

(Note: In the context of planning, a Letter of Representation provides an interested party with an official opportunity to express their thoughts on a planning application.)

A considerable effort was made by the Committee to submit statements that were supported by factual evidence, often challenging data presented by Thakeham's consultants and presenting matters that should be taken account of in considering the application and identifying aspects where additional research and/or enquiries should be made.

The key elements that the LoR focussed upon are summarised below:

- The effects that it would have on traffic generation, congestion and road safety, as well as pedestrian and cycling issues.
- Its affect on key infrastructure including school places, medical facilities, especially when considered in connection with major new developments proposed along Lower Road to the west of this site.
- The fact that the development is proposed on land that currently falls within the Green Belt.
- The development would have adverse effects on drainage, sewerage and would increase flood risk.
- We consider that there are chalk streams crossing this land.



Keith Whale submits the BRA Letter of Representation to MVDC. The LoR was also submitted electronically.

- There needs to be greater protection for trees and protecting the ecology of the area.
- Concerns that the application had been made prior to the emerging MVDC Local Plan being completed.

In analysing these issues, we identified at least 25 points that must be properly considered and responded to by the Council to show residents that their objections have been addressed and how they have been addressed.

On 30th April the BRA received a Renotification of Planning Application that made several amendments to the application with changes in details in respect of Traffic, Ecology and Trees.

The Planning Committee has prepared a detailed LoR in respect of these amendments and adding additional representations to reflect other points that have emerged from local residents since our initial LoR.

The BRA Letters of Representation are available on the BRA website.

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Bookham residents concerns and responses to the Preston Farm planning application.

John Downman

Following the recent submission of an outline planning application by Thakeham Homes, over 200 residents have submitted individual letters of representation to Mole Valley District Council, together with a further five by representative organisations (BRA, EFFRA, Effingham Parish Council and two groupings of residents). We believe that this is a record, making Preston Farm the most objected to development in Bookham to date!

The Draft Local Plan

The BRA's representation on your behalf is just one in a number of processes. On 25th January of this year, the District Council voted at a Special General Meeting to un-pause the Draft Local Plan. The Preston Farm site is Policy DS8 within this plan and, if the Plan is approved, will be removed from the Green Belt and developed. The draft Local Plan has gone back to the Inspector appointed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Her previous review of the draft plan had been in 2022. There were a number of modifications in the latest plan, compared to previous iterations, leading to a call for consultation with submissions by 23rd April. You will be relieved to know that the BRA has made a comprehensive submission on your behalf. We were constrained to the subject matter of the latest modifications only, but made representations on:

Housing Delivery

We believe that the target for 2024 – 2039 can be met through developing brownfield sites and continuing with infill at the current rate without developing Preston Farm. Thus, Preston Farm should remain within the Green Belt and undeveloped.

Brownfield sites

The last comprehensive review of potential and call for new sites was in



2017, with the register of available sites only being maintained since then. There have been significant changes in working patterns, locations and usage of buildings since COVID.

Housing Over-Development

With the two housing schemes in Effingham approved already (totalling 405 homes), the Lower Road will be over-developed with another 200 on Preston Farm. This will have a severe impact on traffic, which can be problematic already with cars parked along the Lower Road.

Environment

Environmental harm, including chalk streams in this area and wildlife.

Flooding

The likelihood of increased flooding,

with 2024 already having been a bad year.

Sewage

Existing problems with sewage discharges and the extent of upgrading required, compounded by the parlous state of Thames Water, on whom we shall be reliant for the necessary improvements.

We believe that the Inspector will review all representations on the draft Local Plan during the next couple of months. We shall continue to feed into this process as we are allowed.

Your Letters of Representation

We analysed the letters of representation under 27 categories. The top five concerns by frequency were:

- Traffic
- Removal of Preston Farm from the Green Belt
- Flooding and surface water
- Over-development of housing along the Lower Road
- Lack of adequate infrastructure such as doctors, dentists, social services

The graph on the following page shows the relative frequency of mention of the concerns raised by more than 25% of respondents.

Some of the issues raised with regard to progressing Policy DS8 and developing Preston Farm are:

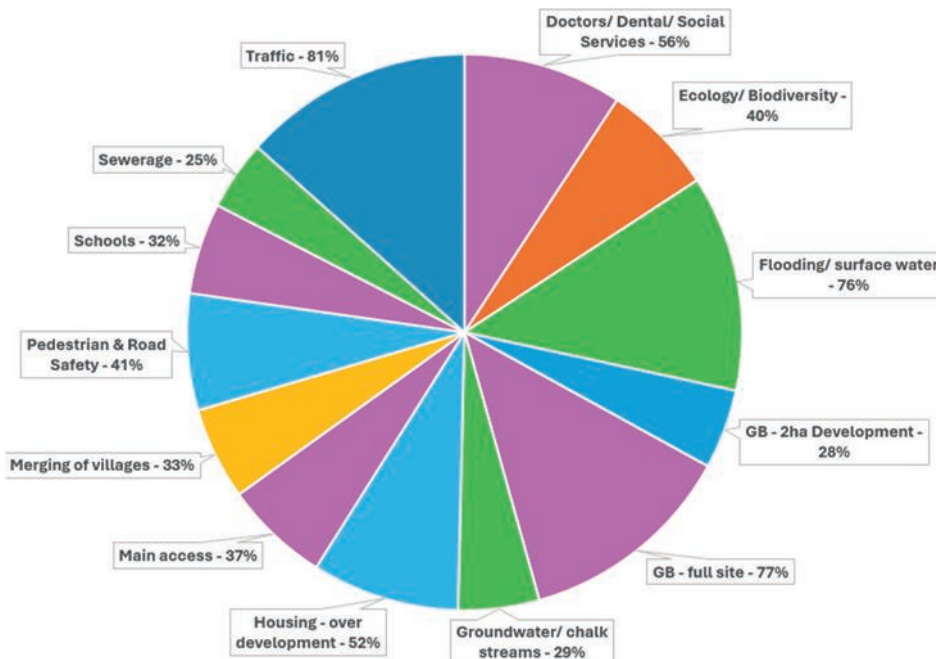
Traffic generation, Highway Safety

Respondents do not believe that the highway system can cope with the added traffic from 600 additional homes on the Lower Road and several have challenged the premise of the data used in the traffic assessment. In the BRA's representation, we believe it could be of the order of 60% more than now in the morning peak hour. Aligned with this is a concern over pedestrian and cyclist safety at school times, worry how construction vehicles and pedestrians and cyclists will co-habit safely and criticism of the state of repair of our roads.

Green Belt

Many see its removal as running counter to Government policy to encourage brownfield and urban development, inconsistent with existing MVDC policies and a loss that once made is irreparable. A number have questioned whether the Brownfield Register has been updated, which could release more development opportunities. The loss of Green Belt is especially concerning to residents in Little Bookham Street and Water Lane who will lose their outlook and privacy; they are aggrieved at the lack of prior consultation. The proposal to retain a two hectare area within the Green Belt but to use it for the Community Building and three travellers' pitches is

Concerns of Over 25% of Respondents



regarded similarly, with it being cited as being contrary to national policy as well as MVDC Policy H5.

Merging of Villages

The loss of identity between Effingham and Bookham along a short stretch of road through over-development of housing.

Building Heights, Overshadowing and Lack of Privacy

This is of particular concern to residents in Little Bookham Street, who will no longer back onto open Green Belt and Water Lane, who will be affected by an access to the development and the travellers' pitches.

Design

Concerns have been voiced that the design proposals are not in keeping with the proximity to the Conservation Area.

Flooding & Surface Water

This is a historic issue with mapped groundwater in the area. Numerous photos have been uploaded showing flooding in gardens, down Little Bookham Street and near Fox Lane, including new springs following development in the area; a number have been redacted by MVDC. Questions have been raised as whether previous 1-in-100 year rainwater may

become the new norm, with its impact on flooding.

Chalk Streams

Although the planning documents submitted to date are silent on chalk streams, numerous residents believe they exist and reference their location.

Lack of Infrastructure

Respondents struggle already to get a timely doctor's or dental appointment. Our existing practices will be closest for potentially 600 new homes on the Lower Road. Current insufficiency of places at their school of preference was raised also.

Access

The main entrance to the site is considered to be dangerously close to Preston Cross roundabout, residents in Burnhams Road are concerned that residents going to the station will cut through this private road rather than use the longer route the developer thinks they will take and those in Water Lane are concerned over the access to the two hectare area with the travellers' pitches and the Community Facility.

Sewage

Residents who struggle already with problems with sewage backing-up are concerned whether the existing network would be upgraded

sufficiently before more homes are added. Concerns have been raised also on the duration of untreated discharges into the River Mole and other watercourses.

Ecology & Biodiversity

The loss of wildlife that thrives in green belt but will be lost in a managed country park, exacerbated by the impact of domestic pets on wildlife and the net gain suggested in documents has been challenged.

Community Facility

Questions have been raised as to whether another is required, with the new Bookham Youth Centre being developed and who will bear the cost of running it. Counter to this, the facility did have an advocate.

Country Park

Similarly, the cost of maintaining a country park that respondents do not believe is required.

Protection of the Green Belt

The enhanced protection given to the Green Belt by last December's amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') was raised by many residents. Unfortunately, the updated NPPF states that plans already under review at the time of its amendment will continue to be considered under the previous iteration, so Mole Valley's comes under that of September 2021. Nonetheless, this required already that authorities demonstrate the existence of exceptional circumstances to alter the boundaries.

This was reinforced in Parliament on 22nd February 2024, following a motion by Sir Paul Beresford, when the Minister stated: "The Government's position is clear; let me restate it. To demonstrate exceptional circumstances, the local authority has to show that it has examined all other reasonable options for meeting its identified development needs. As I say, green belt release is definitely the last resort." (Hansard Vol 745, Column 946).



Green Belt land on Preston Farm facing east from Water Lane

Traffic Movements on Lower Road

The future volume of traffic along the Lower Road and through the adjacent road network will increase substantially following the development of 405 homes in Effingham (already approved by Guildford Borough Council) and the potential of a further 200 homes on Preston Farm. Whilst Surrey County Council believes that the Lower Road can cope with all of this additional traffic, we question this belief. Furthermore, the projected scale of increase may be under-stated because:

- The trip rate per household (how many times people go out by car) used in the two studies for the Effingham developments is 20% higher than that used in the study for Preston Farm. We see no reason for any difference.
- SCC had agreed with Thakeham Homes that the traffic study for Preston Farm should exclude school trips, notwithstanding that many children may be going to schools further afield than the Howard of Effingham, St. Lawrence's or Manor House.
- The projections exclude traffic for the proposed Country Park and the Community Facility.
- The underlying rate of car ownership in Mole Valley is higher than that in the source data for the projections.

In our assessment, we believe that the traffic movements along the Lower Road adjacent to the entrance to Preston Farm may be around 60% higher than now in the AM peak hour and over 45% in the PM peak hour.

Other concerns we are raising with regards to traffic movements are:

- The main entrance to the development will be around 30m from Preston Cross mini-roundabout. Hence it will take only some 4 cars queuing to block the entrance.
- Westbound traffic turning right into Preston Farm may be blocked by this eastbound queue and in turn may back up to Preston Cross.
- Parked cars restrict the western section of the Lower Road in term-time to single lane, though increased parking for the new Howard of Effingham may alleviate this (if progressed).
- Rectory Lane is in effect a single lane with passing at its southern end for two medium sized cars.
- Traffic will build quickly behind buses stopping on the Lower Road near Preston Farm, possibly at the rate of 12 per minute westbound or 9 per minute eastbound in the AM peak hour.
- There are no further improvements planned for Preston Cross or Rectory Lane, nor indeed is much possible.

- Traffic congestion neither builds nor releases linearly.

Traffic was the top concern in the recent letters of representation and road safety was no. 6.

Further Consultations

On 30th April the BRA received a Renotification of Planning Application. This advised us of some changes to the detail on Traffic, Ecology and Trees plus an updated letter from the developer.

The BRA Planning Team has examined this additional information in close detail and has found nothing that has led us to amend the views and statements set out in our initial Letter of Representation dated 20th March 2024. You may view the supplementary response on the BRA website.

Main Modifications to MVDC Draft Local Plan

Keith Whale

On 25th January of this year, the District Council voted at a Special General Meeting to unpause the Draft Local Plan. The matter is in the hands of the Governments Planning Inspector who is reviewing the draft, to assess its soundness and to take into account the main modifications to the draft plan that had arisen. Under the planning guidelines there was an opportunity for the BRA Planning Committee to make representations on the proposed modifications.

We submitted this in April focussing primarily on the following matters that were linked to the Modifications:-

Housing Delivery: We believe that the housing target up to 2039 can and should be achieved through developing brownfield sites and continuing with infill at the current rate without developing Preston Farm.

Environment: We highlighted the need to maintain local wildlife and ensure that chalk streams in this area are preserved and protected.

Flooding: We emphasised concerns about any developments that would

Community

increase flooding risk, especially in light of recent weather.

The problems with sewerage and the need to upgrade it in light of our concerns about Thames Water, who maintain it.

Traffic: we expressed our concerns over assessing the impact of developments on traffic.

There was no Modification on the allocation of Preston Farm as a major housing development site. So, in our conclusion, we expressed the view that it was inappropriate for such, as reflected in our comments on the Main Modifications, especially relating to housing allocation targets could be met without it, traffic issues would be eased, flooding and sewerage concerns could be avoided, which lead to the natural conclusion that it should be withdrawn from the Site allocations.

The letter was designed to protect Bookham in the future generally, not just in respect of Preston Farm, but also any future development proposals that might emerge.

BRA Noticeboards

The BRA has five noticeboards around the village and we are happy to display community events and notices on them. To find out more and how to submit your posters, please visit the BRA website:

There is no charge for this service.



BRA Lower Road Car Park noticeboard. Recently refurbished using a donation from The Anchor Quiz Night Community Fund.

Whatever happened to our new Youth & Community Centre?

Residents across the Bookhams have been asking the Bookham Youth & Community Association (BYCA) and Bookhams Residents' Association (BRA) if the planned new Youth and Community Centre is ever going to be built?

David Cox OBE — BYCA Chairman reports



A very reasonable question considering it is 12 years since Surrey County Council (SCC) agreed to build a new Bookham Youth Centre; and four years since the old Centre closed; and over 1,100 days since planning permission was granted on 12th May 2021.

As explained in the BRA Chairman's opening article, the BYCA and the BRA have joined forces to try and break through the unacceptable delays in getting the new Centre built by lobbying SCC's Leader to organise a "round table" meeting between his senior Councillors and Officers with their counterparts at MVDC. The meeting was held on 23rd February 2024. We have finally received assurances that the project to build the new Centre is "on the move".

Both SCC and MVDC confirmed their full support to seeing the new Centre built and on this basis BYCA and BRA requested them to provide a joint communication on the subject, as soon as possible, to share with Bookham residents.

This was produced on 10th May 2024 and is produced at the end of this article

Delivering the new Centre

Work on the project has resumed.

Project management

The various community stakeholders have agreed SCC's layout plans for the new single-story Centre at Lower Rd Rec. but these are yet to be shared with MVDC as the land owner and local planning authority. SCC has said it will apply to MVDC for planning permission not later than November this year. The BRA and BYCA think that is too slow and are asking SCC to accelerate that process. However, if all proceeds smoothly and planning permission is granted without delay, the building work can then be planned and subsequently delivered. No timescales have been set at this stage.

MVDC's Leader suggested that a joint project management group should be set up to oversee the project. The BYCA and BRA think that is a good idea and want SCC to do so.

Community

Funding is in place

SCC's Budget contains funding of up to £2.5m to build the new Centre. SCC's Leader has unequivocally stated that that funding is not dependant on whatever happens to the former Youth Centre site (opposite the Anchor Pub – there will be more about the former Centre once the new centre is finalised).

The Lease

The Heads of Terms for the Lease are confirmed and agreed between SCC and MVDC. The SCC sub lease to BYCA will be based upon the lease held at the old centre.

Planning application

Due to the delays, the previously granted outline planning approval MO/2020/2103 has run out of time. SCC will submit a new planning application which will need to go through the usual MVDC planning process. We have been told that the previously granted outline planning approval remains on the planning history of the site, which will be taken into account. That is helpful, but that earlier decision cannot be taken for granted as renewable.

We will look to our local MVDC Councillors and our SCC Councillor, for their continued active support for the project and will also call on residents for their support to help the application succeed.

What happens now?

The BYCA and BRA have had to keep pushing to generate progress to build the new Centre. It is disappointing that so much precious volunteer time has been spent doing that – time that would otherwise have been directed towards our young people.

The failure to deliver the new Bookham Youth & Community Centre is a failure to deliver for Bookhams' young people. That failure has been going on for far too long and is simply not acceptable.

The BYCA and BRA will continue to lobby our Councillors and our Councils. We will use all social and other media available to us to keep the building of the new Centre in the public eye. The BYCA and BRA will continue to do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to get the new Centre built.

We want to be in a position to be able to celebrate our Councils working together to deliver this much needed facility for the Bookham community. However, we will also hold our Councils to account for progress, until the new Centre is built, by continuing a regular dialogue with SCC which is leading the project and MVDC the land owner and planning authority. The BRA and BYCA will publish quarterly updates to keep Bookham residents informed of progress, or the lack of it, as the project proceeds.

SCC/MVDC Joint communication

“Surrey County Council's Land and Property service is currently in the design phase for the Bookham Youth Centre, with input from key stakeholders. It is anticipated that the revised planning application will be submitted in autumn 2024. Surrey County Council (SCC) and Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) have agreed terms on the lease for the site and both councils remain committed to the development.

Councillor Natalie Bramhall, SCC Cabinet Member for Property, Infrastructure and Waste said: “Our Land and Property team is working at pace to progress plans for Bookham Youth Centre, aiming to bring back this important space for the local community.”

Councillor Keira Vyvyan-Robinson, MVDC Cabinet Member for Projects, said: “We look forward to seeing SCC layout plans for the proposed Bookham Youth Centre. MVDC remains committed to promoting health and wellbeing through enabling the provision of sports, leisure and cultural activities and encouraging responsible

enjoyment of our parks, open spaces, heritage and countryside.”

David Cox OBE, Chair of the Bookham Youth and Community Association and Simon Edge, Chair of the Bookham Residents' Association, commented: “We welcome this positive statement from SCC and MVDC. We have been communicating with both councils for some time now, given the lengthy delays to the build. We now look to both councils to work quickly and effectively together to get the new centre built. The new Bookham Youth and Community Centre is such an essential community facility that we will continue to engage with both councils until it is up and running again.”

BRA Projects

Geoff Tranter

With the days getting longer and the weather improving more of us will be out and about and enjoying the facilities that our villages have to offer. In the last newsletter I mentioned our programme of work to refurbish our noticeboards and either refurbish or replace some of the benches so I thought this would be a good time to update you on this.

One of our first priorities was to refurbish the noticeboard in the Lower Road car park and I am pleased to be able to report that this has been completed. What might look like quite a simple task is actually quite complicated and whilst you can see that it has been repainted, refurbishment includes other changes such as adding a magnetic back to make updating content easier.

Next on the list for refurbishment is the noticeboard in Lower Shott car park and we are in the process of securing funds through applying for grants to get this work completed. Each refurbishment costs in the region of £3,500.

Although our programme of work on the benches is on-going, we have had to pause over the winter months as we

Community

need the better weather. We will however shortly be starting work on refurbishing the bench between Lower Shott and Allen Road followed by replacing one in Little Bookham Street.

Funding is key to us being able to undertake more work of this type and we have again applied for grants to help with improving our benches. Ideally, we would like to secure funds to refurbish a further ten and I will let you know how that goes in future newsletters.

Lower Road Rec Bump Track

Richard Moyse

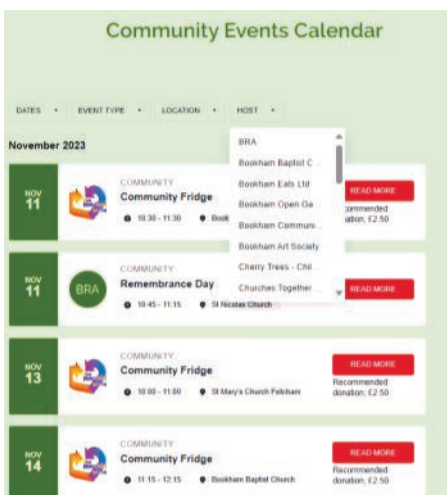
In addition to the new Youth & Community centre the BRA has submitted a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) application for a Bump Track to built at Lower Road Rec. It's early days in the project and at the moment at the behest of MVDC quotes are being obtained for the work.

BRA Community Event Calendar

The BRA has an Community Event Calendar on its website and we are happy to display community events. To see events and to find out more and how to submit your event please visit the BRA website:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

There is no charge for this service.



Thank you Litter Pick Heros!



Come rain or shine the BRA's team of litter pickers, led by BRA Litter Pick Co-ordinator, Margaret Lawson, are committed to keeping Bookham neat and tidy. Either on the regular first Sunday in the month event or looking after their own patch as a "Womble" throughout the month. New members are always welcome.



Please note participants must be aged sixteen or over or if under 16 assisting as part of a recognised organisation or with a supervising adult.

Service Requests and Reporting Portal

Les Huett

Not sure who to report a street cleaning request or overhanging branches or a pothole to, or seen something suspicious on your video door bell?

Our Councils have multiple responsibilities and it is often a challenge to find out which Council and Council department or organisation is responsible for what. To help residents make a service request or report an issue the BRA has developed a Quick Link Service Request & Reporting Portal.

Click on the relevant button in the portal will take you directly to the relevant council department and reporting forms. Also included in the portal are the National Trust, Surrey Police Suspicious Activity, Surrey Wildlife Trust and emergency flooding.

Our portal is mobile optimised so it's easy to report when out and about. Try scanning the QR code below on your mobile to see how easy it is.



www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/#reporting

Transport

Bookham Station Accessibility

Cllr Andrew Matthews

This year we are seeing delivery of some of the projects at the station that have been worked on over the last couple of years and eagle-eyed residents will have noticed the station toilets have been refurbished which includes an accessible cubicle.

I am continuing to press South Western Railway (SWR) to commit to the Radar key scheme meaning disabled users can have access to the toilets when the ticket office is not open. Special thanks to SWR for agreeing to complete the toilet refurbishment and for negotiating with planning and conservation officers to allow the project to be delivered this year.

The project to deliver an additional 32 inch display screen that shows the live train and bus departures on the London bound platform one is moving forward. The screen has been installed and is powered and at the time of writing the next stage will be to connect the display to information services.



Destination board on platform one awaiting connection to information services.

Environment



Planting in progress at Lower Shott



Village Green Areas

Frances Fancourt

The refurbishment of planting around the bus stop/toilet block at Lower Shott is now under way.

Additional planting will be carried out once the paving has been re-laid. If you might be interested in helping us maintain these new beds, please do make contact. Although there is maintenance provided by the council, keen local volunteer gardeners can keep our central areas looking so much nicer. So please do get in contact if you would like to help.

The bed in the High Street, refurbished jointly with the Bookham Butterflies WI last year, has settled in nicely and is already looking far prettier - a great example of volunteering together.

New young trees have also been popping up all over Bookham. If you would like a tree in your roadside verge, these trees can now be applied for FREE from Surrey County Council. You can apply by searching on the SCC website for 'Planting trees on the highway'. They will check if the site is suitable and plant a tree in the autumn or winter. The council has also ground out many of the old tree stumps and have replanted there where possible. Occasionally underground cables and utilities prevent planting, but they will always plant a tree for you if they can.



If you would like more information about street tree planting, visit us at our Bookham Village Day stand.

Infrastructure

Footpaths Uplift

Les Huett

A number of footpaths have been uplifted by SCC recently. Work has entailed the removal of uneven surfaces and resurfacing of pavements along with the installation of dropped kerbs at junctions. This gives much better accessibility for children's buggies, mobility scooters and those with mobility issues.



Pavement uplift on Barn Meadow Lane

Environment

Bookham Blue Hearts now in their 4th full year

Diane Poole

We started our wildflower verge project in 2020 during lockdown. The aim is to allow roadside verges not used for recreation to 'reflower' by only mowing once a year and help to stop the catastrophic decline of pollinator insects and butterflies. We have been delighted by the variety of beautiful wild flowers that have appeared in profusion, including many rarities and orchids!

These "corridors" allow pollinators to move freely and thrive, in accordance with the aims of the Bug Life charity.

We also have over 70 residents on board displaying Blue Hearts on their verges this year. The Bookham Blue Hearts team can supply beautifully decorated hearts or plain ones to decorate yourself. We are pleased to share some of their creativity in the accompanying photo. We love the puns!

It's a great project to get your children and grandchildren involved in by decorating hearts, sowing seeds, planting plants and learning about wildflowers and pollinators. We also work with MVDC to plant areas of the Lower Shott for the pollinators, with the Grange Centre on their road verges to complement their own amazing wildlife habitats and also our signature mini meadow at the telephone exchange in Church Road! Why not take a look?

Our Facebook page:

@bookhambluehearts or

bookhambluehearts@gmail.com

You can also leave a message on the BRA Message Line: 0300 030 9890. Take a look at our highlights video at www.youtube.com/@BookhamBlueHearts and photos on our Facebook page.



Mole Valley District Council

MVDC Local Election Results

Bookham Councillors following the 2024 Local Elections are:

Councillor	Ward
Cllr Christine Miller	Bookham West - Liberal Democrat
Cllr Monica Weller	Bookham West - Liberal Democrat
Cllr Roger Adams	Bookham West - Liberal Democrat
Cllr Paul Kennedy	Bookham East and Eastwick Park - Liberal Democrat
Cllr Elizabeth Daly	Bookham East and Eastwick Park - Liberal Democrat
Cllr Andrew Matthews	Bookham East and Eastwick Park - Liberal Democrat

All Bookham Councillors are invited to attend BRA Committee meetings and actively participate in discussion and requests for engagement with Council departments but are not allowed to participate in any BRA Committee voting.

The BRA is independent of all political parties and we look forward to working with our Councillors for the benefit of all Bookham residents.

The Bookhams
Residents'
Association

bookhamresidents.org.uk
Tel: 0300 030 9890

Your Subscriptions and Donations help the BRA to carry out its work

2023 was another very busy year for the BRA and, judging by the levels of activity in the first few months of this year, 2024 is going to be very similar.

We hope you have enjoyed reading the articles throughout the Newsletter. We can however only continue this important work with the help of those who support us whether that is through volunteering or by payment of subscriptions.

We are now collecting subscriptions for our financial year from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. We are pleased that we have been able to hold the annual subscription at £5.00 per household, but we would be grateful if you are able to also make an additional donation, however small, to help us continue to support our community.

Ways to Pay

Many of you will be familiar with our Road Stewards who call once a year to collect the annual subscription along with delivering the Newsletters.

However a number of our roads no longer have a Road Steward so below we have listed the ways you can pay.

Even if you do have a Road Steward why not try one of these other ways to

Pay your subscription on line at:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or scan the QR code below on your mobile.



pay – it will save them from having to call.

Use the QR code – scan with your smart phone and be taken to the BRA website and click on "Join the BRA and pay 2024 annual subscription" button.

Pay online – visit the BRA website at www.bookhamresidents.org.uk and

Select subscription or subscription and donation amount if you are able to



Please enter your post code here



Subscription payment

☒ Subscription only

☐ Subscription + donation of £5

☐ Subscription + donation of £10

☐ Subscription + donation of £15

☐ Subscription + donation of £20

Important: When entering your card details below, please enter your postcode in the last box where it says "Postal Code". WS11 1DB may appear when you click in the box. This code is for guidance only. If you do not enter your post code you will receive a "Card Invalid" message. The use of your post code is for validation purposes only.

Once you have entered your post code click on "Submit" to complete your subscription. Thank you.

Payment

Card number

Expiry CVC

United Kingdom

Postal code

Subscription payment - Subscription only £5.00

Amount Due: £5.00

head to the Subscriptions page. You can use a credit or debit card to pay through our secure payment system.

You can select subscription only or subscription and donation by clicking on the button on the left.

When you are paying online please note the following:

After you enter your card details you have to type in your postcode (this is in the box that has the postcode WS11 1DB) in it, you will be able to type over this). If you do not do this you will get an "Invalid Card" message.

This does mean that you will have entered your postcode twice on the form. The first time is for our records, but the second time is for verification of

your credit or debit card and like your card details, it can not be seen by the BRA.

Pay by telephone using a credit or debit card.

Call the BRA helpline on 0300 030 9890 and leave your name, telephone number and a "code word" of your choosing (something simple like a pet's name is ideal).

A volunteer will ring you back and will input your payment card details into our secure payment system during the telephone call. Your payment details are not retained.

Standing Order and Bank Transfers

If you would like further details to pay by standing order or bank transfer please email us at:

membership@bookhamresidents.org.uk

or call our helpline on 0300 030 9890 for further details.

If you pay by this method please put as your reference your surname and the LAST 3 digits of your postcode e.g. Brown3NL

This helps us to record your membership against your address.

A huge thank you to those residents who have already paid this year.

If you have already paid subs to your road steward, don't forget to sign up for our occasional email service on the BRA website or follow us on social media to keep up to date with village news between our Newsletter print editions