

**Minutes of Heatherside Ward Residents Association Meeting
(3rd July 2018 - Heatherside Community Centre)**

Present

Committee members - Kirsty North, Caroline Hibberd, Katherine Sargent

Heatherside Borough Councillors - Ian Cullen, Jonathan Lytle

Len Williams, Andy Harris, Matt Lindsay - Heatherside Pillar team,

Approximately 20 local residents

Apologies received from Paul Innicki- Borough Councillor, Edward Hawkins - County Councillor,

Mike Robbins- Chair of the Community Centre, Vince Wakeling - Police Community Support Officer

Agenda Items

1) Welcome and Introductions

Kirsty introduced the committee, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending at the earlier than normal time of 7pm. She explained that this meeting would be run slightly differently from normal with issues discussed more briefly than at previous meetings. This is because we hoped to finish early as there was a World Cup football match on.

2) Chair's Update

Kirsty gave an update on events since the last meeting. We held a well attended, successful quiz evening on the 20th April where we raised £189.20. This money will be used to pay for meeting rooms, help fund community events and pay for items such as Christmas decorations.

The newly redeveloped Cheylesmore Park play area has now opened and seems to be very popular with local residents. Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) were praised for the level of local resident consultation that had been carried out.

Kirsty mentioned that HWRA have recently sent out Privacy notice to everyone on the mailing list in order to ensure we are compliant with the new GDPR regulations which have recently come into effect. If you are on our mailing list but would like to be removed please contact us at heathersidewra@gmail.com. A copy of the privacy notice may be seen at <https://heathersidewra.weebly.com/hwra-mailing-list-privacy-notice.html>

Kirsty briefly mentioned a planning application currently being decided by SHBC to convert and extend the existing disused caretakers house at Heather Ridge School into new classrooms and amenity space for the children to use. This received wide support from the audience.

Surrey Heath Borough Council are also currently consulting with residents regarding the draft Local Plan. So far the response has been low and they are keen to get more feedback on the plans from local residents. It was mentioned that the size and format of the document have made it both time consuming to read and respond. However it was agreed that the link to the consultation would be included in the minutes to enable Heatherside residents to find the information and respond if they wanted to. The relevant pages may be found here <https://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/draft-local-plan-2016-2032>.

3) Planned Events

The next HWRA Quiz night will be on Friday 12th October at the Community Centre. Further details of this will be published nearer the time.

There has recently been discussion on the local Facebook group about the possibility of a community event to be held on the recreation ground. Kirsty explained that we had considered this in the past but that the costs of hiring the field of £300-400 plus the requirement for Public Liability Insurance which is also expensive, meant we had been unable to progress it any further. She confirmed that HWRA would be more than happy to support and promote such an event but that an organising committee would need to come forward. Unfortunately the existing committee members already have too many other commitments to be able to be heavily involved.

Kirsty also mentioned that once again we will be erecting a Christmas tree in the Arcade in conjunction with Heatherside Church. If anyone would like to be involved in setting up and or helping with the festivities then do please let us know at heathersidewra@gmail.com. The tree committee will be getting together in the next couple of months so do let us know if you would like to be involved with the planning.

3) Esso Pipeline Replacement

Further to discussion at the previous meeting (minutes at <https://heathersidewra.weebly.com/meeting-minutes/meeting-minutes-17418> - item 5) a decision has now been made that Corridor J will be used for the pipeline replacement. We have also been told that the option whereby the pipeline would be put in the road outside Frimley Park Hospital and along the Chobham Road has now been ruled out due to the level of disruption. Further consultation on the plans will be taking place in the Autumn.

There was a brief discussion about the plans and how it might affect the local area. A number of residents living on the Maultway have received letters saying the proposed route may run through their garden. Peter Ludlow said he had spoken to a friend who worked for Esso and he believed the most likely scenario was that the new pipe would follow the route of the existing pipeline along the other side of the Maultway.

Suggestions were made that residents and the HWRA should be writing to the local councillors and Michael Gove to ask for their support in ensuring the pipeline wouldn't be routed through people's gardens. However, it was agreed that we should wait until the proposed route has been decided before we begin any kind of campaign. It may be that the route decided doesn't directly affect any properties and it will actually be routed through the Fuel Allotments and MOD land.

Full details about the proposed project and the potential routes can be seen on the website at <https://www.slpproject.co.uk/> and paper copies of the plans are also held in local libraries and Council offices.

6) Heatherside Pillar

Len Williams provided an update as to the status of the Heatherside Community Pillar Project. The first phase of the project, i.e. the collection of the pledges for the contingency fund is complete with £760 being raised. Should anyone who hasn't previously contributed wish to join the selection panel then please make contact with Len Williams who will accept your £5 fee and add your name to the list.

In addition, contact has been made with several local commercial enterprises to see if they are prepared to act as co-sponsors. These include Sainsbury's, the Wheatsheaf, the Pharmacy and McColl's newsagent. The Mehdi Restaurant and Arcade Barbers have already agreed to join the project.

Cllr Lytle was able to announce to the meeting that SHBC were able to make £2500 of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money available to pay towards the base and hardstanding. This news was greeted with great enthusiasm by the audience. Len thanked Cllr Lytle for his support and input into the project.

The Heatherside Pillar has now started design development. Moving forward, three designs will be shortlisted into a "beauty contest", allowing supporters of the project to rank each design in order of preference. The outcome of this will determine the constructed design.

All the £5 pledge contributors were invited to take part in the design selection process which identified the Avenue as being the prime element of the design and wildlife as the secondary element. When the 'beauty contest' for the ultimate design takes place it will be the same contributors who will form the selection panel.

Following the completion of the design selection and confirmation that the requisite funds are available, the Planning Application will be submitted to SHBC. Assuming the application is successful the aim is to have the pillar erected before Remembrance Day. It is planned that a formal dedication will be held next year hopefully involving the local schools and community organisations.

Full details of the update provided by Len and the preliminary designs for the pillar may be seen at **APPENDIX A** at the end of the minutes.

6) Wellingtonia Avenue and Heather Ridge Arcade

Wellingtonia Avenue

Graham Tapper explained that he had started a petition on the SHBC website to campaign for work to be completed at the northern end of the Wellingtonia Avenue. While the middle part of the avenue has been cleared the northern part appears to have been abandoned and forgotten with piles of wood chippings, debris and branches lying around. If you would like to sign the petition the link is <https://petitions.surreyheath.gov.uk/Wellingtonia-Ave/>. It would also be helpful to share this to your own social media and friends if you are in support of it.

Graham explained that since setting up the petition he had been approached by officers at SHBC who offered to meet him at the site to discuss the issues. Graham has met with David Brookhouse and Steve Harris from SHBC plus Cllr Lytle and Phil Green the Heatherside Tree Warden.

Cllr Lytle added some additional information. The Avenue is flail cut twice a year, approximately end of July/August after the birds' nesting period has finished and one near the end of September for the winter period. The logs at the north end need to be removed before the flail can go ahead, and they will be removed in conjunction with any other works in the avenue, to make sure of a cost effective use of the machinery. Wildflower seeds were sown approximately 4 weeks ago, but lack of rain makes it unlikely that we will see any wildflower until next year.

The Greenspace team are monitoring the trees and any problem areas and branches. Officers experienced the danger posed by this during the meeting when one branch dropped in front of them. Arborists have recently been organized to remove a couple of problem branches and

have have agreed work is soon to commence on certain trees with dead branches. In addition, there are plans to check those branches above and near footpaths in the more public arena in the avenue.

Jonathan also explained that any general maintenance may be subject to change depending on any future recommendation and/or management plans developed by the Greenspace team and added that work to the northern part had never been in the original project plan and budget.

Members of the audience raised their concern about the impact of any works to wildlife such as hedgehogs and asked whether ecologists were being consulted about the most suitable times to carry out work etc. Jonathan confirmed that expert advice and guidance had been sought with information given to contractors to ensure they know what they are looking for.

Heather Ridge Arcade

The subject of the poor state of the Heather Ridge Arcade was raised once again. At the previous meeting Councillors had said they would explore the possibility of funding to replace the existing damaged planters. Jonathan confirmed that the councillors have been looking at funding for work to be undertaken in the precinct to replace the planters and suitable design plans. They are hoping to take advantage of a new Urban Designer due to be joining the SHBC team in the next 2-3 months. More detailed feedback should be available after the Summer holiday period. They are also in regular contact with County Cllr Edward Hawkins to ensure they provide a well coordinated approach. Kirsty asked that any plans developed be shared with the residents and that consultation similar to the successful consultation for Cheylesmore Park be undertaken.

The issue over ownership of the various parts of the open area continues with some suggestion that the overgrown area of vegetation may be in the ownership of Surrey Highways rather than the main part of Surrey County Council (SCC). It was suggested that perhaps HWRA could organise a working party in the autumn to try and tidy this area up, subject to approval from the landowner. There are gardening tools and equipment available to the community which could be used for a job such as this.

7) Road surface issues and petitions

The poor state of the roads was raised again though Edward Hawkins our County Cllr was unable to attend the meeting. Areas of particular concern included the path down the Old Bisley Road to Ravenscote School. A local resident had also contacted HWRA to complain at the

lack of drop curbs and poor accessibility generally in the area for wheelchair users and other disabled people. It was agreed that these issues be pushed to the next meeting.

At the last meeting Edward Hawkins and John Skipper both mentioned that they had started petitions to try and improve the state of the roads. While John's petition has now closed the other is still live and needs many more votes. The petitions aim is to get fairer funding for Surrey's roads. More information and the petition may be seen here <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/217930>. If you support this we would encourage you to share it wherever you can to try and increase the number of signatories.

8) Policing

Local community police officers were unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. Concern was raised by Peter Ludlow that their presence was rarely seen in Heatherside these days whereas historically the local PCSO's could regularly be seen walking the local area. He also feels that antisocial behaviour has increased again since the CCTV camera facing the play area was removed.

Kirsty explained that she had recently been present when there were some problems in the Heatherside park with antisocial behaviour being directed at parents and children using the park. The PCSO's had been called and Sian had quickly attended the incident. She explained that although the PCSO's weren't always immediately visible they are still available should incidents like this arise.

Peter suggested that we should invite Bob Darkens the current Surrey Police Borough Commander to the next meeting. This was widely supported and HWRA will seek to contact him and arrange for him to attend a meeting if possible.

9) Councillor Updates

Borough Councillor Updates

Jonathan Lytle had already spoken regarding the situation with the Heatherside Pillar, Wellingtonia Avenue and Heather Ridge Arcade. He has provided some additional information which may be seen at **APPENDIX B**

Katherine Sargent asked Jonathan whether he felt the recent change to the new waste contract with Amey had gone as well as had been hoped? There seem to have been lots of problems with damaged or missed bins locally and people had expressed their frustration with not being

able to make contact SHBC to report problems but instead being referred to Amey. Amey were proving difficult to make contact with in some cases.

Jonathan replied that although there have been a number of teething problems he felt overall the implementation had gone well. This was met with disagreement from a number of the residents present who felt there were actually more problems than Jonathan was aware of. He asked local residents to make him aware if they were encountering problems.

Ian Cullen also gave a brief update. He mentioned that he had been unwell but that he was now recovered and keen to hear from any residents who were experiencing problems. He was grateful that he has been given time and space to recover but is now fully back to health and keen to get involved again.

County Councillor Update

Edward Hawkins was unable to attend the meeting but had provided an update which Kirsty read out. The full text of this can be seen at **APPENDIX C** but the main topics covered are summarised below.

Budget Issues

Edward recently attended a seminar called “Learning from Northamptonshire”. This is where a county council ran out of money and the Government has appointed two Commissioners to guide the council. Edward believes that at Surrey, there are many of the same problems and whilst they are not complacent, he doesn’t believe they will have the same fate. They are hoping to learn from Northamptonshire’s experiences.

Other facts and figures

Surrey needs to take out of the base budget £250m in the period 2018 to 2021.

Almost 700 per 10,000 of children in Surrey are referred to Children’s Social Care - higher than the England average. 58.1% of these children are referred as the result of neglect or abuse.

27,718 children in Surrey’s Schools have SEND.

Data says that as people live longer, their needs start earlier. In terms of longevity men seem to have plateaued and in some cases slipped back. In addition, senior drinking continues to be an area of concern.

47,000 homes are needed in Surrey by 2030.

Roads and Petition

The roads Petition is still live although not getting the support Edward would have liked. The overall total is 5,743 of which Surrey Heath with an adult population of circa 64,000 has 554. Edward is disappointed at the low number of signatories considering he has delivered leaflets,

pushed borough and county councillors to spread the word and had articles online and in the press.

The first roads to be worked on across Surrey as part of the £25m package have been announced and the Surrey Heath list includes;

Church Hill, Camberley

Church Road, Windlesham

Deepcut Bridge Road, Deepcut

Frimley Green Road, Frimley

Frimley Road Roundabout, Camberley

Greenbank Way, Camberley

Old Bisley Road, Frimley

Upper Chobham Road, Camberley

Edward is disappointed that only two of the roads he put forward in his Division have been put on the list, but this is the first tranche. He has not been told the extent of the works as yet.

Members Grant

Edward has previously posted on social media that this year he has two “pots” he can draw on provided the proposal meets a strict criterion. The funds are called “Members Community Allocation” (£5,000) and a “Highways Fund” (£7,500). An example of the latter is that he has asked for a cost for cutting back foliage and washing signs in the Division. He welcomes any further suggestions from residents.

This point provoked some discussion at the meeting as Kirsty and others felt this kind of work should be covered by routine maintenance costs. It was suggested that perhaps the money would be better spent towards road crossings, dropped curbs and making the area more accessible.

10) Next Meeting Date

The date of the next meeting has not yet been finalised but will be at the beginning of October. This will be our AGM and as always nominations are invited for the posts of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. If you would like to find out more about these positions or nominate yourself or another local resident please contact us at heathersidewra@gmail.com.

Kirsty mentioned that since Pine Ridge are no longer able to accommodate us for free we have been hiring the meeting room at the Community Centre. This is quite expensive for the organisation. We have an alternative meeting venue which we may use for the next meeting.

This is the 4th Frimley Scout hut to the rear of the community centre. They have agreed that we may use it in exchange for a donation which would go straight to the Scout group funds. This suggestion was widely supported.

Once a date has been agreed an email will be sent out and the website updated.

11) AOB

Water Supply

A member of the audience raised their concern about the state of the water infrastructure in the area and whether previous mains pipes bursting were a precursor for things to come once the colder weather returns in the winter.

HWRA Publicity

A new attendee at the meeting stated that he had been unaware of the existence of HWRA until it was mentioned to him in passing by a fellow resident. He feels there may be more we can do to publicise the organisation. Kirsty explained that when we initially began we had leaflet dropped large areas of the Heatherside ward but that this was expensive in terms of paper and printing and that the committee member were all very busy with work and childcare responsibilities. We would always be very grateful for any help in publicising the association from residents.

In addition, we always post on our own website at <https://heathersidewra.weebly.com/>, on our Facebook page and local Facebook groups. We also have a twitter account. In the past we have also been listed in the GU15/GU16 magazines delivered locally and had banners up in the local area. One of these was unfortunately stolen but the committee agreed that the other should be reinstated and perhaps we could purchase another one or two. Any other suggestions or offers of help would be gratefully received.

APPENDIX A - Heatherside Community Pillar

The HWRA treasurer has confirmed that the total amount submitted by the residents of Heatherside towards the contingency fund is £760. All the contributors took part in the design selection process which identified the Avenue as being the prime element of the design and wildlife as the secondary element. When the 'beauty contest' for the ultimate design takes place it will be the same contributors who will form the selection panel. Should anyone who hasn't previously contributed wish to join the selection panel then please make contact with Len Williams who will accept your £5 fee and add your name to the list.

Contact has been made with several local commercial enterprises to see if they are prepared to act as co-sponsors. These include Sainsbury, the Wheatsheaf, the Pharmacy and McColl's newsagent. The Mehdi Restaurant and Arcade Barbers have already agreed to join the project.

SHBC has confirmed that they are prepared to support the project with a grant of £2.5K for the base and hardstanding. Cllr. Lytle is to be applauded for his effort in acquiring this support.

Cllr. Hawkings has confirmed that the pillar does not meet with the SCC grant criteria.

The Heatherside Pillar has now started design development. Advised by the outcome of the recent poll taken by supporters of the project, the final will reference the iconic Wellingtonia Avenue by utilising a single point perspective, contrasting the symmetry of the trees with the array of wildlife that also reside in Heatherside. Moving forward, three designs will be shortlisted into a "beauty contest", allowing supporters of the project to rank each design in order of preference. The outcome of this will determine the constructed design.

Following the completion of the design selection and confirmation that the requisite funds are available, the Planning Application will be submitted to SHBC. Assuming the application is successful it is our aim to have the pillar erected before Remembrance Day. Depending on the contingency fund residue a formal dedication will be held next year hopefully involving the local schools and community organisations.

Len Williams, Andy Harris, Matt Lindsay.

Heatherside Community Pillar – Preliminary Designs

The following collage shows the preliminary designs for the Pillar. Note : This is very much “Work In Progress” and are only presented here because there are no more HWRA meetings before October.



APPENDIX B - Update from Cllr Jonathan Lytle

Overview as your SHBC Councillor

Vice Chairman of the Audit and Standards Scrutiny Committee

Planning Applications Committee Member

Licensing Committee Member

Town Centre Planning Group

External Partnerships Committee Member

Surrey Heath Duke of Edinburgh's Award SHBC Committee Member

Various SHBC working groups

Trees – on behalf of residents I am in regular communication with our Greenspace team and Arborist Paul Watts regarding any queries over trees.

Parking – Continually working with Officers to explore and develop talks with Bovis Homes regarding surfacing of car park off Cumberland Road, opposite Arundel Road as well as other parking issues in the ward. No progress can be reported at the moment unfortunately due to change in personnel.

Surrey Heath CCG meetings attendee and interested party

Heatherside Community Association management committee attendee

Proactive approach to range of Council's Community Activities

Recycling and Waste - Joint Waste Contract communications and interest

Ravenscote – parking meeting/s and liaison

Interest and involvement in Camberley Alzheimer's Café (non SHBC)

Cheylesmore Playground

On 18th May, I was pleased together with fellow Councillors Paul Ilnicke and Ian Cullen to join local families and representatives of the HWRA for the official opening of the new Cheylesmore Park Playground. Surrey Heath Borough Council's £40,000 investment has already demonstrated great success with feedback being extremely positive and is often filled with happy children and families, taking advantage of our borough wide playground improvement scheme worth over £650,000.

Heatherside Pillar

After my meeting with Len Williams and our officer at Surrey Heath Borough Council, the proposed location for the Pillar has now been agreed on SHBC land beside the Heatherside Recreation area. I understood he has been awaiting details on its size and

appearance, which his team has been working up, so that final considerations can be given. With further consultation with Executive Head of Regulatory, I am pleased to share that, on behalf of your Councillors we are able to offer in the region of £2,500 towards the base, subject to estimated costs and approved supplier agreement.

Heatherside Shopping Precinct

Your Councillors have been looking at funding for work to be undertaken in the precinct to replace the planters and suitable design plans and I have confirmed with our Executive Head that there are in fact 3 interested parties who will be consulted for any work proposed, after meetings with colleagues at the Council following research undertaken on what we know is SCC property. I have begun process with our Executive Head to develop plans to talk to the parties, as well as hoping to take advantage of a new Urban Designer due to be joining the SHBC team in the next 2-3 months. More detailed feedback should be available after the Summer holiday period. We are in regular contact with County Cllrd Edward Hawkins to ensure we provide a well co-ordinated approach.

Wellingtonia Avenue

General Annual for the Avenue including the North section - maintenance tasks with Glendale

The Avenue is flail cut twice a year, approximately end of July/August after the birds' nesting period has finished and one near the end of September for the winter period. The logs at the north end to be removed before the flail can go ahead, and they will be removed in conjunction with any other works in the avenue, to make sure of a cost effective use of the machinery.

The wildflower was sewn approximately 4 weeks ago, but unfortunately we haven't had a drop of rain since, so it is unfortunately unlikely that we will see any wildflower until next year. Come this time, we can consider different mixes due to the lack of sunlight for the north section, when work goes ahead.

Greenspace are constantly keeping updated with regards to the dead limbs and branches that pose a threat upon dropping. Officers experienced a situation even this afternoon as one branch dropped in front of them. Arborists have recently been organized to remove a couple of problem branches and this afternoon I attended with officers and specialists with a couple of residents, and it was agreed work to

commence on certain trees with dead branches, to be planned for action over the coming weeks – as well as plans to check those branches above and near footpaths in the more public arena in the avenue.

Important: Please note that any general maintenance may be subject to change depending on any future recommendation and/or management plans developed by Greenspace.

APPENDIX C - Update from Cllr Edward Hawkins

I recently attended seminar called "Learning from Northamptonshire". This is where a county council ran out of money and the Government has appointed two Commissioners to guide the council. It seems that to some in local government circles there was no great surprise at the Northants position and offers of help had been spurned.

The County took for 4 years the Governments freeze on Council tax, which had the impact of severely damaging their income base and at the same time kept on about how they needed more money. There were a number of other cases of lack of leadership; poor data performance management; lack of cohesion and involvement with the Cllrs by the leadership etc.

At Surrey, we have many of the same problems and whilst we are not complacent, we do not believe that we will have the same fate – which is one of the reasons why we are looking at what went wrong.

Other facts and figures

Surrey needs to take out of the base budget £250m in the period 2018 to 2021

Almost 700 per 10,000 of children in Surrey are referred to Children's Social Care - higher than the England average. 58.1% of these children are referred as the result of neglect or abuse. 27,718 children in Surrey's Schools have SEND

Data says that as people live longer, their needs start earlier. In terms of long lived, men seem to have plateaued and in some cases slipped back

Senior drinking continues to be an area of concern

47,000 homes needed in Surrey by 2030

My roads Petition is still live although not getting the support I would have liked. The overall total is 5,743 of which Surrey Heath with an adult population of circa 64,000 has 554. This is disappointing. I have delivered leaflets; pushed borough and county councillors to spread the word and had articles on line and in the press.

The first roads to be worked on across Surrey as part of the £25m package has been announced and regrettably and the Surrey Heath list includes;

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It is disappointing that only two of the roads I put forward in my Division have been put on the list, but this is the first tranche. I have not been told the extent of the works as yet.

On your agenda you mentioned the pipeline. My understanding is that the latest plans are a further stage in the consultation and I am not aware that an approach has been made to SHBC. Mike Goodman CC at Windlesham, is co-ordinating the SCC response. I believe that Esso have, or will be given statutory powers once the line is finalised and approved by government.

Waste. A joint borough and county issue. To many of us the contract is still suffering too many teething problems and discussions are in hand with the contractors. Members Grant; I have previously posted on social media that this year I have two "pots" I can draw on provided the proposal meets a strict criterion. The funds are called "Members Community Allocation" (£5,000) and a "Highways Fund" (£7,500). An example of the latter is that I have asked for a cost for cutting back foliage and washing signs in the Division. Suggestions welcomed

Haetherside Shops – being dealt with by Jonathan and Paul. I believed that the central area was owned by SCC, but thanks to Paul it is now established that the area is Highways Land. Still with County, but a different area. I am in discussion with Jonathan, Paul and Ian