

OGAFCA AGM – 17 SEPTEMBER 2020– NOTES FROM MEETING

Due to the Covid Pandemic it was not possible to hold our meeting in the Braywood Hall and therefore the AGM took place on Zoom, attended by a very select few. The presentation, including the financial report is available on the OGAFCA website

www.ogafcap.co.uk

and the following notes are a synopsis of the meeting which will also be added to the website.

The meeting was led by Barbara Frame, current Chairperson, ably assisted by committee members, Alison Brayshaw, Bill Collier and Paula Grevett. Unfortunately, Trish Pottinger could not be with us. The first item on the agenda was the financial report which was presented by the treasurer, Paula Grevett. This was followed by a summary of activities of the Association during the year, 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

Communications – We publish a quarterly newsletter which is delivered, free of charge, to all local households. We have a website which is managed and updated by Rod Lord. He is currently undertaking a large project to revamp the website and make it more dynamic and suitable for the 21st century. A new look and feel has been developed for the web site but it is a large and complex site which requires a lot of time to implement. A substantial amount of work has been done but much remains and it may take till Spring to complete. We also now have a facebook page (listed as OGAFCA) which has been created by Trish Pottinger and is full of information and local events. Please take the time to have a look, and ideally “like” the page.

There are still issues with broadband reception but Gigaclear are on the way and Grenville Annetts prepared the following brief on the current situation

Gigaclear Update – by GGA

Gigaclear are working in partnership with Superfast Berkshire to provide ultrafast full fibre broadband to over 27,000 homes and businesses.

Their initial project focused on connecting close to 16,000 Premises across rural West Berkshire.

They are now extending their network to over 11,000 more Premises in rural areas of Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham and Bracknell Forest.

This is Fibre To every Premise Connection – unlike BTOpenreach who just have Fibre to their local Cabinet and then slow Copper Wires to Premises from there.

Gigaclear in our Area

Our area has been split into two Projects - Fifield North and Fifield South as Gigaclear call them

The Projects will deliver Full Fibre capability to every Premise - Residential and Business - with Superfast Speeds up to 1000 megabits per second

There has been and will continue to be some disruption on local Public Highways during the Build Phase.

1). Fifield North Project - began in February this year and includes

Drift Road

Fifield Lane

Forest Green Road

Oakley Green Road (Only Western Half Done. Waiting until School Holidays / less Traffic)

Dedworth Road

Status:

- Major Ducting is all installed (apart from some Lanes which are Private and Easements are still being arranged - and Eastern end of Oakley Green Road)
- Connection Boxes have been installed on the Public Highway outside every Premise – ready for connection later.
- Fibre Optic Cable will be “blown through” soon

There is room in the Ducting for other Providers as well as Gigaclear

Gigaclear will install their Fibre Optic Cables inside their part of the Ducting first and we expect these to become live in the next 3 to 6 months in this part of the Project.

2). Fifield South Project - began a couple of weeks ago

It is a “Big Build” and involves 14 kilometres connecting all 655 Premises - Residential & Business

Coningsby Lane

Fifield Road

Stewart Close / Meadow Way / Manor Grove

Ducting In

14 September to October 21

End of October

Then later

A308 West / Huxtable Gardens / Oakley Gardens / Tithe Barn Drive

Monkey Island Lane to Monkey Island / Weirbank

A308 East / Water Oakley to Oakley Court Hotel

All completed by Q3 2021 – about 1 year from now.

But Properties in Fifield Village close to the large new green Main Junction Box at the Memorial Hall Crossroads could be connected up much earlier.

What happens next?

Once your part of the Fibre Network is made Live - you will be invited to connect up from the small black Box on the Public Highway to your Property.

There may be a charge for this if they are long way apart

There are a number of Internet Packages to choose from Gigaclear.

The faster the Service, the more expensive it is.

But we will not be restricted to use Gigaclear.

The Network installed will be "Open Access" - so any Internet Service Provider (ISP) that wishes to - may provide services to residential and business users in our area and can compete for our Business.

Currently there are 8 other Companies involved.

To receive build updates and to be notified when your connection is live – please register at:

gigaclear.com/mycommunity

Or go to the OGAFCA Website for more information

Community Safety – There have been a few break-ins in our area but generally we are not considered a problem area and therefore we have very little police presence. As the nights draw in it is important for us all to ensure that all sheds and garages are locked up.

Roads & Transport – The 7.5tonne restriction finally came into force in the Spring of this year. Unfortunately, the change of speed limit on Oakley Green Road from 40mph to 30mph that was promised last year has hit a brick wall so there is more to be done to see this implemented. We are also keen to reduce the current 60mph limit at the top of Fifield Road. We are working closely with Bray Parish Council to improve road safety throughout the Parish.

Environment – Last year we put up Christmas Trees in the village and planted daffodil bulbs on the Open Space in Fifield. We are working with BPC to put some more trees and shrubs on the Open Space and summer floral baskets on the bus shelters in Oakley Green and Fifield. It has been difficult to pursue the drainage issues because of the 'lockdown' but Rod Lord has prepared the following statement on progress so far.

The drainage section of OGAFCA Environment have had a couple of successes. The most recent of those was the completion of the Coningsby Lane project last summer which proved itself last winter. There are still major remaining challenges posed by the passage of surface water from the high ground of the drift road northwards towards the Thames. These cannot realistically be improved by simply trying to expedite the onward flow.

We know that in the past Streetcare did not dismiss the idea of trying to hold back or delay the full flow at various points along the different routes. We don't know if Project Centre now consider this a viable idea but before the lockdown we had a meeting scheduled with RBWM Highways to discuss the possibilities. We decided that with the threat of COVID-19 looming over everything it was preferable to postpone till proper attention and focus could be hoped for. When that looks like a reasonable expectation we will seek another meeting date.

In the meantime there is a "wet spot" which is ostensibly one of the simplest to deal with but which needs constantly repeated attention. This is the ditch at the speed bump on the Fifield Road near Longlea Nursing Home. Some years ago we managed to get Streetcare to carry out the necessary work as the adjacent landowner denied that it was their responsibility. Needless to say nothing has been done since even though the task really needs to be done annually. If something is not done soon this is likely to be causing problems again this winter. We will raise the issue again with Highways in the hope that something can be done.

Local Planning – Martin Hall from OGFRA gave us the following update on current planning issues.

Borough Local Plan

Consultation on the Plan started back in 2016 and is making slow progress! Examination to resume in accordance with Government COVID-19 guidelines and Inspector issued her Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) for Stage 2 in June. OGFRA has made a submission to the Inspector and asked to participate in online Stage 2 Hearings which are scheduled to take place in October/November.

After the Hearings and if the Inspector determines that the Submission Version of the Borough Local Plan can be made 'sound' subject to certain changes, a further consultation would then take place on those changes (known as 'Main Modifications'). This could ultimately lead to formal adoption of the Plan by RBWM in 2021.

Aldi store at Wyevale Garden Centre site

Aldi submitted plans for a discount store back in May. OGFRA acknowledges that many Windsor residents would welcome the availability of a discount store in the area, but remains of the view that this is not an appropriate site. The next step is for the application to go to the Borough's Development Management Panel.

One of the concerns with the proposed store is the effect of the additional traffic generated on local roads. Of wider concern is the ability of the A308 to cope with existing traffic, yet alone the impact of multiple developments planned along the 'local' stretch of the A308.

A308 Corridor Study

RBWM (with adjoining authorities) was awarded £90,000 back in March 2018 towards a study of the A308 corridor. OGFRA has been pressing for completion of this crucial study, but RBWM has not given it the priority it deserves. However, RBWM is now belatedly moving forward with the first stage of the study, which it says is not positioned as a full public consultation, rather working with local residents/organisations to gather local knowledge.

The study will look at all modes of travel along the A308 corridor including walking, cycling, public transport, freight and car. As well as the A308 itself, RBWM wants to know what issues there are on parallel transport routes and roads that join the A308.

This first stage is being conducted through an interactive map to which we are asked to add comments. This is being run by Project Centre and the interactive map can be found at <https://consultprojectcentre.co.uk/a308> . The closing date for comments is 9 October.

Social Activities

2019 was a busy year for us. Thanks go to Bill Collier who was the power behind most of our local events. The surplus raised helped to swell the OGAFCA coffers and put us into a healthier financial position going forward into 2020. Unfortunately, this year has seen the cancellation of our programme but we have high hopes for next year.

Fifield Fun Day

Against all the odds the Fifield Fun Day was a great success, led by an inexperienced but enthusiastic committee and supported as always by our incredible team of volunteers we raised a fantastic amount of money for our charities.

Paula talked us through the accounts, the total amount raised after outgoings being £5,054.36. The main beneficiaries this year were Starfish Swimming Club and the Autism Group who each received a cheque for £2,000. The rest was divided amongst local charities who had helped on the day.

Election of Directors

There were no new nominations for Director so Barbara Frame, being duly nominated and seconded will continue to serve.

There were no Resolutions to discuss

Any Other Business

Grenville asked about the Bray Studios, the size and situation of the buildings and how they are affecting the Phoenix Gym.

We received the following answers from **Alison Knight** ;

The new temporary stages, workshops and offices were granted a temporary permission for two years on 4th June 2020.

The landscaping is 'work in progress' although you'll note some of the large mounds of soil near the front of the site have been removed/relocated. It is intended that there will be further landscaping works along the front of the site, which will include tree planting.

The Phoenix Gym club remains on site for the time being but, as you're aware, they do have an extant planning permission to build a new facility adjacent to the Longlea nursing home

in Fifield and we hope they will start the build very soon. Farmglade have been incredibly supportive, charging no rent since 2014. Prior to that, Farmglade had not increased the rent since they acquired the site in 2001.

The planning permission for the housing remains in place, although with the film studios being currently let for a major new TV production, it is not envisaged that the housing will be built in the near future.

Ken Elvin (Chairman Bray Parish Council) advised the meeting that the Parish Office has now re-located to the Braywood Memorial Hall. The Parish Clerk is in situ and available from 9-12 daily although due to the size of the building and current restrictions he asked that you make an appointment before visiting the office.

The Future

We will continue to organise social events to bring the community together and raise funds for the Association and charities.

We are working with BPC to 'green up' our villages with extra planting on the Fifield Open Space and baskets on the bus shelters.

We are keen to see reduced speed limits introduced and general improvements to road safety.

You can help us by joining a workgroup, delivering newsletters, writing an article for the newsletters or just by attending events.

And finally, Barbara wanted to thank the following;

Rita Haynes for continuing to litter pick in Fifield Village.

The members of our workgroups without whom we would get nothing done

All our excellent newsletter deliverers

Barry, David, Doreen, Sarah and Nicola for watering our hanging baskets

All of our members for their continued support and all the community for their magnificent response to the 'lockdown', coming together to support one another and ensure that all our vulnerable residents were taken care of.