

Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited
Notes from 30th General Meeting
Braywood Memorial Hall – Thursday February 20, 2014 @ 7:30 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman, Grenville Annetts opened the Meeting and welcomed about 70 Attendees, including a number of Bray Parish and RBWM Borough Councillors. The *Chairman* reminded everyone that this was a *General Meeting*, open to everyone and one of the two or three held each year in addition to the *AGM of the Association* in September. But it was a little different in that the majority of the Agenda would focus on the current RBWM Local Plan Consultation. And as such, the first part of the Agenda would be the same format as the Meeting held in Saxons Barn on the previous Saturday February 15th.

2. RBWM Local Plan Consultation

The Chairman welcomed

Cllr. M J Saunders - RBWM Cabinet Member - Planning and Property Services
Miles Thompson - RBWM Planning Policy Manager
Jennifer Heaton - RBWM Planning Research Officer

Cllr Saunders gave a detailed presentation in which he explained:-

- why the Borough Local Plan was being updated (from 1999 version)
- how the Borough Local Plan fitted in with the local Neighbourhood Plans
- a rough timeline for the development of the Local Plan leading up to Approval by the Inspector by Eater 2015.
- how the target number of 12,000 homes to be built in the next 15 years was derived
- how the initial 52 Sites were whittled down to the 23 which were in the current Consultation about development in the Green Belt on the Edge of Existing Settlements
- the Consultation included another potential 39 Sites which are “Brownfield”
- what factors RBWM Planners would consider in deciding which Sites should be included in the Plan for development
- it is important that as many Residents as possible take part in the Consultation
- due to Flooding and Notification/Delivery issues, the Deadline for responses had been extended by 2 weeks until March 21st

Cllr Saunders and Miles Thompson then took questions from the Floor - including

- how we make sure the Local Plan reflects the wishes of local Residents to accommodate very Local issues – like the provision of a Play Area for example
- the mix and style of Houses that will be built
- the impact of CrossRail on the area
- the impact of recent Flooding across the Borough
- how Residents should best make their views known and the likelihood they would be listened to

The Chairman summarised the issues for us in this area:-

- 6 of the 23 potential Sites in the Green Belt on the Edge of Settlements are in Bray Parish
- 3 of the 39 potential Sites on “Brownfield” Land are in the Parish of Bray
- Two sets of maps and lists of potential Issues by Site were available for perusal at the Meeting

- It is important that as many people as possible respond to the Consultation because RBWM Planners do not always have all the local information to drive the decisions on Site selection
- Please make sure all responses clearly identify which Site is being talked about as each will be looked at on a Case by Case basis
- It is also important that responses for each Site are very specific and not generalised. For example – “I object because the Site is in the Green Belt” is not acceptable on its own and “I object because it might affect the price of my House” is not a valid Planning consideration.
- Responses can be by completing the online Questionnaires or by completing a Response Form or by Letter or Email – thus recognising not everyone has email access.
- Blank and Example Response Forms were available to take away from the Meeting.

The Meeting then took a short adjournment at about 9:10 pm for Refreshments - during which Attendees were encouraged to ask questions of our Visitors/Presenters, look at the Maps and potential Issues for each of the 9 Sites, and complete an Exit Poll of their thoughts.

(Post Meeting: The results of the Exit Poll for the Evening were combined with those from the Meeting held on February 15th at Saxons Barn. Results available on request. Overall, about 80% of those that took part expressed concerns about building Houses on the 9 Sites which are in the Parish of Bray.)

PART 2

⇒ **Braywood School** – Susan Calvert (Headmistress) gave a quick update on activities at the School

- They are currently building a new Pedestrian only Entrance to improve safety
- The Noticeboard outside the School has been renovated and can be used by the Community
- There are no plans for a new Car Park at the School

⇒ **Gypsy Site Appeal** – William Emmett gave an update on the situation

- The Applicant has Appealed against the RBWM decision to Refuse the Application
- Landowners and Forest Green Residents have got together and have been confirmed as a “Rule 6 Party” and so can be represented at the Public Enquiry just like the RBWM.
- Consultants and Lawyers have been engaged by this Group to fight the case and all contributions towards potential costs of £25,000 to £30,000 would be gratefully received.
- The Public Enquiry will take place from April 1st to 3rd in Windsor Guildhall and the Public are urged to go along and show their support against the Appeal.

⇒ **Roads and Transport Work Group** – Spokesperson Louise Shenston

- The Work Group are considering lobbying again for a reduction of the Speed Limit (down to 40 mph) on Forest Green Road, because of the additional Traffic associated with the new School opening up on the Ascot Road in September 2014. It was suggested that they should wait until the School actually opens to properly gauge the impact.
- The Work Group are also going to investigate the possibility and local appetite for the installation of a new Roundabout outside Braywood Memorial Hall, to slow down traffic and ease congestion on the busy Junction.

⇒ **Speed Limit outside Braywood First School**

Cllr Coppinger advised that later this year a new Advisory Speed Limit of 20 mph will be introduced outside the School during Pick up and Drop Off times.

⇒ **Reduced Bus Service between Maidenhead and Windsor**

Helen Howard reported that Residents are concerned about the recent reduction in the Bus Service through Oakley Green and Fifield. The Roads and Transport Work Group and Helen will work with the Parish Council and have discussions with RBWM Cllr Coppinger / Courtney Coaches to establish how best to serve our Community.

⇒ **The Fifield Inn**

The Chairman reported that the Fifield Inn is due to open after extensive refurbishment on Friday March 14th.

⇒ **War Memorial Project Status**

The Project is progressing. As publicised in recent OGAFCA and Bray Parish Newsletters, it is proposed to locate a new Memorial in the Braywood Cemetery next to Braywood School, subject to permission of the Parochial Church Council.

⇒ **Any Other Business**

- Rod Lord asked Cllr Coppinger if he could confirm that RBWM were taking on more responsibility with respect to Drainage and Flooding issues and if they were acquiring more resources to do so. Cllr Coppinger replied that he was unaware of this.
- The Chairman advised that Alison Brayshaw was standing down as Spokesperson for the Children and Youths Work Group and they were looking for additional Volunteers to come forward.
- David Embery announced that the Braywood Memorial Hall AGM would be held on Wednesday March 19th at 8:00 pm. Everyone welcome. There are also some vacancies on the Hall Committee should anyone wish to come forward.

The Meeting closed at 10:10 pm