

Minutes of Heatherside Ward Residents Association Meeting

(24th April 2017 7.15 p.m. Pine Ridge)

Present

Committee members - Kirsty North, Caroline Hibberd, Katherine Sargent, Rev. Larry Bain

Surrey Heath Borough Council Officer - Nicky Sherlow

Approximately 80 local residents from Heatherside and Parkside wards

County Councillor election candidates- Edward Hawkins, David Ivison, Hazel Prowse, John Skipper and representatives for Jill Coles, Barrie Dixon Cullen, Yvonne Greenwood

Apologies from Vince Wakeling (PCSO), Paul Ilnicki (SHBC Councillor)

Agenda Items

1) Welcome and Introductions

Kirsty welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She explained that we would be moving swiftly through the agenda items in order to start the election hustings at 8pm. Residents were offered the chance to write down any questions they wanted to ask the candidates on paper provided.

2) Update from the chair on previous and upcoming events

Kirsty gave an update on the table top sale which HWRA hosted on the 25th March. Although it had not been brilliantly attended we did have about 18 sellers who said they would be interested in attending again if we held another sale. The sale also raised £125 for HWRA.

We will be holding a quiz evening on the 30th June in the Heatherside Community Centre. Tickets will be available nearer the time. Please let us know if you would be willing to help out with organising this event.

Kirsty explained that events such as these are important because the association needs to raise funds to cover the cost of insurance which is around £400 a year. Without insurance we would be unable to have our annual Christmas tree and light switch on events. Raising money also enables us to apply for various improvement grants.

3) Update on the Wellingtonia Avenue works

At the last meeting we had a presentation from Paul Watts and Steve Harris from Surrey Heath

Borough Council on the works to clear the land between the Wellingtonias. This work is still ongoing but we have received a number of questions about the future plans and also about the state of the path. HWRA emailed SHBC at the end of March to ask for an update on what was happening and also the plans to complete the project.

Kirsty read out a reply we had received from Daniel Harrison at Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC)

“Regarding your request for an update on the work plan for Wellingtonia Avenue I have been informed that our contractors (Glendale) will be on site for a day this week and the following two weeks to clear any remaining debris. I have also been informed that Glendale have already carried out some flailing of the bamboo which had overgrown from a private garden.

Moving forward, a schedule has been agreed with Glendale which will include flailing the area twice a year, applying weed spray along the fence lines twice a year, a minimum of 10 x grass cuts per year and monthly litter picks.”

HWRA have replied to this email to ask for clarification on whether the state of the path will be improved as it has been covered in wood chippings making it very difficult to use, especially for those who have difficulty walking or on bikes, or using pushchairs or wheelchairs. So far we have not received a response.

Nicky Sherlow from SHBC attended the meeting and told us that she had met with members of the Highways team to discuss the path. She agreed that the woodchip had initially been spread too thickly and explained that machinery was being brought in to spread it so it was only an inch thick. Various residents reported that this work was already underway. Nicky was also asked whether posts would be installed to prevent vehicle access to the avenue and confirmed this was already in progress. One final question was asked about the amount of debris and the possible fire risk this presented, part of the planned works include the removal of the debris.

Nicky is happy to be contacted by residents if they have any further questions. Her email is nicola.sherlow@surreyheath.gov.uk

4) Community Safety Update

Unfortunately our PCSO's were unable to make it to the meeting. However Vince did contact us to let us know that there were no issues or incidents of concern that he felt were worth mentioning.

He also asked us to let everyone know that his work mobile number has changed to **07720046392**. The old number 07967988255 can be deleted.

His email address vincent.wakeling@surrey.pnn.police.uk is still valid.

If you need to contact the local PCSO's contact details for Vince and Sian can be found on our website <http://heathersidewra.weebly.com/contacts.html>

5) Councillor Updates

a) County Councillor

David Ivison gave a brief update on the recent roadworks on Cumberland Road. The surface has been micro-asphalted. He said he had asked for Inglewood to be resurfaced but this would have been far more expensive as the surface is in a worse state so his request had been refused. He was asked why the whole length of the road had not been done but said he did not know. The subject of white lines was also raised. These haven't yet been repainted and it was highlighted that parking on the road next to the playing fields was causing a problem as the whole road was becoming blocked.

b) Borough Councillors

No borough councillors attended the meeting so there was no update.

6) Heatherside Signage

Len Williams, a Heatherside residents gave brief details of a scheme he is proposing which would see Heatherside having more signage of a type similar to those in place in Deepcut. He has already drawn up plans and has a scheme in mind to pay for them. His speech was warmly received by the audience but as we were short of time at this meeting it was agreed he would go into this in more detail at the next meeting

7) Cheylesmore Park Redevelopment

Nicky Sherlow from SHBC gave a presentation on the planned redevelopment of the play area in Cheylesmore Park. The survey they put out to local residents has had quite a good response with about 40 replies so far but they would like to see more. There is still time to fill this in if you would like to have your say on what kind of equipment you would like to see in the park. The link to the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cheylesmorepark> and the survey closes on Friday 5th May. The full flyer for the survey can be seen on our website <http://heathersidewra.weebly.com/>

Nicky said the responses so far have been quite varied with requests for new safety surfacing, swings, roundabouts, zip wires etc. There have been mixed views on tunnels and while some people asked for a sandpit Nicky said this wouldn't be something they would install as they aren't easy to keep clean and sanitary in public spaces. Unfortunately safety inspections of the existing play frame have shown that it will soon need to be replaced even if it were sanded and

repainted, so this will more than likely be removed.

The budget for the play area is £40K and once the survey closes SHBC officers will meet play provider on site to discuss possible options. Once they have drawn up some plans Nicky will share these with us so local residents can feedback on the proposals.

Nicky was asked whether there are plans to put posts around the park to protect it from potential traveller incursions. These are already budgeted for separately from the playground budget and will be installed soon. There will be lockable bollards rather than a gate to allow access for the grasscutters. It was felt a gate would spoil the appearance of the park.

8) Other Heatherside Greenspace Issues

Members of the audience asked if there was any money in the budget for improvements to Heatherside park but unfortunately none is available as it has recently been refurbished. Nicky did agree to raise the issue of drainage again with SHBC drainage engineers. She mentioned that the gate still needs to be fixed as it was unfortunately vandalised. There are also a number of other things that need to be fixed such as a handle on one piece of equipment and the zipwire which needs to be tightened. However Wicksteed the company who provide the equipment are unable to come out for several weeks. Kirsty asked if the long call out time would be a factor in considering who or who not to use for the equipment for Cheylesmore. Nicky said that it would taken into consideration.

Graham Tapper asked if SHBC were aware of the gate which had been put into the fence around the Ridgewood development to provide access to the rest of Heatherside. The gate cannot be used at present as there is a fence the other side of it and no path. Nicky said SHBC are aware of this problem.

The issue of litter on the football pitches after matches was raised. Various residents asked why there wasn't something in the booking agreement with the football teams that insisted that rubbish was cleared or future bookings would be refused. Nicky said she thought this was already the case but that she would investigate it further.

Nicky was also asked about the cost of hiring the playing fields for community events. HWRA have previously asked about the possibility of using the fields but were told we would be charged. It seems unfair that the fields are hired out to external organisations for most of the year but if the local community want to use them we would have to pay to use our own local park. Nicky said she would investigate this further.

9) Date of the next meeting

The next meeting is planned for the 10th July. The agenda will be published in advance on

Facebook, the HWRA website and by email to those on our contact list If you'd like to be added to this please contact us at heathersidewra@gmail.com. Please let us know if there's anything you'd like to see on the agenda.

10) AOB

Nigel Ralphs raised the issue of the keep clear sign which has recently been painted on the turning circle in Dalston Close. He explained that he has lived in the road for 30 years but the keep clear sign is causing issues to residents. He asked why the sign had been painted when only one person had asked for it and how he could get it removed. Due to the upcoming election it was difficult for us to discuss this too much further. Nigel explained that he had already been in correspondence with David Ivison. We offered to put this on the agenda to discuss again at the next meeting if Nigel felt this would be useful.

We had been supplied with a document outlining County Council v Borough Council responsibilities. This was made available for residents to pick up and we have also published a copy here on our website <http://heathersidewra.weebly.com/useful-information.html>

Following this the meeting ended and the County Council election candidates were invited to come up to the front of the room for the hustings.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION HUSTINGS

There are seven candidates standing for Heatherside and Parkside Ward. They were all invited to attend our meeting. Four of the seven candidates attended and the other sent representatives in their place (marked with *).

The seven candidates are as follows -

Jill Coles - The Labour Party*

Barrie Dixon Cullen - Independent*

Edward Hawkins - The Conservative Party

Yvonne Greenwood - The Green Party*

David Ivison - Independent

Hazel Prowse - UKIP

John Skipper - Liberal Democrat

Each candidate was given 4 minutes and was given the chance to make a personal statement explaining their plans and proposals should they be elected.

The statement part of the hustings was followed by a question and answer session. The representatives of the candidates not able to attend were permitted to answer the questions if they felt able but the representative for Barrie Dixon Cullen chose only to read out the statement he had provided.

Local residents had been invited to send in questions to us in advance of the meeting and were also given the opportunity to add further questions during the meeting. This enabled us to group the questions into sensible categories and reduce duplication or repeated questions on the same subject. A copy of the questions we received in advance is available here on our website.

All the candidates were offered the opportunity to answer any of the questions and in the interests of fairness we varied the order in which we gave them the chance to respond.

The hustings concluded with questions from the audience.

Kirsty then thanked all the candidates and their representatives and the meeting closed.

The candidates were invited to supply a copy of their statement and we have published any that were sent to us on our website here.

<http://heathersidewra.weebly.com/2017-scc-election-information.html>

While the HWRA is an impartial, non political organisation we feel it is helpful to residents to share this information. We have also put scanned copies of any of the election manifesto leaflets on our website for reference but please note that not all candidates provided us with leaflets.

An audio recording of the hustings proceedings is available for anyone who was unable to attend the meeting here.

<https://audioboom.com/posts/5850933-heatherside-and-parkside-county-council-election-hustings-2017?t=0>

(Thank you to Paul Deach for recording and supplying this to us)

