

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE PORTMORE PARK AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

	<u>Date:</u>	19 June 2013	
	<u>Reference:</u>	Meeting 5 of 2013	
	<u>Attendees:</u>	Invited residents from North Weybridge (with those paying a membership subscription recorded by Treasurer). Invited guests: Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Ramon Gray, Representatives of the Weybridge Society. PP&DRA committee members: M Freeman (Chair), I Bonnett (Treasurer), J Francis, P Graeme, J Heard, M Macleod, W Rutherford	
	<u>Apologies:</u>	<u>n/a</u>	
<u>No.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	Apologies	Apologies were made for the short notice of the meeting and the absence of visuals for the traffic census.	
2.	Morrisons	<p>A second planning application has been made by Morrisons for a food store.</p> <p>Cllr Ramon Gray said the west area planning sub-committee will follow the process for planning assessment and the full committee will make a decision on the 16th July.</p> <p>Morrisons' appeal on the refusal of their first application has been lodged but has not been activated.</p> <p>There was a discussion where various concerns were raised. The most significant reasons for objecting were the size of the building and the traffic and parking implications.</p> <p>However, a store will bring with it employment opportunities and competition to the existing food retailers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elmbridge policy is to encourage business in Weybridge Town Centre. - Employment opportunities, particularly for those locally who are finding it difficult. - Roundabout has been imposed by Surrey CC, not what Morrisons wanted - Parking can be challenged but there should be ways of managing it. <p>Concerns included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Size, deliveries, scale. - Minimal open space/ landscaping. - Additional traffic causing gridlock - Displacement of traffic to Thames Street, Walton Lane and other roads. - Roundabout not in keeping. Only purpose is access to Morrisons. - Potential for subsequent applications (petrol station?) - Pollution. - Parking pressures (including staff parking). - Taking jobs away from other businesses/ adverse effect on other businesses. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90 minutes parking too short for people to visit town as envisaged - Feeling that there are shortcomings in Surrey CC's analysis of traffic impact or lack of analysis. - Loss of opportunity for housing. <p>On a show of hands, 7 were in support of the plans as submitted; most people had concerns.</p> <p>There was also a complaint that Morrisons had reportedly said that they had sent out 30,000 information leaflets, but that nobody seemed to have received them.</p> <p>It was understood that Morrisons staff would be required not to park on the public highway and must either park in Morrisons or a public car park.</p> <p>Cllr Ramon Gray reported that failure to approve could lead to some very large costs for Elmbridge. Many issues outside the remit of the Elmbridge planning committee. Morrisons had been asking to meet planning, but that Councillors cannot do that without a cabinet member present.</p> <p>It was agreed that committee should consider if there were any further ways of making views known (e.g., to Surrey County Council regarding traffic). The meeting was informed of what areas of consideration the Elmbridge planning committee can take into account.</p> <p>Cllr Andrew Davis was unable to make comment or speak on the subject since he is a member of the decision committee. However, he recommended that if the majority opinion of the members was against the application on the grounds of traffic and scale then these opinions should be passed onto SCC.</p>	
3.	Walton Bridge	<p>Update by Chairman: There will be a topping out ceremony on the 11th July.</p> <p>The Association will conduct a traffic survey once the bridge opens, to assess traffic flow along Walton Lane into Weybridge.</p> <p>One member suggested call for members to participate in a working group for the traffic survey in the newsletter.</p>	Members to respond to Committee to participate.
4.	Road Surfacing	It was noted that only some roads were being resurfaced. The Committee to find out from SCC what the timetable and priority is.	Committee to contact SCC and county councillor.
5.	Thames Street Chicane	<p>The traffic calming chicanes on Thames ST will be reviewed this year.</p> <p>Residents were encouraged to write to SCC regarding their view of effectiveness and impact of the chicanes.</p>	

6.	Lower Thames Flood Relief Strategy	Overview and update given by Miles Macleod.	Committee to update members via newsletter.
7.	Lamp Posts	<p>Overview and update by Jane Heard.</p> <p>Cost £466 per lamp – attempts at a reduction did not produce results. Street reps have been working hard. Some roads are short of funds. Motion accepted that the committee should see if any further assistance can be given.</p> <p>Question were raised about Thames Street and Walton Lane. Their classification means they cannot have the “Iffley” style.</p>	The committee should see if any further assistance can be given
8.	Gravel Extraction and Green Belt	No updates, but need to keep councillors aware of concerns and the community of developments.	
Any Other Business			
9.	Roundoak and Wey Roads privatisation proposal	<p>An application to privatise these roads is being made.</p> <p>There was an extended discussion of this, with the great majority of comments expressing concerns about the potential impact of privatisation and/or favouring the status quo. One member and two residents from Wey Road spoke regarding the impact of this proposal.</p> <p>Points raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With wide roads and little traffic, many local people have been able to use these roads to learn to cycle or drive. - Local people enjoy the occasional walk through the area as part of the inclusiveness of the local community. - A prominent position and proximity to the town centre. Not conceived as a private estate, and separating it out affects the integrated physical character of the area. Many private estates eventually put up physical barriers, signs etc. - Comparisons drawn with the separate nature of St. Georges Hill from the rest of the town, which that has the advantage of being located away from the town, screened by trees and was a private estate from the beginning. - Occupies a very large area in relation to the surrounding roads. Cedar Road is the only similar example of a privatised road in the area and, by comparison, is tucked out of the way and a very small cul-de-sac. - Parking impact on the Church and School (e.g., services). - Cars pushed out onto other roads which already have a high density of parked cars. A pressure relief valve. - Living near a town centre requires community sharing of parking and scenic amenity <p>A comment was made by one of the Wey Road residents that this proposal was no different to the Residents Parking Schemes in Holstein and Elmgrove Road. No other comments in support were noted.</p>	

		<p>Cllr Andrew Davis spoke of a number of benefits to the community of keeping roads under public ownership, and mentioned that a radical alternative could be to propose making the whole area private so that the community takes control of highway issues.</p> <p>The Chair did not put the privatisation issue to a vote, citing that there was no role for the association within the County Council procedure. Asked what could be done to object, people would have to wait until the order was published and could then object as individuals.</p>	
10.	St. Georges College Junior	Headmaster Antony Hudson was present to answer any questions about the building work after the meeting.	
11.	Election of Committee	A motion was granted to re-elect the existing committee en-block with an option for the committee to co-opt new members as and when people come forward. P McGuire was proposed, but was not present.	Chairman to invite P. McGuire.