

THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2014 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Andrew Freeman, Chris Pullan, John Allen, Michael Anderson, David Cox OBE, Frances Fancourt, Michelle Hudspith, Elizabeth Hudson, Les Huett, Stan Miles, Ray Pritchard, David Smith, Nick Forrer (Minutes),

Invited Councillors; Cllr. Lucy Botting, Cllr. Stella Brooks, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Jatin Patel,

Co-opted and Honorary Members; Arthur Field, John Howarth,

Ordinary Members; Keith Francis.

0 Bookham Neighbourhood Panel

- 0.1 PC John Hench presented the figures for September and October for Bookham which are quite good and are at a steady and controlled rate. His advice was to always leave your car empty of valuables on display. He was asked about number plates being removed. He replied that screwed number plates should be replaced by theft resistant number plates which are harder to remove and would break into pieces if attempted. In all cases stolen number plates should be reported to the police.
- 0.2 PC John Hench also reported that the images from the CCTVs in Bookham was of good quality. There is one half way down the High Street and the other overlooks Lower Road.
- 0.3 On the VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) PC John Hench was not sure when they would be installed. They would be used to collect information on how fast cars were going in different parts of Bookham and may not give any visual feedback to the drivers. Cllr. Clare Curran said that speed measurements had been done along Church Road some two months ago.
- 0.4 PC John Hench will be around on Remembrance Day and reminds all of us to care over the Christmas period.

1 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Michael Agius, Phil Harris, Jim Smith OBE, Cllr. John Chandler and Cllr. Paul Newman.

2 Minutes

- 2.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Previous Actions

- 3.1.1 7th July item 0 fatal accident at Lower Road & East Street. Cllr. Clare Curran will monitor progress of the investigation. No update as of present.

Action: Cllr. Clare Curran

- 3.1.2 7th July item 3.2 Yellow Lines. Cllr. Paul Newman to investigate the placement of yellow lines and this will be discussed at the December meeting.

Action: Cllr. Paul Newman

- 3.1.3 7th July item 6.2.2 application of tree maintenance. Hedge maintenance at Old Barn Hall. Good job done by Paul Manwaring, SCC Highways Maintenance Engineer.

Action: Completed

- 3.1.4 7th July item 6.2.3 Christmas Tree Lights. A new contractor needs to be identified for the installation of permanent wiring. Carried forward to next year (2015).

Action: John Allen, David Smith
& Peter Seaward

- 3.1.5 7th July item 6.2.4 Damaged railings, grant application and repair activity. First set of damaged railings replaced from end railings. Since then further damage on opposite side caused by a collision of a vehicle. The replaced panels were believed to have been sent for scrap.

Action: Completed

- 3.1.6 7th July item 8.3 Tree Officer demeanour. This to be discussed in conjunction with other local Associations with the Council and Cllr. Stella Brooks. Cllr Stella Brooks gave an update which involved a more active approach to TPO.

Action: Ongoing, with Cllr. Stella
Brooks and Francis
Fancourt

- 3.1.7 Completion of the **Business Maps** index showing the business premises with their name and trade indexed against their location in Bookham. Once completed Squiggle will print the map which then can be displayed on a new Notice Board in Lower Road Car Park. This will require a licence from MVDC. Subsequently it was determined that planning permission is no longer required.

Action: Nick Forrer

- 3.1.8 1st September item 8.2.1.1. Further traffic calming and speed reduction for Church Road. Cllr Clare Curran is proposing that a table be placed in Church Road near the Post Office. In progress and carried forward.

Action: Michael Agius

3.1.9 1st September item 8.3.1. Clutter around the Village.

Further to clutter around the village there is the issue with the banners on the railings between the bottom of the High Street and Lower Schott. The banners remain there for long periods and as such are a traffic hazard as they can distract and don't give sight to children on the other side walking to the crossing. If they were only put up for say 2 to 4 weeks that might be slightly more acceptable. Cllr. Clare Curran said that the placing of banners on Council property was illegal, if permission had not been granted. Information to this effect would be published on Streetlife on the web.

Action: Completed

There will be a check on the banners on the railings to monitor how long they have been there.

Action: Completed

The Kebab premises also need to be approached about the colourful shop front and the sign above which protrudes over the pavement. Particularly as the locality is in a Conservation Area. Subsequent planning permission application now withdrawn. No further action envisaged..

Action: Stan Miles to monitor

3.1.10 1st September item 8.3.2. "A" boards on village pavements making it hard to navigate around. Those retail units that do this, need to made aware that they may be liable if this results in damage to others or an accident.

Action: David Smith

3.1.11 1st September item 10.2. Long term parking plans and parking enforcement at Lower Shott to be reported back in December.

The proposal to have the first 30 minutes free at the Lower Shott car park is to be decided in December.

Action: Cllr. Paul Newman

3.1.12 1st September item 10.3. Commemoration Day. Suitable ways of commemorating this to be reported back at a later date.

Action: Jim Smith OBE

3.1.13 6th October item 4. BRA Membership Fee and Funding. It has been explored in the past of the BCA and BRA working together. The conclusion is that as we are both very different organisations focused on different objectives then we would find it difficult to work closely together, but we can support each other in what we do best.

Action: Completed

3.1.14 6th October item 6. BRA Questionnaire. A small working sub-group to be formed with the involvement of Nick Forrer, Ray Pritchard, David Cox, Les Huett and Cllr Clare Curran.

Action: Nick Forrer

3.1.15 6th October item 11.2. Licence for and relocation of Notice Board to Lower Shott.

Action: Nick Forrer

3.2 There were no other matters arising that were not elsewhere on the agenda.

4 Correspondence

4.1 There was no other correspondence to discuss.

5 Sub-Group Updates

5.1 Planning

5.1.1 The Chalk Pit Lane development of the current depot which will be used for housing. No objection to the principle but objection to the form of development.

5.1.2 The planning committee objected to the building of detached house at the rear of 7 Sole Farm on a small site as being over development.

5.1.3 On 36 Pine Dean the removal of a fir tree was objected to as it was a magnificent specimen.

5.1.4 The development at and around the Howard of Effingham School. There was a meeting last week with Vanguard, BRA and Effingham Council to discuss the plans. There will be a three month consultation period. In essence the school development is to be funded by the building of 300 houses. It can be argued that the school itself doesn't need to expand but the wider area might need to have more places. As it is not in our area we should be commenting more on the effect on our infrastructure, local drainage impact and the road access/pass-through. In some ways additional homes might be advantage to Bookham in reducing the pressure on building more houses in our village.

The Howards was originally built for 350 pupils and currently has 1,600. The development proposes to increase this to 2,000 to include the St. Lawrence special needs in a new building with 100 children. Once we have seen the detailed plans and Stan Miles has had a look then the Committee should have a special meeting to discuss our approach.

5.1.5 The plans for the proposed development on the Photo-Me site have been redrawn. There will be 52 dwellings on a 2 acre site. It is likely to result on parking being a problem. There will be no amenity land in the centre for children to play on or provide a pleasant and peaceful setting.

5.2 Environment

5.2.1 **Trees:** Frances Fancourt reported on the A246 leading to Allen Road that some large trees needed inspection.

Ash dieback had been seen locally. Hence there will be a survey to see how many trees are affected. The cost of removing a tree is some £500 to £1,000.

Frances Fancourt asked for £300 as a start for trees starting in February of next year. This was agreed.

5.2.2 **Drains:** Michael Agius will have look at the drains on the A246 near to Allen Road.

5.3 **Bookham Retail and Business Association**

5.3.1 David Smith reported that there were a number of vacant units waiting to be let. This was due to the rents being high. However business is improving in the run-up to Christmas.

5.3.2 The revamped Co-op is a lot cleaner in look at inside with the self-service tills working well and starting to make a difference. We will see how the Co-op develops longer term.

5.3.3 The belief is that Lloyds Bank will carry on after the closure of the local HSBC branch. There has been some migration to the Lloyds branch by local shops. There was discussion on whether we should send a formal letter to Lloyds Bank about our concern, that if it closed, there would be no bank in Bookham or nearby. It was agreed that a letter should be sent.

Action: Completed

5.4 **Finance**

5.4.1 Chris Pullan mentioned that £20 had been given to Marie Curie Cancer Care, £90 for 3 wreaths and a spray for the Poppy Appeal and £50 contribution for the Large Poppies dotted around the village.

5.4.2 Chris Pullan reported that on the income side subscriptions came to an interim £5,039 which is lower than last year. However this number will increase as the memberships are collected.

5.4.3 On expenditure we had made £905 donations, the invoice on the newsletter printing will be received shortly and the first lot of trees takes it to a total of £5,000.

5.5 **Health**

5.5.1 The Eastwick Surgery is near its full capacity, whereas Fairfield Surgery does have some spare capacity.

6 **Any Other Business**

6.1 **Newsletter:** The Committee thanked Les Huett for all his efforts on the production of the recent excellent newsletter. It was much appreciated and widely read.

6.2 **Email:** Les Huett reported that there were some 285 people on the email mailing list.

6.3 **Leatherhead Plan:** John Howarth reported on the Leatherhead Residents Association meeting. There were about 60 people there and the issues discussed were the reasons for the plan and the different possible options within the plan.

6.4 **Corporate Plan Surrey:** Cllr. Clare Curran mentioned that this was in production and would cover the priorities for the next 5 years for the area. It would cover amongst many other things GP surgeries and libraries.

6.5 **Buses:** Keith Francis reported that there would be a bus review meeting on the 4th November. Items for discussion were:-

- the timing of the buses,
- buses running late, early or not running,
- buses in travelling in more appropriate places
- bus routing,
- servicing new routes,
- impact on bus finances of the gradual loss of subsidies.

6.6 **Free Parking:** This will be available on the Saturdays leading up to Christmas on the 6th, 13th and 20th December from 12 noon. For the late night shopping event in Bookham on the 11th December there will be free parking after 3:00 pm.

7 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 1st December 2014