

THE BOOKHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 4th March 2013 at
St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Police Forum: PC John Hench reported back on the crime figures for January and February with 35 and 21 crimes reported respectively (this compared with November with 12 crimes and December with 22). Michael Anderson asked if these figures remained fairly stable over the previous few years or where there was an upward or downward trend. John would see whether the data is readily available.

John also reported that there had been a spate of thefts from cars whilst waiting at traffic lights or when the driver was getting into their car, e.g. the thief would open the passenger door and snatch a handbag for example. To highlight this risk, posters would be placed on the BRA notice boards.

Phil Harris reported vandalism to the railings at the top of the High Street.

Tom Arthur also attended and fed back on traffic issues. He reported that:

- the police now have a variety of devices to help calm traffic speeds (fixed and mobile cameras);
- speed checks are undertaken once or twice a month, and in December and January check had resulted in about 35 offences being recorded with 10 vehicles taken off the road and some illegal immigrant arrests;
- the laws will be changed re. parking on zigzagging lines outside schools, i.e. an offence;
- some work is done re. jumping of traffic lights.

Phil Harris was concerned that many motorists were still using mobile phone and Tom admitted this was an issue despite the penalties.

Present: Michael Anderson (Chair), Andy Freeman, John Allen, James Smith, Stan Miles, Les Huett, Michael Agius, David Cox, Cllr Phil Harris, Cllr Clare Curran, David Smith, Michelle Hudspith, Ron Fowler, Ken Dunne

1. **Apologies:** Peter Seaward, Chris Pullan, Chris Boughey, Lin Hulford, Grant Woodham, Cllr. Paul Newman, Alec Garnham, Ray Pritchard, Judith Walker, Cllr John Chandler, Cllr Tessa Hurworth, John Howarth, Elizabeth Hudson, Cllr Stella Brooks, Frances Fancourt

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record subject to a correction as submitted by Chris Pullan and few minor typos.

3. **Matters Arising:**

3.1 **DDOCA:** The Howard of Effingham consultation had now closed and the outcome is awaited.

3.2 **Youth Centre:** SCC had agreed the lease agreement which will run until 2019 and a

number of improvements (fire alarm, landscaping) had been made and planned (including a sports hard court).

4. Correspondence

4.1 David Smith reported on a planned “Know your blood pressure” event in the Baptist Hall on 20th April between 10.00am and 3.00pm when members of the public can have their blood pressure taken. This event is supported by the ambulance service and Rotary.

5. Spring Newsletter

5.1 Les Huett asked that all outstanding articles be sent to him by 13th March. It was agreed that the next issue would be in colour on a trial basis subject to confirmation that the cost is no more than £200 above the black and white cost.

5.2 Look Local was also discussed and Les would see whether the Bookham Common ranger article could be included.

6. LIMBRA

6.1 Feedback was provided on roads, drainage, footpaths, verges and signs. There was also a discussion re. the High Street survey, a draft of which had been received by SCC but due to a number of shortfalls further work was being undertaken. A revised report will probably be received in April with a consultation thereafter.

6.2 Ron Fowler and Ken Dunne were welcomed to the meeting and spoke, together with David Smith, to the committee re. their concerns about possible changes to the High Street and Lower Shott car park in their capacity as local traders, and felt that traders should be fully involved and consulted.

7. Community Council

7.1 Deferred

8. SCC Highways commissioned study on the High Street

8.1 See LIMBRA

9. The Meeting Place

9.1 Plans to take over the newsagents as a meeting place had fallen through so a new approach was being considered, i.e. a “community cottage” where people can drop-in for a drink and a chat, etc. They would also like to establish a charity and needed £5k to do this and therefore a request to the BRA for a £500 contribution was suggested. A decision was deferred and it was felt further detail was required.

10. Sub-Group Update

10.1 Planning: Stan Miles reported that the sub-committee had sent two letters of representation on two applications, namely:

- 13/0044 – St Nicolas Parish Church, Lower Road – Replacement of existing south doors with new oak and glass doors because it was out of character with listed building; and
- 13/0004 – 37, Church Road – Change of use of ground floor from retail (Use Class A1) to hot food takeaway (Use Class A5) as limited parking, generation noise and odour pollution.

11. AGM Planning

11.1 Not discussed in detail but arrangements are in place.

12. Annual Objectives 2012/13

12.1 **Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Village Sign:** It was reported that a SCC had now replied and did not raise any objection so work can now progress.

13. Annual Objectives 2013/14

13.1 Deferred

14. Any Other Business

14.1 **Communications:** Les reported that he had spoken to David Stoves to establish email addresses for officers; looked at the BRA website and drew up some proposals to amend and simplify it and to look at bulk-emailing systems

15. Next Meeting: 7.45pm on Monday 8th April 2013