

Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited
Notes from 31st General Meeting
Braywood Memorial Hall – Thursday May 15, 2014 @ 7:30 pm

Attendees (20)

Grenville Annetts (Chair)	Sandra Annetts	Julie Barber *	Susan Calvert
Bill Collier	David Embery	Doreen Embery	Barbara Frame
John Francis	Paula Grevett	Robin Howard	Marion Jackman *
Rod Lord	John Moores	Philip Mortimer	Michael Seagrief
Louise Shenston	Ann Taylor *	Jenny Thorne	Ann Watkeys

Apologies (55)

Rod Ball	Baldeep Bambra	Manpreet Bambra	Satvinder Bambra
Alison Brayshaw	Kate Brooks	Ann Broome	George Broome
Caroline Burke	Kate Burke	Anne Burrell	Tony Burrell
Irene Bulbeck	David Coppinger	Eileen Crotty	Mark Denny
William Emmett	Hans Feilen	Susan Fielding	Janet Findlay
John Foulger	Eileen Gillett	Gordon Gillett	Barbara Goodhew
Sarah Grace	Philip Harrington	Rita Haynes	Valerie Henchoz
John Hill	Pat Hill	Helen Howard	Pat Huggett
Peter Huggett	Trudi Knight	Jim Laffin	Val Lord
David Luff	Max McNally	Paul Miles (Press)	Pat Morrish
Jenny Mortimer	Elizabeth Paczek	Nick Pellew	Pat Roderick
Norman Sandford	Andrew Shenston	Gary Smith	Brian Steer
Gaynor Steer	Margaret Tull	Norman Tull	Michael Wadley
Andy White	Charles Wigginton	Jenny Wigginton	

Missing in Action (9)

Paul Bennett	Colin Billington	Helen Billington	Shirley Chamberlain
Richard Dean	Susan Holliday	Cait Kidd	Frances Knock
Robin Knock			

1. Introductions

Grenville Chaired and opened the Meeting and welcomed 3 new Attendees (denoted * above) who came along for the first time. The *Chairman* reminded everyone that this was a *General Meeting* and one of the two or three held each year in Addition to the *AGM of the Association* in September. It is less formal and an opportunity for anyone/everyone to come along and find out about the activities of the 8 Work Groups made up of Volunteers, give feedback and volunteer to help!

2. Update on Activities

⇒ *Local Planning Issues - Chairman*

Gypsy Site – Forest Green Road.

The Public Inquiry took place over 3 days from April 1 to 3. A Planning Inspector led the proceedings which involved a host of Witnesses for both Sides. Three Barristers appeared – one for the Applicants (For the Appeal), one for RBWM Council (Against) and one for Forest Green Residents (Against). Bray Parish Council donated £5000 to help pay for the Residents' Legal Costs.

The Applicants relied heavily on the fact that RBWM did not have enough Gypsy Sites in the Borough and the 8 Families were suffering as a result. In the end they asked for a Temporary

Permission for the 8 Gypsy Pitches to be allowed on the Site for 4 years “to allow time for the Royal Borough to get their act together”. The fact that the Site is land locked and the Plans were in effect undeliverable without permission to use the Access Track did not matter.

We have since heard that the Inspector will deliver his Report to the Secretary of State on or before 9 July 2014 and a formal Decision will be issued on or before September 24, 2014.

It is very frustrating that the issues discussed were very similar to those when the Gypsy Site on the A308 went to Appeal in December 2010 when Temporary Permission was granted to site 2 Gypsy Pitches for 4 years. This permission comes to an end on February 1, 2015.

OGAFCA intends writing to RBWM urging them to make Gypsy Site Provision a key part of the Borough Local Plan (Discussed below).

RBWM Local Plan

The Consultation took place from January until the end of March. OGAFCA was very involved in promoting Community involvement and with the help of other local Associations, organised two Public Events on February 15 in Saxon Barn and on February 20 in Braywood Memorial Hall). Over 150 local Residents attended. Cllr M Saunders – Lead Member for Planning and Miles Thompson - RBWM Planning Policy Manager came along and spoke. There were lively discussions after.

OGAFCA formally responded and objected to Development on the 6 Sites in our area. A copy of our letter is on our Website.

After they have analysed the substantial amount of feedback, RBWM will narrow down the list of possible Sites for development and a further Consultation will take place later in 2014. We will continue to let everyone know what is happening.

Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BPNP)

This Plan will sit alongside the RBWM Local Plan and all the other Parish Neighbourhood Plans in the Royal Borough. Progress has been held up due to the delays in the Local Plan. They are hoping to develop a Draft BPNP for local Consultation before the end of 2014.

One significant step forward for us is that the BPNP Steering Group has agreed to put a Play Area for Fifield as a “Strategic Objective” of the Plan. We will continue to monitor progress and keep everyone informed. Updates available at BPNP Website at <http://brayplan.com/>.

Water Oakley Development

Outline Planning Permission to build up to 44 Homes was Approved by the Maidenhead Development Control Panel on April 9th.

Like Bray Parish Council, OGAFCA made representations against the proposals as we thought that the development was too big for the Green Belt and would urbanise the strip between Windsor and Maidenhead. A detailed Planning Application will need to be submitted before the development can start.

⇒ Drainage – Rod Lord (Environment WG)

We had very wet weather in the early part of the year. This put considerable strain on our Drainage Network. After effort by local Residents and RBWM, things have improved on Oakley Green Road (just past Braywood Lynn) and the Fifield Road (Longlea Nursing Home). But problems still exist by the Cardinal Clinic, Coningsby Lane and Ledger Farm and possibly the Cricket Club (which we thought was fixed). And two new Areas on the Fifield Road – South of Stewart Close and by Wayside Stables were more problematic. These resulted in flooding in Properties so have been prioritised. Meetings have recently been held with Cllrs. Burbage and Coppinger as well as RBWM Engineers and we have a commitment from them to fix these issues quickly. So watch this space!

Rod has said he would like to stand down and hopes that someone will come forward and carry on his fantastic work.

⇒ *Roads & Transport* – **Louise Shenston (Roads & Transport WG)**

New Roundabout by Braywood Memorial Hall

This idea was raised during the Residents Survey in 2008/09 but Speed Limits were deemed a priority to be worked on. But the idea has come up again as a potential solution to easing Traffic Flow across the busy Junction, slowing down Traffic along Forest Green/Oakley Green Roads and to aid the increasingly popular Kiss And Drop facility for parents at Braywood School.

We have contacted RBWM and Cllr Coppinger has lent his support to a Feasibility Study being carried out.

Speed Limit on Forest Green Road

We were successful in campaigning to reduce the Limit from 60 mph to 50 mph. We would like to see it reduced to 40 mph but have agreed to wait and see what happens to local Traffic and Speed after the new Holyport School is opened in September 2014.

Reduction in Local Bus Service

The Service was reduced in February this year without consultation with any of the local bodies. We have had discussions with RBWM Councillors and Courtney Coaches and expressed our concern. We are trying to collate data about the impacts on the local Community before going back and lobbying for re-instatement. Early indications are that it affects relatively few Residents but those who are impacted are affected very seriously. We will continue to pursue this issue.

Legoland Diversion

Local Bodies like OGAFCA were not consulted about the Pilot scheme over Easter and the May Bank Holidays. But it appears that there has been little impact as Visitors to Legoland have not taken any notice of the Diversions and have relied on Maps and their SatNavs – and mainly continued to use M4 Junction 6 into Windsor.

⇒ *Communications* - **Rod Lord (Communications WG)**

Broadband

There are still some areas which cannot receive Broadband by Landline – about 30 Properties in the middle of Oakley Green, about 30 on Forest Green Road and 30 on Drift Road. Dongles appear to be an alternative.

The Chairman said that the RBWM's Website is again promoting the Superfast Broadband in Rural Areas project. And so it is probably worth registering (again for some people) their interest in receiving a better service by going online or calling 01635 503003.

Newsletter

The next Edition of the Newsletter is due for Publication in late July, before the Holiday Season. The Copy Deadline for Articles and Adverts to the Editor Alison is June 23rd please, but before if possible.

Bill Collier made a plea (in Alison's absence) for Contributors to get their Copy in on time so there is not such a mad rush at the end of the production schedule.

⇒ *Fifield Fun Day* – **Louise Shenston (FFD Organising Committee)**

The date this year is confirmed as Saturday August 9th and the location is the same as last year – Deep Meadows in Fifield. The Organising Committee is up and running and looking for Volunteers to come forward to help set up before, dismantle after and run Stalls on the day. Please contact Louise. More details on our Website.

⇒ *Community Safety* – **Bill Collier (Community Safety WG)**

Bill said that he had received some response to requests in the April Newsletter to establish Lorry Watches on Fifield Road. The idea is to report Lorries breaking the 7.5 tonne access limit to Fifield Village. But he could do with more Volunteers please.

3. **Any Other Business**

⇒ *War Memorial Move Feasibility Study*

We understand that the Oakley Green and Fifield Residents Association have agreed to take on ownership of the project once it was found that the Parish Council had no Powers to execute such a Project.

⇒ *Earthworks on Forest Green Road*

OGAFCA contacted the Owners of the Site in July 2013 (and also the year before) expressing concern about the impacts of the Site on local Residents (noise, dust, lorry traffic, eyesore etc.). We were told the site would be completed at the end of last year. We will contact them again and urge them to complete as soon as possible.

⇒ *Bray Parish Council Vacancies* - There are two Vacancies on Bray Parish Council at the moment. See Parish Website or contact The Clerk for more details.

⇒ *Engagement with and Response of RBWM* - There was some frustration in the Meeting about our inability to engage with RBWM in fixing some of the issues which we have been facing for a while e.g. Drainage

⇒ *Annual General Meeting (AGM)* of The Community Association will be held on Thursday September 18, 2014 at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall.

⇒ *OGAFCA Volunteers* - There are a number of Vacancies at the moment

- Children & Youths Work Group Spokesperson
- Drainage Spokesperson
- Communications Work Group Spokesperson
- Webmaster
- Director of OGAFCA (Voted in at AGM)

4. **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Presentation**

The Chairman introduced Sue Kendall who had very kindly come along to address the meeting. In particular, Sue talked about Free Fire Safety Checks which can include fitting of Smoke Alarms.

The Free Checks are available to anyone who

- Is aged 70 or above
- Or is registered disabled or has mobility issues
- Or receives support from social services or other care agencies

- Or has any sensory impairment (e.g. sight or hearing loss)

Attendees were encouraged to pick up explanatory leaflets for themselves or for any Neighbours / Friends they thought might qualify.

The Service's contact details are

Online www.rbfrs.co.uk
 Email hfscreferrals@rbfrs.co.uk
 Freephone 0800 587 6679

5. Closure and Refreshments

- ⇒ There being no additional topics to be discussed, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 9:15 pm.
- ⇒ Refreshments were provided by Sandra.

6. Actions Summary

What	Who	When by
Write up and distribute Notes of the Meeting	Grenville Annetts	June 05
Volunteer to help with Fun Day on August 9 by contacting Louise Shenston	Anyone/Everyone	ASAP
Sign up for / Renew OGAFCA Membership	Anyone + Expired Memberships	ASAP
Write to RBWM Planning and urge them to focus on the Provision of Gypsy Sites in the Local Plan	Grenville Annetts	June 06
Contact Owners and Operators of Earthworks Site on Forest Green Road – about speed of Lorries and continual noise/dust/eyesore – and ask them to cease ASAP	Rod Lord	June 13
Work with RBWM and Courtney Coaches to try and reinstate the local Bus Service	Louise Shenston / Helen Howard	June
Submit Articles for Summer Newsletter to Editor Alison Brayshaw	Anyone / Everyone	June 23
Communications about AGM and Nominations for two vacant Director Positions	Grenville Annetts	August
OGAFCA AGM in Braywood Memorial Hall	Anyone / Everyone	Sept 18
Provide Website Updates to Rod Lord	Anyone / Everyone	Every Friday