

# BOOKHAM'S RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Notes of the Directors Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**In Attendance:** Peter Seaward, Chris Pullan, Clare Curran, Carolyn Elson, Andrew Freeman, Les Huett, Simon Edge, John Howarth, Nancy Goodacre, Geoff Tranter,

**Apologies:** David Smith

- 1. Review long standing protected items within the BRA budget:** It was noted that there are a number of long standing items in the budget that are unlikely to be progressed, which would free-up funds for other initiatives. It was agreed that; a) Bookham Vision was now closed; b) the £4k for an electronic sign was unlikely to proceed; c) £3k had been set aside for a speed activated device which had been superseded by other events; d) Christmas lights should have a budget of £6k.
- 2. Vehicle Activated Signs:** Andrew gave an update saying a mobile VAS should be erected in the coming month as everything was in place for the initial phase. To be truly mobile further posts need to be identified of erected, for which there would be a cost, estimated at £250 by Peter Harris. Andrew will continue to progress through SCC Highways and Skanska, who operate the street lighting.
- 3. Medical Services:** Simon said that he had been involved in discussions with partners of the Eastwick surgery and MVDC, both of whom were keen to explore the possibility of a new extended medical practice to include a range of services usually provided from community hospitals or specialist centres. Clare added that with Keswick care hoe closing and the youth centre already vacant, there should be adequate space available for a new enhanced medical practice.
- 4. Lower Shott:** Peter said that this area was an ideal area ready for re-development, although this was first suggested 14 years ago. Rents were low and shop leases were relatively short-term. The garages are quite neglected with graffiti, the shops were not really fit for purpose and more housing could be accommodated through better design. One of the main issues was the mixed ownership with MVDC as the landlord (except for one private dwelling) and Clarion who managed the housing. There was support for this view and the BRA would continue to lobby councillors to take this forward.
- 5. CIL Administrative Arrangements:** Peter said that MVDC was reviewing the CIL process and to split the council into a north and south committee to administer CIL funds. This would result in pooled funding and therefore money raised in Bookham could be spent elsewhere. Another change was that all decisions on applications had to be approved by all councillors. Although the paper was approved, it had been called-in for review
- 6. Membership:** Les and Carolyn said the number of road stewards continued to fall, and if we are to at least maintain, but ideally increase our membership, we need to demonstrate to residents our relevance as an organisation. This has to be key to our Membership Strategy. The Newsletter is our main vehicle to communicate the issues that we are involved in and how they are being

progressed. We also have to show how we are challenging SCC and MVDC on issues that are perhaps not moving quickly enough or are happening but causing frustrations within the village. This approach was supported.

7. **Succession Planning:** The situation is of concern as there have been no volunteers stepping forward to become chairman, etc. To discuss as a priority at the next full committee meeting.

## 8. Any Other Business

- i. **BRA President:** It was noted with regret that Michael Anderson's health continues to deteriorate and is unable to fulfil his role as President, and therefore it should be announced at the next AGM that he is stepping down. As a way to commemorate his input to the community it was suggested that a road could be named after him. Nancy agreed to investigate further.
- ii. **Youth Centre:** It appears that there are still some ongoing dispute between MVDC and SCC around the lease, share of income and grounds
- iii. **Boundary Commission:** Simon raised this for discussion as he feels that the creation of an 'Eastwick' ward would undermine Bookham as a defined geographical area. Peter said that the BRA would be responding.

9. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022