

**Minutes of Heatherside Ward Residents Association Meeting
(22nd January 2019 - Heatherside Community Centre)**

Present

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

Heatherside County Councillor - Edward Hawkins

Heatherside Borough Councillors - Ian Cullen, Paul Ilnicki, Jonathan Lytle

Len Williams - Heatherside Pillar team

Approximately 25 local residents

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

Agenda Items

1) Welcome and Introductions

Kirsty thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, especially on such an unpleasant evening. She introduced the committee and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Chair's Update

Kirsty gave an update on the successful Christmas tree event HWRA and Heatherside Church had hosted at the end of November. The event had been well attended by members of the local community and donations totalling £136 had been received in fundraising buckets placed at the event. Kirsty thanked everyone involved in organising the event and particularly our sponsors including Award Design, Newman Furniture, Stump and Grind, Sainsburys and Mehdi.

3) Planned HWRA and Heatherside Events

HWRA have a number of events planned over the next few months. We will be holding another quiz evening on Friday 5th April to raise funds for the association. We will be publicising this further in the next few weeks and sharing information on how to purchase tickets.

The next HWRA meeting will also be in April. We are planning to hold a hustings event for the Borough Council Elections in May. We held a similar event for the County Council Elections in 2017 which was very well attended. This event is on Friday 26th April.

In June Michael Gove will be coming to talk to Heatherside Residents as a guest of HWRA. This will be at the Community Centre on Friday the 7th.

4) Councillor Updates

County Councillor

Edward gave an update on a number of Surrey County Council (SCC) issues affecting local residents. The full version of this can be seen at the end of the minutes at APPENDIX A

SCC New Leader

David Hodge stood down as Leader of SCC at the end of last year and Tim Oliver has been elected as Leader. He wants SCC headquarters to move from County Hall in Kingston by 2020 with the aim of moving somewhere within the county. They also aim to reduce the number of SCC buildings (and therefore the cost) from around 300 to 100. Edward is part of the Asset Strategy Team looking at options and ways to carry this out.

County Budget

Work has continued throughout this past year on putting the County's finances on a sound footing. In previous years SCC has had to draw on its reserves to balance its books which is not sustainable long term

Children's / Family Service

Ofsted has commented on more than one occasion, said that 'Outcomes for vulnerable children in Surrey are Inadequate.' This means that children are left too long in severe neglect and often that parental addictions, acute mental health issues and domestic abuse impact negatively on their wellbeing. This also means that by the time children come into care it is often too late to undo the damage done to them and that if SCC keeps doing the same things in the same way, we will continue to let down vulnerable children. As you might expect, parents who neglect and abuse their children do not come into Children's Centres and very few referrals to Children's Social Care come from Children's Centres so children are tending to slip through the net.

SCC plan to rebrand the service they offer to try and more effectively cater for the needs of these children in Surrey. The SCC philosophy is that most families are able to bring up their children without wanting or needing the intervention of the state. SCC believe that Children's Social Care should provide a timely and effective state intervention for those few families who are not willing/able to parent their children. At the moment this 'safety net' is not effective in Surrey. The new Family Service will have a reduced focus on people coming to buildings and have more outreach, to take services to families where adults' issues are having an adverse effect on children. This will be a 'service without walls'.

Edward made the point that when Essex County Council was inadequate like SCC, they had 83 Children's Centres but they are now an outstanding service and have only 12 centres.

SEND

Edward explained that in Surrey too many children are only accessing the support they need by getting an education, health and care plan (EHCP) and as of October 2018 Surrey maintains EHCPs for 8,600 pupils. This number has increased by nearly 40% since the new SEND Code of Practice was introduced in September 2014. There has also been an almost 50% increase in the identification of children and young people with autism.

SCC are proposing changes which will improve early identification and support, developing local services and managing the market, partnership working and improving policy and practice to improve the SEND services offered to residents. Edward explained that the proposal is to work with partners on the co-design of a jointly owned SEND strategy and long term action plan and approve that when finalised in 2019. There will be further consultations once research has been completed.

Member Grants

Edward mentioned that he has a Member Community Allocation of £5,000 which he plans to use to support younger less able people as well as the elderly. This is in addition to a £7,500 Member Highway Allocation. This money is meant to be spent in three tranches. He hopes to put together a bundle of works along the lines of clearing undergrowth / trees etc on highways land to help keep Heatherside an attractive place to live. If you have any projects which you would like to put forward for this please contact Edward at edward.hawkins@surreycc.gov.uk.

Roads

The petition Edward launched across Surrey got to just under 8,000 signatures which was significantly less than he had hoped for. However, the Commons Transport Select Committee did launch an enquiry into the funding of road works and repairs and the Government has made more money available for pothole repairs. Edward feels the problem isn't just the failure to repair potholes but the lack of long term decent investment in the roads. Work last year in this area included the Old Bisley Road roundabout and a stretch of Upper Chobham Road. Edward hopes that this year he may be able to get some improvements made to Inglewood Avenue.

Residents at the meeting raised the issue of pothole repairs failing not long after they are carried out. The entrance to Cheylesmore Park was cited as a particularly bad example of this where repairs have been made many times but the road remains in a poor state. Edward agreed that this was unsatisfactory and asked for incidents like this to be reported to him at edward.hawkins@surreycc.gov.uk so he can investigate further.

Ravenscote Crossing

Edward has been involved in ongoing discussions with the Highway Officers at SCC to look at design and funding options for a proper crossing at Ravenscote School. The lowest cost option will be a raised platform with speed cushions either side of it, but no flashing lights and potentially no painted surface. Various residents at the meeting commented that this option was not a sensible use of money and that the crossing does not need to be raised. The highways team are working on the capital bids for the next financial year to see if they can get enough money together to have an upgraded crossing. However, if this is possible, agreement will need to be reached with Councillors representing the rest of the borough as it will seriously impinge on works they require. Other forms of funding are also being investigated. If nothing comes forward Edward plans to push for the “cheap and cheerful” option which will still need a Crossing Officer. The Parkside Borough Councillors have offered to use some of their CIL money towards the cost and Edward is in discussions with the Heatherside Councillors to contribute their money too. There is a further review meeting to be set up with David Harris (Ravenscote Head Teacher), Michael Gove and Edward to discuss this further.

Pine Ridge and other developments

Edward explained that an application has been lodged with SHBC but not registered as yet. It is for 80 houses and at present there is no date for it to come to Committee. (PLEASE NOTE: There is a further section about the Pine Ridge development application in the AOB section at the end of the minutes.)

Edward also said the Council are considering an application from Netflix to build a film set on land off Deepcut Bridge Road. Although the work has already begun here the application has not yet been approved.

Surrey Matters Magazine

Edward wanted to raise awareness of Surrey Matters which is a free online magazine for all Surrey residents. It is published monthly and has a range of features, articles and news. To sign up for your copy visit <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/surrey-matters>

Edward answered questions from the audience about the work on the Ridgewood Centre SANGS which is the land opposite the development on the other side of the Old Bisley Road. It seems that Natural England are keen that the area remains relatively untouched with the exception of the creation of a new pathway. Although this means there will be few obvious improvements to the area it does ensure it will be protected for the future for any development. Katherine commented that this doesn't feel as though the local population are really seeing many benefits as a result of this but it was pointed out that this site is an

important buffer especially if there are likely to be developments on the adjacent land at Pine Ridge.

Edward was asked why Heatherside seems to be so popular with developers and why it seems that so much of the open land here is being targeted to build on. Edward said that in actual fact these developments represent quite a small percentage of the potential building projects within Surrey Heath. Large developments at Deepcut, Fair Oaks and in Camberley Town centre may actually be far more significant in terms of the numbers of properties they contribute towards SHBC's house building targets. SHBC are required to build 385 properties a year to meet central government targets but are currently only approving around 140-150 a year.

There was a brief discussion around the priorities for playground redevelopments in Surrey Heath with residents seeking confirmation that the play area at Maguire Drive was still high on the priority list to be addressed this year. Graham Tapper once again raised the issue of the safety gate which was removed from the park some time ago and has still not been replaced. He feels this is a real safety issue which SHBC should be dealing with regardless of the schedule for the park redevelopment.

Borough Councillors

Jonathan Lytle

Jonathan gave a brief update on projects he has been working on since the last meeting. He said that there hasn't been much progress made on completing the work on Wellingtonia Avenue due to the wintery weather. SHBC are considering the possibility of holding a public event here when the weather is warmer to highlight the positive changes that have been made as a result of the work carried out to open up and tidy the avenue.

There is a new SHBC grounds maintenance contract and the new contractors Sodexo will be taking over from the existing contractors Glendale on the first of February. Existing staff will be offered new positions with Sodexo so hopefully there will be a degree of continuity in the work carried out.

Jonathan has been working with the Alzheimer's Society and encourages local residents to find out more about them and get involved with the work they do if they are interested. He has also had meetings with Bob Darkens the Borough Police Commander about the disturbing levels of domestic violence in Surrey Heath. If anyone is aware of someone suffering from domestic abuse he would encourage you to report it to the police and get help for them if possible.

Jonathan mentioned that he and the other Heatherside Borough Councillors have been involved in discussions with their parkside colleagues about the possibility of contributing CIL

(Community Infrastructure Levy) money towards the Ravenscote crossing project. Larry Bain asked if it would be possible for the Councillors to tell us how much money they have available to them for local projects. This knowledge would be useful to HWRA and other local organisations as it enables us to understand what are realistic projects for us to request help and funding from the Councillors for CIL money. Paul says he thinks the current CIL money fund is around £38K. The Councillors also clarified that no CIL money had been produced from the Deepcut development as this had been subject to a Section 106 agreement instead.

There has been no further progress regarding the planters in the Heatherside Arcade. There was a discussion about the ongoing stalemate here in regards to anyone taking responsibility for the maintenance or improvement of the area. The dilapidated state of the planters is causing particular annoyance as they seem to have been installed without any plan in place for them to be maintained, repaired or replaced as necessary. The Councillors are as frustrated as residents with the situation and unfortunately there doesn't seem to be an obvious way forward at the moment. Suggestions that SHBC may be able to commit some officer time to improvements here also seem to have stalled. It was suggested that the local businesses here should take more responsibility for the area but as many of the occupiers are tenants not owners so far this has not happened and the management company don't seem to be active in progressing improvements.

Ian Cullen

Ian asked us to make local residents aware the Michael Gove is speaking at a Question and Answer session at St Mary's Church in Camberley on the 8th February. Questions may be submitted in advance to michael.gove.mp@parliament.uk More details at <https://www.michaelgove.com/events/qa-session-st-marys-church-camberley>

Paul Ilnicki

Paul confirmed that he will not be standing for re-election in the Borough Council Elections in May. He said that he has enjoyed the last 32 years helping and representing Heatherside residents but that the last 4 years have been very hard and he feels it is time to step down. Kirsty thanked him on behalf of HWRA and Heatherside residents for his service over the years.

5) Local Policing Situation

Peter Ludlow asked us to raise the situation regarding the lack of local policing on Heatherside. He feels cuts have meant there is a lot of criminal and antisocial behaviour going unchecked. We have previously discussed inviting either Bob Darkens the Surrey Heath Police Commander) or David Monro (the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner) to one of our meetings to discuss the policing situation. We will aim to look into doing this later in the year.

Kirsty also mentioned that there are a number of Neighbourhood Watch groups across Heatherside which are worth getting involved with and following updates for. You can find more information on these at www.surreyheathnw.co.uk

There will be an election for the new Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner on the 7th May. Hustings for this will be held nearer the time but we don't currently have details of these. We will share details when we receive them.

6) Heatherside Pillar

Len Williams gave a brief update on the latest progress with the Heatherside Pillar. As previously reported planning permission has now been granted to erect the pillar but there have been some hold ups in getting the finer details of the project agreed with SHBC. Jonathan Lytle has been assisting Len in getting these issues resolved. Len said he hopes that the construction work will soon commence. He hopes to have the pillar completed during May and there may be some kind of opening ceremony arranged.

7) Esso Pipeline Replacement Consultation

The latest round on consultation for the Esso Pipeline replacement has been announced. The main impact of this for Heatherside will be on Pine Ridge Golf Course where the pipeline will be replaced following its existing route rather than along the proposed alternative route following the edge of Deepcut Bridge Road and the Maultway.

In addition to this Esso are proposing the location of a logistics hub for the work on land off Deepcut Bridge Road. It is not yet clear where this site will be but the site currently being occupied by the filming crews seems a likely candidate. Edward clarified that there will be no planning required by Esso to enable this logistics hub but that both he and Paul Deach are trying to establish more details on the exact location. Concern was expressed that the siting of this hub might mean a large number of construction lorries adding to traffic on the local roads. Caroline was also concerned that they would be using the Old Bisley Road route past local schools. As a condition of the planning for the Mindenhurst development construction lorries are prohibited from using this route and Caroline asked Edward whether we could request that a similar condition be placed on any traffic from the proposed logistics hub. There was widespread approval from the audience that this should be something which should be requested. Edward suggested that HWRA write to Councillor Mike Goodman on behalf of Heatherside residents to ask that this condition be imposed if possible as he is coordinating the SCC response to the consultation. Based on the agreement of those present at the meeting the HWRA Committee agreed to do this and an email has since been sent to Mike.

The latest details of the proposed project and the link to respond to the consultation can be found at <https://www.slpproject.co.uk/>

8) Heathrow Expansion Consultation

Caroline gave a comprehensive explanation of the newly announced Heathrow Expansion Consultation which covers not only issues relating to the proposed third runway but also a proposed expansion of the current airspace and change of protocols which could affect Heatherside quite severely if it were to go ahead. All the proposals and the consultation questionnaire can be seen here <https://feedback.heathrowconsultation.com>

The issue relates to the airspace used for landing and takeoff and the a change to the current westerly directional preference alongside a desire to maximise use of the existing runways. This means more planes may be using the airspace over Heatherside with a particular concentration during the early mornings (6-7am). In the worst case scenario up to 30 aircraft could be flying at approx 3000ft on their final approach to Heathrow during this morning period. Heatherside is on the edge of the potentially affected area but may still be badly impacted.

There are a number of public events being held to explain the plans. Unfortunately none are particularly local but there are events on the 1st February in Ascot, 6th February in Bracknell, 8th February in Windsor and on the 16th February in West End

Edward pointed out that this is not a government consultation but one which is being carried out by the airport operating authority. As a consequence the outcome of it does not mean that there will be any changes to the operations until they have been approved and agreed by the government. However it is still important to make any comments you may have.

Various meeting attendees also mentioned that TAG Farnborough Airport have recently announced both a planned expansion and also that they are intending to take up their full allowance of 50,000 flights this year. Increasing use of local airspace by Farnborough traffic may make it more difficult to expand Heathrow flights out in this direction.

9) Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on Friday the 26th April and will be in the main hall of the Community Centre. We hope to hold a hustings event at this meeting for the Borough Council Elections where local residents will be able to put questions to the prospective councillor candidates. We will be issuing more information about this nearer the time.

10) AOB

Heather Ridge Infant School Planning Permission

Kirsty mentioned that permission had now been granted for the old Caretakers bungalow to be converted and extended to provide additional classroom space. Larry confirmed that the building work would commence soon once a builder had been chosen.

Parking on Heatherside

A local resident present at the meeting raised the issue of parking on Heatherside. He expressed his particular frustration that residents do not appear to use garages to park cars and as a result many are parked on the roads. Kirsty agreed that most people would agree the parking situation on Heatherside is far from ideal however larger cars, garages being sold off or converted and used for storage and increasing car ownership means there is no easy solution to this problem.

Local Area Committee Meetings

Katherine mentioned that she and Caroline are regular attendees at the Local Area Committee meetings which are held quarterly around Surrey Heath. These meetings are also attended by a Edward Hawkins who is deputy chair of the committee and Paul Ilnicki as a Borough Council representative. Recent meetings have covered issues such as the proposed Ravenscote crossing and the roadworks at the Maultway/Red Road roundabout. Katherine and Caroline try to ensure that any issues raised of relevance are communicated back to residents

Skanska Traffic

Ian and Rose Harkness mentioned that they have noticed a lot of Skanska lorries turning in the junctions where Cherrydale Road and Ravenstone Road meet Inglewood Avenue. As a result the road surface is starting to become broken up and damaged. Paul Ilnicki agreed to speak to SHBC and see if there are any planning restrictions on the construction vehicles using this area for turning.

Pine Ridge

There was a further brief discussion about the proposed Pine Ridge planning application for 80 houses. This was conducted after the Councillors had left as both Edward and Jonathan are on the Surrey Heath Planning Committee and Paul is one of the Trustees of the Frimley Fuel Allotments and it was felt it would be fairer to remove any possible awkwardness with conflicts of interest. As explained earlier in the meeting the application has been received by the Council but is not yet valid. HWRA plan to monitor the progress of this and once it is live a plan will be put together to formalise any protests or objections to it. As registered consultees HWRA are able to put forward comments at planning meetings on this and the committee will be happy to do this if directed so by the local residents. All those present at the meeting indicated that they

would like HWRA to be active in opposing any housing development at Pine Ridge Golf Course.
Further information will follow on this point.

APPENDIX A - County Councillor Update from Edward Hawkins

SCC New Leader

David Hodge stood down as Leader of Surrey County Council at the end of last year and Tim Oliver has been elected as Leader. One of the first announcements Tim made was to move from County Hall in Kingston by 2020 with the Headquarters for SCC to be in Surrey. There is also a drive to reduce the size (and cost) of the County "Estate" by up to two thirds. I am part of the Asset Strategy Team looking at options and ways to carry this out.

County Budget

Work has continued throughout this past year on putting the County's finances on a sound footing. In previous years Surrey has had to draw on its reserves to balance its books. This is not sustainable, a point I made long before I became a County Councillor.

Consultations

The results from the consultations recently carried out are now being analysed and we recently had the first of a series of briefing sessions.

Children's / Family Service.

Ofsted has commented on more than one occasion, said that 'Outcomes for vulnerable children in Surrey are Inadequate.'. This means that:

Children are left too long in severe Neglect

Parental Addictions, acute Mental Health issues and Domestic Abuse impact negatively on their wellbeing

When children come into care it is often too late to undo the damage done to them

If SCC keeps doing the same things in the same way, we will continue to let down vulnerable Children.

Parents who neglect and abuse their children do not come into Children's Centres and very few referrals to Children's Social Care come from Children's Centres.

As I understand it, Children's Centres were started with Universal Services so that the State was involved in all young children's lives but by 2008 research showed that this was ineffective at reaching children most in need of state support and many authorities moved to a more targeted model, like the one we are now proposing. The SCC philosophy is that most families are able to bring up their children without wanting or needing the intervention of the state. We think that Children's Social Care should provide a timely and effective state intervention for those few families who are not willing/able to parent their children. At the moment this 'safety net' is not effective in Surrey.

Our new re-branded Family Service will have a reduced focus on people coming to buildings

and have more outreach, to take services to families where adults' issues are having an adverse effect on children. This will be a 'service without walls'.

When Essex County Council was Inadequate like us, they had 83 Children's Centres. They are now an OUTSTANDING authority for Children's Social Care and have 12.

SEND

Too many children are only accessing the support they need by getting an education, health and care plan (EHCP). As of October 2018 Surrey maintains EHCPs for 8,600 pupils. This number has increased by nearly 40% since the new SEND Code of Practice was introduced in September 2014. There has also been an almost 50% increase in the identification of children and young people with Autism.

There have been issues which have led to a lack of trust by users and potential users because of previous negative experiences of the service. This is relevant and confirms the need to drive improvement.

The four proposed areas of transformation are:

- Early identification and support
- Developing local services and managing the market
- Partnership working
- Improving policy and practice

The proposal is to work with partners on the co-design of a jointly owned SEND strategy and long term action plan and approve that when finalised in 2019. It should be noted that the review of all the consultations has not been completed and will continue for some time. Once we have a base model we will go out again to consult with the relevant partners.

Member Grants

As with last year for my Division I will have a Member Community Allocation of £5,000 which as before I wish to use to support younger less able people as well as the elderly. I will also have a £7,500 Member Highway Allocation. This money is meant to be spent in three tranches. Here I would like put together a bundle of works along the lines of clearing undergrowth / trees etc on highways land to help keep Heatherside an attractive place to live. Please contact me to discuss further.

Roads

The petition I launched across Surrey got to just under 8,000 signatures, way off what I was hoping for. However, the Commons Transport Select Committee did launch an enquiry into the funding of road works and repairs and the Government has made more money available for pothole repairs. This is good but to my mind they are missing the main message – the fight continues.

Last year SCC made more money available for structural repairs to the roads and I put forward a list of the roads throughout my Division for works. Old Bisley Road roundabout was repaired as was a stretch of Upper Chobham Road (I had not asked for this to be included but it did need doing). As far as Heatherside is concerned, for this year my major push is to get some action on Inglewood Avenue.

Ravenscote Crossing

I have been in on-going discussions with the Highway Officers to look at design and funding options. The lowest cost will be a raised platform with speed cushions either side of it, but no flashing lights and potentially no painted surface. The highways team are working on the capital bids for the next financial year to see if they can get enough money together to have an up-graded crossing. If this is possible, agreement will need to be reached with Cllrs representing the rest of the borough as it will seriously impinge on works they require. Other forms of finding are also being investigated. If nothing comes forward I will push for the “cheap and cheerful” option which will still need a Crossing Officer. Parkside Borough Cllrs (Josephine, Darryl and me) have offered to use some of their CIL money towards the cost and I am in discussions with the Heatherside Cllrs. There is a further review meeting to be set up with David Harris, Michael Gove and me – but diaries have been difficult to co-ordinate. I again spoke with Michael last Saturday to provide him with an up-date.

Pipeline

On the most recent papers seen there does not seem to be any variation from the consultation held towards the end of last year, other than the provision of a “Logistics Hub” in Deepcut. I am, with County colleagues, monitoring the placing of this hub with regards to traffic movements.

Pine Ridge

An application has been lodged but not registered as yet. It is for 80 houses and no date for it to come to Committee

ON Line “Surrey Matters”

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Edward Hawkins
22nd January 2019