

THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2013 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Present: Michael Agius (Chair), Michael Anderson, Andy Freeman, John Allen, Jim Smith, Stan Miles, Chris Pullan, David Cox, Cllr Phil Harris, Cllr Clare Curran, David Smith, Michelle Hudspith Elizabeth Hudson, , Frances Fancourt

1. Apologies: Peter Seaward, Chris Boughey, Lin Hulford, Grant Woodham, Ray Pritchard, Judith Walker, Cllr John Chandler, Cllr Tessa Hurworth, John Howarth, Cllr Stella Brooks, Les Huett, David Ashby,

2. Minutes: It was noted that John Allen had not been present at the last meeting whilst Cllr. Tessa Hurworth had! Otherwise the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Correspondence

4.1 A letter had been received from Colin Langley, Drama Festival Committee to thank the BRA for its donation. It was noted that the Festival had been very successful yet again.

5. DDOCA

5.1 David Cox had written to Peter Seaward to clarify the terms on which the remaining DDOCA funds would be transferred to the BRA. These were read out as follows:

*“To be used for issues related to the provision of education of children in Reception class to year 12 (6th form) who **live in the Bookhams** and, where appropriate, neighbouring communities where there is a mutual interest. To work with local groups, residents and other stakeholders in respect to these and related issues for the benefit of the communities represented. Use of funds should be agreed by the Bookhams Resident's Association Committee who may **apply discretion** in line with the aforementioned guidance.”*

5.2 The Committee agreed to these terms. **Action: Peter Seaward writes formally to David Cox to confirm acceptance of the funds and the associated terms.**

6. Annual Objectives 2013/14

6.1 Andrew Freeman suggested that to drive the objectives forward a lead person for each should be identified, and the following was agreed:

- 1. Email Distribution List**, where the target is to achieve 1,000 email addresses. Andrew Freeman agreed to take the lead.

2. **Joint Working** was to try and engage more fully with other local organisations such as the BCA, Churches Together, Bookham Vanguard, etc, on key subjects where working together might achieve better results than working individually. As Chair of the BRA it was thought that Peter Seaward would be the most appropriate person to take the lead although this would need to be confirmed once he returns from leave.
3. **Grant Applications** – the BRA should apply for additional grant funding where appropriate and during the discussion the following potential sources came to light – MVDC, police, the Community Development Fund, Thomas Flack Fund, and Gatwick Airport. Clare Curran kindly agreed to report back on the availability of grant applications as many would come through her at SCC and/or MVDC.
4. **Schools/Youth:** There was a discussion as to whether this related to children or young adults. Clare Curran recalled a previous discussion to target young adults, e.g. new mothers who often need support. **Action: It was agreed a small group would discuss and to come back to the Committee with some firmer objectives, the group comprising of David Cox, Peter Seaward and Michael Agius.**
5. **Tourism Guide:** Andrew Freeman explained that the original idea was for a Bookham leaflet (a bit of history, places to visit, pubs, etc.) to encourage visitors to Bookham, e.g. large numbers of people visit Poleston Lacey but few came into the village centre. It was also pointed out that many local people are not aware of what's in Bookham. It was also pointed out that there are already some tourist type events that are available and should be on the village website namely:
 - a. village maps, being led by Phil Harris, to indicate the shops in the village which will be placed on the notice boards and are ready to go to print (Phil will liaise with David Smith prior to putting them up);
 - b. Tree Trails – Frances reported three trails had been developed by the tree wardens;
 - c. guide to the trees in St. Nicolas graveyard (and a guide to the graves);
 - d. heritage walk (available from the library).

It was agreed that there is a need to collate what's available now. **Action: Michael Anderson would liaise with the NT and Frances Fancourt would invite Nicola Reid to talk to the Committee as to what could be achieved with the new Bookham village website.**

7. AGM – Lessons Learned

7.1 There had been an issue about capturing details of attendees as a number used the rear door. It was thought however that approximately 225 people were in attendance which was higher than previously experienced.

7.2 The other issue was that due to the interest in the Bookham Vanguard presentation the role of the BRA as host was diminished. However, the presentation stimulated such debate that a further meeting to discuss, for example, parish councils, would be needed.

7.3 Regarding a future meeting it was agreed in principle that a meeting should be held and the preferred date is Wednesday 13th November (**Action: John Allen to book the Barn Hall**). The subject will need clarification but would most likely be one or both of the following:

- **Community Council:** To explain the pros and cons of becoming a community council particularly in the context of taking forward the Bookham Vanguard activities; and/or
- **Local Health Services:** To possibly invite local practices to explain what patients should do if ill in the newly reorganised health service (the 111 service, CCGs, etc.) and the possible changes at Epsom Hospital (A&E and/or maternity which could attract a younger audience).

7.4 The timing of the meeting would need to coincide with the next Newsletter. **Action: Les Huett to note.**

8. Village Jubilee Sign

8.1 Peter Seaward reported via Michael Agius that the sign had been ordered and an estimate had been sought from David Belsham as to the installation cost.

9. Sub-Group Updates

9.1 **Health** (inc. Epsom Hospital update): Much of the discussion took place under item 7 but Stan Miles did report that Chris Grayling was active in this area and trying to organise a campaign. It was generally agreed that until the consultation began there was little that the BRA could do.

9.2 Environment:

- a) **Flood Forum:** Michael Agius had attended this recently and was due to review identified problem sites with Thames Water and SCC.
- b) **Town Paths:** SCC has approved the delegation of funds to community groups. Action: Clare Curran to find out how the BRA can now access and use this funding.
- c) **Grass Cutting:** Some strong views expressed as to whether and how frequently (or infrequently) the grass had been cut. Clare Curran reported that it should be cut either 5 or 6 times during the growing season, the purpose of which was on safety grounds as opposed to aesthetic ones. Action: Phil Harris agreed to contact SCC to understand when grass is scheduled to be cut.

9.3 **Planning:** Stan Miles reported that the Planning Sub-Committee had written two letters to MVDC about:

- 3/0496 – Land to the north of Guildford Road – Erection of 81 No. dwellings with associated garaging, parking, landscaping, roads and access. Reason: Development in the Green Belt and being Premature to the completion of the Bookham Vanguard Green Belt Boundary Review and the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. 1
- 3/0497 – Land adjoining Orchard House, Water Lane – Outline application for the consideration of access, landscaping, layout and scale in respect of the erection of 3 No. detached dwellings. Reason: Development in the Green Belt and in proposing the development of 4/5 Bed houses contrary to the provisions in the Government NPPF and Mole Valley's Core Strategy. 1

9.4 The proposed Thakeham development is also a concern to local residents but the Sub-Committee is unable to express any views, etc. until a planning application has been submitted.

9.5 MVDC had written to ask whether the Sub-Committee is aware of any potential locations suitable for gypsy sites. Stan Miles will respond as appropriate.

9.6 Stan also mentioned that the Sub-Committee had been invited by MVDC to participate in a peer review of the Council's planning system.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 **CCTV:** Phil Harris reported that following discussions with the police and Peter Seaward, two cameras would be erected, one at the top of the High Street and the other at the bottom.

10.2 **River Mole Catchment Management Plan:** Michael Anderson advised that he would be attending the next meeting shortly and can feedback thereafter.

10.3 **Grit Bins:** Clare Curran reported that between 5 and 7 new bins would be installed before the winter, mainly within Bookham South.

10.4 **Parking Issues:** Clare Curran reported on the following issues:

- Lower Shott car park will shortly be converted to pay-and-display with a shopper's rate 30p fee for half an hour (which will also be the rate for the Lower Road car park). This had been done in consultation with the BRaBA and there is a danger that further parking in side roads may occur as a result which will be monitored.
- Merrylands Road – there is increasing commuter parking which is causing issues for local residents, and this will be investigated.
- Other parking hotspots in, for example, Leatherhead road, Pine Walk, Church Road, etc. will be subject to consultation with local residents as to whether any parking control measures could or should be considered.
- New sites for parking are also desirable and a review of potential sites is underway.

10.5 **High Street/East Street:** Traffic management proposals will be subject to a public consultation shortly.

10.6 **Recycling:** Clare also reported that recycling of nappies in blue bins was being trialled in Bookham and as many residents as possible are needed to participate. Recycling of clinical waste is also available.

10.7 **Meeting Protocol:** Michelle Hudspith suggested that when there are new attendees then they should be introduced to the Committee. In addition, if they are attending for a particular agenda item then the order of the agenda could be adjusted to accommodate them, which might also encourage them to return at a later date. There was general support for these suggestions and future agendas should have an early agenda item to accommodate this.

10.8 **Friendship Tree:** John Allen reported that the tree is subject to a TPO and will seek some quotes to see what could be achieved with the maximum budget of £200.

10.9 **Book Stall:** John said he had approx. 6,000 books although more could be accommodated.

11. **Next Meeting:** Monday 1st July 2013 which will be preceded by the Police Forum.