

**Minutes of Heatherside Ward Residents Association Meeting
(26th April 2019 - Heatherside Community Centre)**

Present

Committee members - Kirsty North, Caroline Hibberd, Katherine Sargent

Heatherside County Councillor - Edward Hawkins

Heatherside Borough Councillor and Conservative Candidate - Paul Ilnicki

Liberal Democrat Candidates - Graham Tapper, John Skipper, Kristian Wrenn

UKIP Candidate - Hazel Prowse

Len Williams - Heatherside Pillar team

Phil Green - Heatherside Tree Warden

Approximately 50 local residents

Apologies received from Larry Bain - Vice Chair, Ian Cullen - Borough Councillor, Jonathan Lytle - Borough Councillor

Agenda Items

1) Welcome and Introductions

Kirsty North introduced the committee and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that the meeting would run in a different way to the normal HWRA meetings. The first part of the meeting would consist of a hustings for the upcoming Borough Councillor Elections and then there would be a short session at the end to cover other usual HWRA issues. Attendees were invited to submit questions in writing to be put to the candidates during the Hustings.

Kirsty mentioned that there was a collection bucket at the back of the hall. She invited attendees to contribute to this to cover the hall hire costs.

2) Borough Council Election Hustings

Kirsty introduced each of the candidates standing for election to Surrey Heath Borough Council and thanked them for coming along. Attending were Paul Ilnicki (Conservative), Graham Tapper (Liberal Democrat), John Skipper (Liberal Democrat), Kristian Wrenn (Liberal Democrat) and Hazel Prowse (UKIP). Apologies were received from the Conservative candidates Ian Cullen who had a long standing prior engagement and Jonathan Lytle who was unable to attend due to business commitments.

Each of the candidates was invited to spend up to 4 minutes reading a personal statement explaining their background, reasons for standing and reasons why they should be considered for election. Ian Cullen had provided a written statement which was read out by Paul Ilnicki and

Jonathan Lytle's wife Susie read a statement out on behalf of her husband. Kirsty timed the session and asked candidates to stop if they overran their allotted time.

Following this each of the candidates was invited to answer questions which had been submitted in advance by email or in writing at the beginning of the meeting. A list of the questions asked may be seen at APPENDIX A at the end of the minutes.

3) Chairs Update

Kirsty gave an update on the successful quiz evening held on the 5th April. This was very well attended and we raised £294. This money will be used to pay for hall hire costs, public liability insurance and events such as the Heatherside Christmas tree light switch on.

4) Planned HWRA and Heatherside Events

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. Further information about this event will be sent out nearer the time.

The next HWRA quiz night is booked for the 18th October. However, following the last quiz we have received feedback suggesting that local residents might like a quiz sooner than this. We would be pleased to hear feedback from anyone who would like us to host another quiz in the summer before we decide to proceed with this.

5) Councillor Updates

Following the hustings no councillor updates were given by Borough Councillors. Unfortunately Edward Hawkins our County Councillor had to leave the meeting early so no update was given.

6) Grant Application - Heather Ridge Arcade Planters

HWRA have recently submitted a grant application to SHBC for money to fund work on the planters in Heather Ridge Arcade. The planters are in a very poor state of repair and need work to remove damaged sleepers and tidy the area up. We have applied to the High Street Community Clean Up 2019/20 fund for £1000 for this work.

Kirsty thanked our Treasurer Caroline Hibberd and Phil Green (Heatherside Tree Warden and local tree surgeon) for the hard work they have put into the application form and grant application process. The grant would cover materials and tools but Kirsty explained that if we are successful then we will be requiring help from volunteers to do the work on the planters. We will send out further information on this when we hear more about whether our application is successful.

7) Heatherside Pillar

Len Williams gave a brief update on the latest progress with the Heatherside Pillar. His full update can be seen at APPENDIX B at the end of the minutes. Work on the plinth is due to start imminently and will commence once the final approval has been given by Councillor Lytle. The post is being delivered to Heatherside Recreation Ground on Wed 1st May. Len asked for volunteers to assist in lifting this from the lorry. The finial will be delivered in June.

Len has been in discussions with Councillor Lytle regarding the planned dedication ceremony for the pillar. There is the possibility that this may be combined with a formal opening ceremony for the Wellingtonia Avenue planned by SHBC. One idea which has been suggested is the idea of a 'Celebration of Heatherside'. This might include activities, and projects, supported by the residents such as art displays, handicraft exhibitions etc. Please let Len know if this is something you would be interested in being involved with. He can be contacted via Facebook messenger or HWRA would be happy to pass emails onto him.

Len would also like a celebrity to formally 'open' the pillar at the dedication ceremony. If you have a connection to a local celebrity who would be willing to be involved with this then please let Len know via the same channels mentioned above.

9) Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on Friday 7th June and will be in the main hall of the Community Centre when we will be joined by Michael Gove. Unfortunately due to regular bookings in the Community Centre we have to hold meetings like this on Friday nights when the hall is free. We will be issuing more information about this meeting nearer the time.

10) AOB

Update from SKANSKA on the new Maultway Roundabout

Len Williams read out a statement he had received from Richard Stonehouse at Skanska regarding the new roundabout at the junction of The Maultway/Red Road/Upper Chobham Road. While the new roundabout is practically complete some further works will be taking place in approximately 4 to 5 weeks time. This will be to add anti-skid surfacing to the road. This can only be laid when the current surface has been in place for a month or so. The disruption is expected to last a couple of days. There was a brief discussion about the new road markings which are now in place. It was felt by some of those present that these are potentially unclear and that there may be some teething problems with the roundabout.

Pine Ridge Development

There is still no sign of any planning application being submitted for the houses at Pine Ridge despite the developers indicating this would be likely in autumn last year. Paul Ilnicki who is one of the Fuel Allotment Charity trustees read out a statement made in June last year regarding the land and the proposed development. A copy of this statement can be seen here <https://www.frimleyfuelallotments.org/news>

APPENDIX A - Election Hustings Questions to Candidates

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED PRIOR TO MEETING

Ward Priorities/Issues

1. Within the ward what is the number one specific ward priority they have isolated to achieve, and why is it number one to them individually?
2. The Conservative election leaflet only refers to initiatives and statutory obligations already being carried out by SHBC/SCC. What in particular will you be influencing?

Shopping arcade

3. How are the Lib Dems proposing to work with the council to improve as they say the run down appearance of Heatherside Shopping Arcade?
4. Can the candidates say what work will be undertaken to improve the Heatherside Shopping precinct, it is an absolute disgrace and eyesore at the moment. Once any work is undertaken what work will be done to maintain the improved appearance?

Communication

5. How do you propose to regularly communicate with residents, like the email newsletters that Councillors in other wards produce?

Wellingtonia Avenue

6. The pictures on the Conservative candidates flyer were taken in front of the main information sign for the Wellingtonia Avenue. They say they will protect and maintain parks and open spaces, can they advise what action they specifically took to achieve the transformation of the avenue to its former glory and what council specific budget has been allocated to the future upkeep of the Wellingtonia Avenue with their endeavours?

Pine Ridge

7. Does Councillor Paul Ilnicki see any possible conflict as declaring in the Register of Interests, Frimley Fuel Allotments Charity, in view of the proposed housing development at Pine Ridge Golf Club?

Tree/shrub clearance/tidy up

8. What, if anything, is going to be done about all the 'greenery' which residents are allowing to over-hang and restrict free movement on pavements and walk-ways?

Buses

9. Is it true that the reason Stagecoach has halved our bus service is because Surrey Heath Borough Council has slashed the subsidy it pays to the company thus making it a commercially non-viable route when the free bus pass is considered?

Other

10. To prospective candidates, have you attended any council meetings to observe proceedings?

The following questions are actually County issues, rather than Borough, but if time allows it might be interesting to hear Borough candidates take on these issues and hear how they intend to work with their County colleagues to try and address them:

Parking (raised by several residents) and associated

11. What, if anything, is going to be done about ongoing problems caused by the parking of vehicles on the pavements, this causes problems for pedestrians and people in wheelchairs etc., and in dangerous places; eg. On/near corners, bends and junctions?

12. When are the white lines in the parking areas going to be refreshed?

13. When is the dangerous pavement near 70 – 72 Inglewood Avenue going to be addressed by SCC?

Re-cycling centres

14. Are we actually allowed to take anything to the recycling centres, since it appears everyone is getting charged for just turning up and if they persist with the policy of charging, presumably they have plans to clear up all the fly tipping this will cause?

The following are national issues, so will come last if time allows:

Brexit

15. What is your opinion on staying within the EU or leaving the EU?

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AT THE MEETING

16. After waiting 32 weeks for the roundabout works to be completed, which was done to alleviate the traffic from the Deepcut development we now only have 2 lanes at the end of The Maultway, one turn left and one straight ahead. We have gone backwards, we previously had 3 lanes.

17. What is going to be done to safely allow traffic from the Old Bisley Road onto The Maultway, its view is obscured and volume of traffic is going to increase making it difficult to pull out.

18. Local Tip Charges - Charges are being introduced from June, why? Will this lead to more flytipping?

19. The costs of the new Mall/Sq refurbishment are a waste of money unless you look above shop front level and the floor was better before the new one was laid. This money could have been used to better effect locally to reduce cut backs in the community. Do you agree?

APPENDIX B - Heatherside Pillar Update

The Heatherside Community Pillar

Work is about to commence on the construction of the plinth to support the pillar. A contractor, (Multibuild), has provided a quotation which has been reviewed and accepted by SHBC. Work will commence when final approval to start has been given by Cllr. Lytle.

The pillar post is scheduled for delivery on Wednesday 1 st May. SHBC has agreed to open the gate onto the recreation field to allow the post to be unloaded next to the construction site. Volunteers would be appreciated to help transfer the post from the delivery vehicle. If you are prepared to help, and will be available around Wednesday lunch time, please contact me via the messenger service providing me with your mobile phone number. The final is on a longer delivery and is expected in June.

Preliminary discussions have been held with Cllr. Lytle regarding co-ordinating the dedication of the pillar with a formal 'opening' of the Wellingtonia Avenue. This provides us with the possibility of having a 'Celebration of Heatherside' programme, which would include activities, and projects, supported by the residents, e.g. art displays, handicraft exhibitions etc. If there is sufficient support for this then the assembly hall could be hired using the residual funds to display these activities. If you are interested in partaking in this then please forward your ideas to me via the messenger service.

For the dedication of the pillar, to maximise the media exposure, a celebrity is required to perform the dedication. Clearly if the Avenue and Celebration activities are included then this becomes paramount. If you have a strong contact with a celebrity, whom you believe YOU could recruit please contact me via the messenger service. Please note : I do NOT want a 'wish list'. Only suggestions that you believe you can implement !

Len Williams