

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 7th February 2022 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Agenda and Updates

- 1 **In Attendance:** Peter Seaward (chair), Chris Pullan, John Howarth, Frances Fancourt, Andy Freeman, Paul Kennedy, Elizabeth Daly, Clare Curran, Diane Poole, Christine, Geoff Tranter, Carolyn Elson, Andrew Matthews, David Cox MBE, Martin Hollins, Richard Moyse, Sarah Chambers, Julia Dickinson, Les Huett, Zena Rose, James Chambers, Nancy Goodacre

Apologies: Roger Adams, Keith Francis, Monica Weller, Margaret Lawson, Simon Edge, Nick Forrer, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Agius, Michael Lowes
- 2 **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
- 3 **Matters Arising & Actions:** There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.
- 4 **Correspondence**
 - 4.1 **Garstons Triangle:** An elderly resident has contacted the Association to ask whether a simple path/levelled ground could be put down for easy access to the new benches. At present, the land is quite uneven.
 - 4.2 **Plants:** Following an article in Look Local a resident of Effingham rang offering the Association some shrubs for planting in the Garston's Triangle and at Bookham Library. Frances Fancourt has been in touch to accept some of these plants/shrubs.
- 5 **Management Group** (Finance, Secretariat, Project Control)
 - 5.1 The Directors met on the 11th January. Minutes will shortly be uploaded to the website but, for information, the following was discussed:
 - **Succession Planning:** It was reiterated that the Association needs a Chair and a minutes secretary.
 - **Budget and expenditure forecast:** Chris reported that in total there is a total of £27k in assets but much of this is committed for various projects, leaving a surplus of between £2k to £9k surplus, depending on the clarification of commitments.
 - **BRA Strategy:** There was a discussion as to what the Association would like to achieve in the coming years and a new GP surgery was suggested, plus the redevelopment of Lower Shott.
 - **Membership:** Membership has fallen by 12.5% in last year but income was up because fees had risen to £5. It was agreed that the Association should aspire to raise membership to 2,500.
 - **Zoom contract:** Agreed this would be renewed.
 - **Future meetings:** Forthcoming dates until the AGM are:
 - 7th March – Full Committee meeting
 - 4th April – Directors' meeting
 - 9th May – Full Committee meeting
 - 6th June - Full Committee meeting

- 5th July – Director’s meeting (TBC)
- 13th July - AGM

5.2 **Planning Group:** The Planning Committee has met several times since the last Committee Meetings, and has written letter of representation to MVDC in regard to the following application:

- **MO/2021/2227:** 25, Pine Dean, Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT23 4BT
Description: Remove 1 No. fagus sylvatica/common beech (marked T1 on submitted plan) to ground level
- **MO/2021/2250:** 8 Elmfield, Bookham KT23 3LQ
Description: Erection of first floor front extension and attached front garage
- **MO/2022/0025:** Wheate Cottage, 38 Church Road, Bookham KT23 3PW
Description: Reduce sides and height on 1 No. silver birch tree (marked on submitted plan) sides by 1.5 metres and height by 3 metres.
- **MO/2021/2180:** Norbury View, Leatherhead Road, Bookham, Surrey KT23 4RR
Description: Erection of 8 No. dwellings and associated access and landscaping, following demolition of existing dwelling and associated structures.

5.3 The Planning Committee also wrote a letter of representation to Guildford Borough Council in relation to:

- **MO/2021/2317:** 6, Woodlands Road, Bookham KT23 4HF: Proposed timber carport

5.4 **Mole Valley Draft Local Plan (Regulation 10):** At a Special Council meeting on 3rd February the Council agreed to submit the latest Draft Local Plan to the Government's Planning Inspectorate to approve.

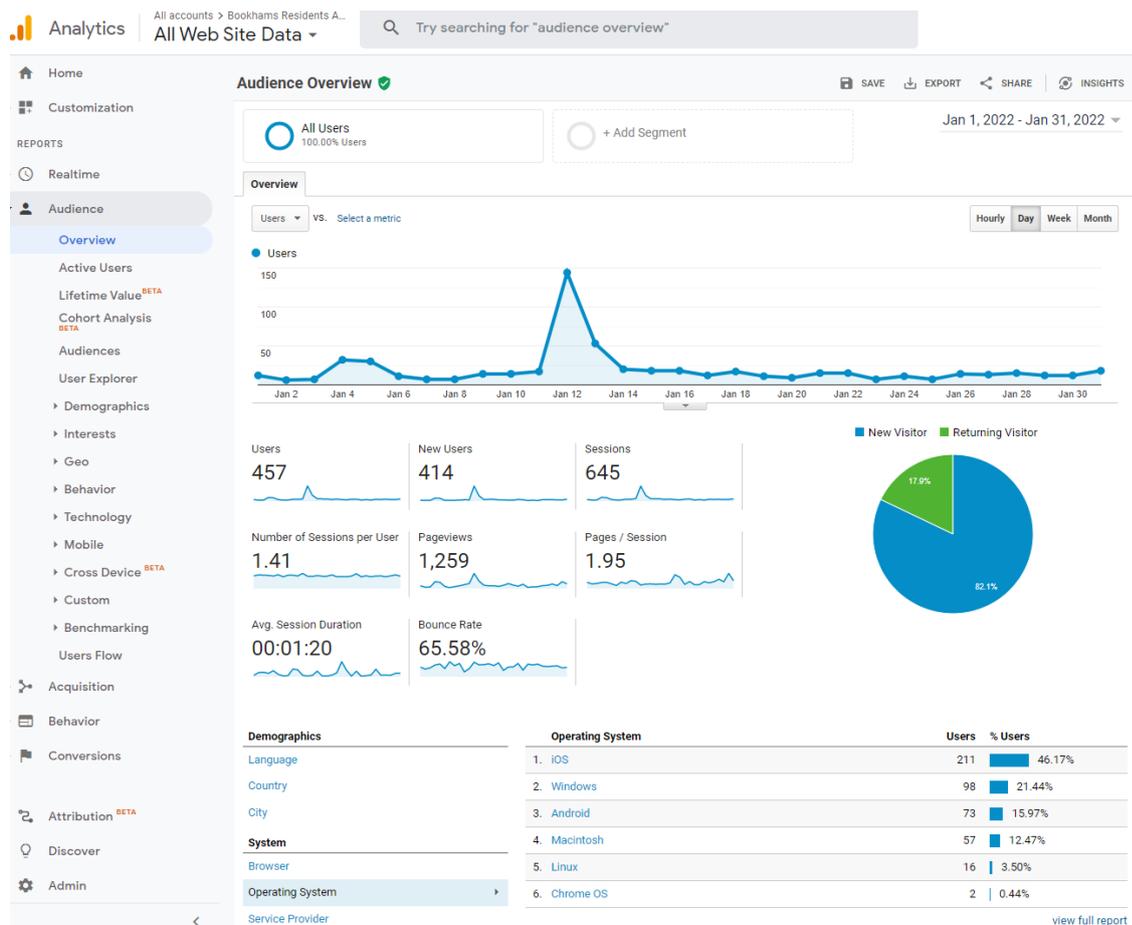
6 **Environment Group** (Roads, Paths, Drainage, Flooding, Trees, Litter Pick)

6.1 **Drainage:** Michael Agius reported the following:

- **Flood Forum :** a meeting was held on 26th January. Amongst other matters discussed were ;
- **Flooding at Douglas House:** Following jetting of the drains in Edenside, SCC Highway's have yet to CCTV them when the camera is next available. A report on the need to raise the kerbs in front of the affected flat, following the resurfacing of Edenside, is still awaited from SCC Highway's Design Section.
- **Flooding at No 3 Byron Close :** Thames Water have yet to CCTV drain lines in Sharon Close.
- **Flooding between Greenacres and The Park:** a meeting was subsequently held with SCC to look at the problems here
- **Ditches in Church Road and Little Bookham Street:** The National Trust have recently carried out major works clearing and shaping their ditches

- 6.2 **AONB Boundary Review:** Julia Dickinson has made a submission although it hasn't, as yet, appeared on their website. In summary, Julia covered the work done by Tree Wardens, the Wild Flower Verge Team and our Litter team as evidence that we look after and improve our environment, and requested that the catchment area for our chalk springs and streams are all included, not only to preserve the rural landscape but also our rare geological conditions that have influenced our farming heritage that dates back to Roman times. The restoration & preservation of chalk streams is a hot topic at DEFRA & EA, so combined with the River Mole being in the news for pollution reasons, it could lead to a project with them even if we fail on AONB extension. For more details click [here](#). Peter Seaward thanked Julia for her work on this matter.
- 6.3 **SCC's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans:** Julia also pointed out the deadline for logging cycling and walking issues in MV on Surrey's LCWIP website is 11th February and the evaluation phase has already started.
- 6.4 **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson emailed to say that the litter pick on Sunday 6th February had 18 attendees, including 2 new people. 15 bags were collected as well as some metalwork. Photos have been sent to Ros at Look Local. Margaret also has reported the fly tip of approximately 30 mattresses on the public byway near the Dorking Road.
- 6.5 **Trees:** Frances Fancourt and the Tree Wardens are looking into:
- planting a Jubilee Tree and Garden near the Great Bookham sign
 - planting a cherry tree avenue near the Lower Road Rec
- 6.6 Frances also said she and the other tree wardens met with SCC and MVDC officers and councillors to discuss a number of issues and came away encouraged that more approvals for planting trees would be approved in future. Grass cutting was also discussed.
- 6.7 **Bookham Station:** Andrew Matthews reported that he had spoken to South West Railways who had put the new bridge to help people with a disability had been put forward for consideration. Also, a tender has gone out for a new display screen on Platform 1, and CIL funds might be considered if SWT do not fund.
- 6.8 **SCC Councillor Allocation:** Peter has submitted simple request for planting in the village for trees and shrubs. Clare also recommended an amount of £800. I have completed the forms and sent to SCC and am awaiting confirmation. I put a request for 6 tree and 10 shrubs.
- 6.9 **The Garstons Triangle:** It was noted that neither council cleared away the raked piles, and local residents are now planning to take the piles away. We hope that MVDC will soon start mowing there to neaten it up.
- 6.10 **Poleston Lacey:** Peter met with the Senior Programming and Partnerships Officer at Polesden Lacey regarding a possible future development of a vegetable garden and Polesden Lacey and using some local volunteers to help look after it.
- 6.11 **Hanging Baskets:** Andrew Matthews has done a good job in getting the traders to take this watering task over and so far we have supplied one watering machine so this job can be done without the use of ladders. A second machine has been purchased to enable all the three locations to be covered.

- 7 Community Group** (Education, Police, Transport, Emergency Services, Health, Churches Together)
- 7.1 **Youth Centre Update:** David Cox said that the SCC design team has drafted plans for the inside of the new youth centre, and are now working on the external design. The new centre will be as 'green' as possible which will impact cost and perhaps some compromises on the building.
- 7.2 **Vehicle Activated Signs:** Clare Curran advised that this initiative should be moving forward soon now that the man responsible for the signs is back from leave.
- 8 Communications and Membership Group**
- 8.1 **Website:** Les Huett reported that new website has been in place for three months now and I am pleased with the responses I have received. I produced two videos for committee members so they can see what new features are on the site and also a guide for Committee Members Services.
- [Committee Member's Services](#) (PIN for communication requests mentioned in the video is 9890). Please take advantage and use these services to communicate your messages with our community. They are very easy to use.
 - [A guide to the refreshed BRA website](#)
- 8.2 In addition to the videos Les has created resources for Committee Members including the new logo, Word letterhead template, email signature and fonts and colours. If committee members need any of these, please let Les know and he will set you up with access.
- 8.3 One of the features on the site is a What's On /Events calendar and this is proving very popular with events coming in a daily basis.
- 8.4 Latest News updates in January have included: Surrey Police Streetsafe; Oak Processionary Month; Big Jubilee Lunch Street Parties; Garstons Triangle seating, MVDC updates.
- 8.5 Here are the stats for January which has been a quiet month. Interesting to note that most site visits use either an Apple iPhone or iPad when visiting the site.



- 8.6 **Email Service:** There were no campaigns in December or January. Subscriptions remain at 1,300.
- 8.7 **Social Media:** Facebook posts have reached 1837 Facebook users in January and there were 431 engagements from the posts. We have 659 followers. All the “Latest News” posts on the website are posted to the BRA Facebook page as well and cross posted to I Live In Bookham when appropriate.
- 8.8 **Look Local:** In the January edition the entry was “Persistence Pays Off” which was told the story of the Lower Road flooding and in February the seating at the Garstons.
- 8.9 **Membership:** With all matters for 2021 concluded, focus has turned to 2022 preparation. Activity will resume in earnest in April/May with the preparation of the Spring Newsletter which will be ready for distribution in early June. This will be coupled with our normal email campaign to our members who now subscribe online.
- 9 Any Other Business**
- 9.1 **MVDC Budget:** Peter asked Simon Edge to review the Council’s budget for 2022/23. His notes are appended in Annex A. The budget can be found here: <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/home/council/finances/proposed-budget-202223>. It was noted that to balance the budget, £200k had been moved from reserves.
- 9.2 **SCC Budget:** Clare Curran said that the Council’s total budget is £1b, of which 50% goes on social care services. The increase for 2022/23 will be 5.99% which includes a Government precept of 3% for social care. A priority in the coming year will be mental health services, particularly for younger people.

- 9.3 **Sibley's Newsagent, Effingham:** Keith Francis wants to point out that a Planning Application has gone to Guildford Borough Council to demolish the existing building and build a new one comprising 4 one-bedroomed flats and a separate building of a 1 one-bedroomed flat. There will be a total of 5 parking spaces on the site which with it becoming housing the traffic numbers will be greatly reduced.
- 9.4 **The Grange:** The Grange will be holding a Big Jubilee Lunch on 5th June, 2022 between 11:30am-3:00pm, in celebration of HRH The Queen's 70 years on the throne.
- 9.5 **Garden Waste:** The garden waste collection will recommence in February/March with a monthly collection.
- 9.6 **Next Meeting:** 7.30pm on Monday 7th March 2022.