

THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2013 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Police Panel

PC John Hench and PCSO Marion Hawkins were in attendance. Reported crimes for July and August were 23 and 28 respectively.

Re. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), these will be positioned at the request of the BRA. Michael Agius will coordinate the BRA's responses to John, who in turn will inform Tom Arthur.

One particularly distressing event was the shooting dead of 50 doves and children had been apprehended. There was also an incident of chickens being killed and the police are following lines of enquiry.

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Kevin Hurley, would like to introduce a local policing panel every two months with the local inspector in attendance. The PCC or Deputy PCC would attend when able to do so. The John Hench highlighted some headlines which was very encouraging, e.g. crime is down 10% in the last year across Mole Valley. Even steeper drops were seen in serious crimes (down 37%) and domestic burglary (down 50%). Also positive is the community involvement and that CCTV makes a difference.

Tom Arthur had also been active which checks on the A246 and elsewhere resulting in 80 "interventions", i.e. where the police had to deal with a person due to a misdemeanour of some description.

Finally, John did request that if there are any questions then it would be helpful if they could be sent to him in advance so enable him to better prepare.

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, Michael Anderson, Andy Freeman, John Allen, Jim Smith, Stan Miles, Chris Pullan, Elizabeth Hudson, Chris Boughey, Ray Pritchard, Cllr Tessa Hurworth, John Howarth, David Cox, Frances Fancourt, Cllr Clare Curran, David Smith, Michelle Hudspith,

1. Apologies: Les Huett, Lin Hulford, Cllr Phil Harris, Grant Woodham, Judith Walker, Cllr John Chandler, Cllr Stella Brooks, David Ashby.

2. Minutes

2.1 With slight corrections to paragraph 3.3 (bank, not back) and 3.6 (£3,600, not 33,600) the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 There was no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Correspondence

4.1 HSBC: Peter reported that he had received a letter back in response to his. It merely pointed out where other ATMs were located and how to complain to the Ombudsman if the BRA wished to do so!

5. Bookham Vanguard (BV)

5.1 BV had understood that they would undertake the consultation on the Green Belt and make recommendations to MVDC. However, the Council have backtracked and will now make the recommendations which led to discussions internally as to whether to continue with the review. BV decided, but not unanimously, to proceed but would be taking this issue up with Ministers and through the Council.

5.2 The timeline is now also unsure. BV was working towards completion of the review by June 2014 whereas the Council's timeline is complete the review in 2015 with consultation in 2016. This could have a severe impact on Bookham in that some significant developments are being proposed with no clear guidance. Indeed, should a development be refused and go to appeal and MVDC doesn't have adequate plans for development to meet the 5 year building plan then decisions could be taken entirely out of local control or influence! Agreed to discuss further at the next BRA meeting.

6. Newsletter

6.1 Les Huett passed on a message that he needs all article by Saturday 7th September as he plans to go to the printers shortly thereafter.

7. Autumn BRA General Meeting

7.1 Meeting will be held on 13th November and the main item for discussion will be the Bookham Vanguard led by the BRA, and "Your Health in Bookham" led by local GPs.

8. Annual Objectives

8.1 **Email Distribution List:** No further developments.

8.2 **Joint Working:** Michael Anderson reported he would be setting up a meeting in later Sept/early Oct with other local organisations to see whether there are any common concerns that they could address collectively.

8.3 **Grant Applications:** It was noted that regarding the SCC promised funding of £2,900 for local footpaths, this was still awaited. Clare Curran agreed to chase.

8.4 It was also noted that the Police Commissioner £750k budget against which bids of up to £5k would be entertained for local projects. Further details available on the Police website. Regarding the Christmas lights, Chris Coleman had now registered a bid against Clare's local allocation.

8.4 **Schools/Youth:** David Cox had met with the managers of the Lower Road youth centre and there are plans to revitalise the centre and to open 2 nights a week. Regarding the Dornay, repairs are being made to the ceiling and numbers remain low. At the Howard of Effingham it was noted that recent exam results had been good..

8.5 **Business/Tourist Guide:** Michael Anderson reported he had met with representatives of Poleston Lacey re. a mutual benefit is promoting one another which may lead to some further discussions. Re. the local traders plan is now with Phil Harris to progress and could be available later in the month.

9. Sub-Group Updates

9.1 Environment:

- a) **High Street Report:** Reported that consultation on this is still expected in the Autumn.
- b) **Dropped Curbs:** The curbs at Fairfield Close need attention. To be raised at LIMBRA.
- c) **Trees:** Frances reported that the planting season is about to start with 5 trees to be planted in Lower Road and two each along the A246 and in Crabtree Lane.
- d) **Lower Shott Car Park:** It was reported that charges had now been introduced in the car park with a fee of 30p for the first 30 minutes. A similar fee had also been introduced in the Lower Road car park whereas before it was 60p for the hour. Regarding the Lower Shott changes it was noted that these had been introduced and agreed in full consultation with the local traders. It was expected that there would be a knock-on effect, i.e. on-street parking and the Councils will monitor this.
- e) **Parking in The Garstons:** It was noted that a number of Mazda cars appeared to be parking in the Garstons, presumably cars from White's garage.

9.2 **Planning:** Stan Miles reported that the Planning Sub-Committee had written to MVDC regarding one application (8 High Street or the Cc-Op) on the grounds that the "type of shutter and colour not seen as compatible with the Village High Street . . ."

9.3 **Bookham Retail and Business Association:** Regarding the hanging baskets, David Smith reported that watering them had become an issue as there was little enthusiasm amongst the traders to take a turn which leaves Michelle doing much of the work. He will take this up with the traders again.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 **Police Panel:** Jim Smith arrived late due to his attendance at the Police Panel attended by the Police Commissioner. His view was that the purpose hadn't been clearly thought through, how they fit with previous and existing mechanisms, e.g. the BRA's Police Forum, etc. There will, however, be a MV meeting every two months.

10.2 There was no time for any other business and the meeting closed

11. **Next Meeting:** Monday 7th October 2013.