

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021 at 7.30 pm via Conference Call

TBC - In Attendance: Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, John Howarth, Les Huett, Paul Kennedy, Nigel Smith, Carolyn Elson, Luke Tye, David Cox OBE, Geoff Tranter, Diane Poole, Frances Fancourt, Nick Forrer, Martin Hollins, Andrew Freeman, Margaret Lawson, Julia Dickinson, Michael Lowes, Andrew Matthews, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Sarah Chambers, James Chambers.

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Richard Moyse.

Apologies: Chris Pullan, Keith Francis, Dan Coffin, Richard Davey, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr Simon Edge, John Allen, Marian Williams, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Monica Weller, Cllr. Roger Adams, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre.

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 1.1 Subject to a few amendments, the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2 MATTERS ARISING & ACTIONS

- 2.1 **The Garstons/Mead Crescent:** The outcome of the ACV is awaited, and a response is awaited from Nick Gray at MVDC regarding the potential long lease on the Old Barn Hall field.
- 2.2 **Car Park Hazard:** Monica Weller sent a message, as she was unable to attend, to say that she had contacted Mr Absolom regarding the leaves in the car park behind the shops which were a slip-hazard. A strip was subsequently cleared although not all leaves had been removed. Following a post on I Live in Bookham about the situation, the owner of Blake's florists in the High Street kindly offered to finish the job.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 There has been two pieces of correspondence of note since the last meeting.
- 3.1.1 **Removal of a Tree:** One resident wishes to widen their drive but a tree, planted by the BRA, is in the way. Frances Fancourt visited the site and spoke to the resident informing them that this wouldn't be possible and discussed several options. Subsequently SCC appears to be happy for them to partially extend the driveway which should be sufficient for their needs which means that the tree will remain.
- 3.1.2 **Cigarette Advertising:** A resident inquired as to whether it was legal for a shop to advertise cigarettes in a shop window. On investigation it seem that shops are allowed to advertise that they do sell tobacco/cigarettes but not by brand not to have cigarettes on display. In this instance the shop was advertising the fact that they sold tobacco inside and therefore not contravening the law.

4 GROUP UPDATES

4.1 Management Group (Finance, Secretariat)

4.1.1 **Finance Update:** Chris Pullan was unable to attend the meeting but emailed to say that he is waiting for the January statement before confirming the end of the year balance. Normal operating suggests a surplus, as previously indicated, however, it had been agreed to use this money to boost the Christmas lights carry forward.

4.2 Planning Group

4.2.1 **Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee met on the 27th January and six planning applications were considered. A letter of representation will be sent on one application, namely MO/2020/2218 – Conversion of garages to plots 2 and 3 to living accommodation at Corner Cottage and Crossways, Crabtree Lane.

4.2.2 Another application - MO/2020/2292 – Tree works at 1, Hales Oak will be looked into further.

4.2.3 Following a request from a resident a planning application - MO/2020/2150 – land south of Oaken Hill, Burnhams Road, was looked at again as it had attracted 25 letters of objection. The committee had previously decided not to submit a letter of representation although it was noted that the application had been withdrawn.

4.2.4 It was also noted that:

- the 66 Keswick Road application has gone to appeal. There had also been an exchange of emails regarding the health and value of some of the trees that are subject to TPO, although this has now been clarified in the BRA's letter of representation.
- Raleigh House in the High Street, an application has been submitted to convert it to flats.

4.2.5 **Chairman of the Planning Committee:** It was also noted that Mike Brookes, after 20 years on the Planning Committee, would be standing down as chairman. Peter Seaward extended his thanks to Mike for his commitment and dedication over the years.

4.2.6 **National Planning Policy Framework (MPPF):** Julia Dickinson mentioned that the revised MPPF was now out for consultation and, amongst other things, developers are required to consider sustainable transport and flooding issues as part of any major development.

4.2.7 **Howard of Effingham:** A planning application is anticipated for 100 new houses on land adjacent to the approved housing development on the school site. The developer has indicated that the replacement school may be dependent of the success of this application. A seminar is being held by the developer to explain the development to the public on the 3rd February, and several committee members are planning to attend.

- 4.2.8 If the replacement school is delayed then there is a risk that some Bookham children might not be offered a place in the coming few years due to a shortage of places and priority given to Guildford children, unless additional capacity is put in place (which has been the case previously). The other concern is with the proposed development of the Wisley airfield then this would increase demand, probably to the detriment of Bookham children having to be accommodated elsewhere.
- 4.2.9 **Local Plan:** The latest Government requirements is for 449 new dwellings per year across Mole Valley, so some sites in Bookham are likely to be developed (Preston Cross and/or Bookham Fields).
- 4.2.10 Another issue is that 25% of respondents to the Local Plan consultation came from Bookham yet no feedback has yet been provided.
- 4.3 **Environment Group** (Roads, Paths, Drainage, Flooding, Trees Horticulture, Litter Pick)
- 4.3.1 **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson said that the Womble initiative (whereby local residents volunteer to litter-pick their road) has received a boost with several Howard of Effingham pupils volunteering to litter pick as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award community service.
- 4.3.2 **Manor House Lane Painted Footpath:** Clare Curran reported that no decision had been taken as yet, and that the process for the proposals would now be assessed and prioritised, with those with the highest scores being taken forward for action in 2022/23. Clare added that she has some limited funds that could be used for additional signage, e.g. 'pedestrians in the road' signs.
- 4.3.3 **Squareabout:** Final details of road closures and re-routing of bus services is awaited, but they will be advertised on the BRA website once known.
- 4.3.4 **Trees:** Frances Fancourt is waiting for SCC to approve her tree planting plans, although are deferring a decision until the outcome of the ACV on The Garston's triangle is known, as this is one of the intended sites.
- 4.3.5 **Drainage:** Michael Agius said that the surface water issue on the A246 near Chalmers is still being investigated and that the Proctor Gardens issue is not resolved despite a drain being replaced.
- 4.3.6 **Blue Hearts Scheme:** Diana Poole and Clare Curran will meet to discuss the possibility of identifying further rewilding sites.
- 4.3.7 **Bookham Common Footpath to Bookham Station:** Andrew Matthews talked through a presentation he had prepared (which was circulated after the meeting) which outlined some proposals and the challenges this would represent, e.g. length of the footpath, lighting, etc. as it is extremely unlikely that a new bridge would be funded due to more pressing priorities elsewhere. Andrew has been in touch with some disabled people although he was urged to contact the Mole alley Access Group for their views. Andrew is seeking some quotes although being NT land, it would need their commitment and support. It was also suggested that funding could be sought from SCC's Big Project scheme.
- 4.4 **Community Group** (Education, Police, Transport, Emergency Services, Health, Churches Together)

- 4.4.1 **Vehicle Activated Signs:** There has been limited progress. A meeting that had been scheduled for the 9th January had to be cancelled. This will be rescheduled once Covid restrictions allow.
- 4.4.2 **Air Pollution:** At the last committee meeting Monica Weller raised this as a possible issue near the square-about, e.g. a potential danger, particularly for children, and the effect it may be having on the war memorial. Subsequent to the meeting an exchange of emails between Peter Seaward, Paul Kennedy and Simon Butcher-Collier, Environmental Health & Licensing Dept at MVDC, has resulted in a request for the council to look at locating a monitor near the square-about, which is probably the busiest junction in Bookham in terms of traffic, with large volumes of pedestrians going to the High Street and children going to school. Elizabeth Daly had also contacted MVDC officers and responses are awaited.
- 4.4.3 **Churches Together:** Martin Hollins said that church services are continuing, mainly online. He also mentioned that the Community Fridge project was distributing food from out of the old Youth Centre in Lower Road, and had delivered 150 boxes to date.
- 4.4.4 **Clarion Housing:** It was noted that there had been a number of comments about the responsiveness of Clarion of late. Elizabeth Daly said Clarion had been the subject of a review meeting lately and some of the issues might have been due to a management vacancy that was not filled so hopefully there would be some improvement. Clarion also have a monthly surgery but issues do not appear to be reported. Issues can be escalated via Elizabeth.
- 4.4.5 **Buses:** Keith Francis emailed in advance that there are some minor bus and train timetable changes, but the main ones are a) the 479 is now hourly along the whole route; and b) the 408's three weekday buses no longer come along the A246 between Effingham and Leatherhead.

4.5 **Communications and Membership**

- 4.5.1 **Spring Newsletter:** Les Huett said that the plan is to have a slimmed down Spring Newsletter, probably in May, with an Autumn/Winter Newsletter later in the year.

Membership Subscriptions: Even though the BRA new year has only just started, some subscriptions are already being made.

4.6 **Business Group (External Relations)**

MV Chamber of Commerce: John Howarth said that the MV Chamber of Commerce has provided several 'business improvement' seminars and these had been greatly appreciated by those attending.

4.7 **History and Memorials Group**

- 4.7.1 **Memorials:** Peter Seaward reported that the lettering on the war memorial at St. Nicolas now required the church faculty to give permission to proceed. The names of the war dead at All Saints War Memorial (to add 6 soldiers who died during WWI) was going ahead.

5 **PROJECT UPDATES**

- 5.1.1 **Village Sign:** It appears that the village sign needs to be replaced, which will be done at no cost by the supplier, except for postage costs. A home, perhaps the Old Barn Hall, is needed to the old one (which is in good order except for the base required for fixing).

6 COVID

- 6.1 Clare Curran provided an update on Surrey County Council's services during lockdown:

- **Recycling Centres:** Leatherhead and Dorking **tips** are both open according to usual timetables, although the reuse shop in Leatherhead is closed for the period of lockdown.
- **Bus Routes:** There is disruption and temporary emergency timetables on many **bus routes**, including the 479, the latter is still running but on a reduced service. The Sunday service is continuing.
- **Bus Passes** (senior and disabled) that are due to expire during the lockdown will automatically be renewed. While libraries are socially distanced, they cannot process applications for new Bus Passes so applications have to be made online via the SCC website. Also, bus passes can now be used at any time of the day, i.e. including peak periods.
- **Registration Services** for births, marriages and deaths are available – deaths can be registered by telephone by appointment, births can be registered in person at Leatherhead, Guildford or Weybridge, also by appointment and marriages and civil partnerships may still take place under strict conditions.
- **Blue Badge** applications may still be made via the Surrey County Council website, though response times may be longer than previously.
- **School Place Appeals** will still take place according to the published, statutory timetables and will be held via conference call.
- **Countryside** estates owned and managed by SCC, such as Norbury Park or Sheepleas are open and the car parks and WCs there are open and free of charge.
- **Surrey Libraries**, including Bookham and Leatherhead, are open for click and collect services – collecting reserved items and returning books. Appointments may still be made at individual libraries for using PCs. The online library service offers a wide range of ebooks, audiobooks and access to countless magazines and periodicals including all our favourites, absolutely free.
- **Roadworks and road maintenance** are continuing as normal.
- All **residential and domiciliary care services** for the frail elderly, for children and for those with disabilities continue.
- For fuller and additional information, please look at the [Surrey Council Website](#) pages.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1.1 **Going Green:** Diane Poole mentioned that MVDC has launched their Going Green webpages which are comprehensive and helpful in informing the public as to how to be 'greener'.

- 7.1.2 **Mole Valley Beat Webinar:** Clare Curran said she had attended the Police Commissioner's seminar last week, as had several other committee members. Some of the main issues mentioned were speeding traffic, anti-social driving and behaviour. The three north Residents Associations would like to see visibility of the police.
- 7.1.3 **Epsom & St. Helier NHS Foundation Trust:** Clare also reported that Epsom Hospital will receive an upgrade and a new unit and a 800 space multi-story car park under the new capital funding initiative.
- 7.1.4 **Youth & Community Centre:** The planning application for the proposed Lower Road rec centre is likely to be considered in March.
- 7.1.5 **Cycling Routes to School:** Julia Dickinson said that the small sub-group comprising Julia, Dan Coffin, Richard Davey, Nacy Goodacre and Andrew Matthews, have been developing some ideas. Peter Seaward asked that these be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- 7.1.6 **Boundary Commission:** Paul Kennedy said that the Boundary Commission would be reviewing the council boundaries although the extent of any changes are not know.
- 7.1.7 **Local Government Reorganisation:** Although this will no longer be taken forward across Surrey, the KPMG report into the possible scenarios has now been published on the MVDC website. The report can be viewed here:

<https://news.molevalley.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Local-Government-Reorganisation-and-Collaboration.pdf>

- 8 NEXT MEETING:** Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.30pm.