

MINUTES OF THE 2018 AGM OF PORTMORE PARK AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

	<u>Date:</u>	13 September 2018
	<u>Reference:</u>	Meeting 20180913
	<u>Attendees:</u>	Invited residents from North Weybridge (with those paying a membership subscription recorded by Treasurer). Invited guests: Cllr Andrew Davies, Cllr Glen Dearlove, Cllr Michael Freeman, Cllr Vicki Macleod, Cllr Tim Oliver, representatives of the Weybridge Society. PP&DRA committee members: M Macleod (Chair), J Heard (Secretary), I Bonnett (Treasurer), W Rutherford, P Graeme, SJ Groves, D Myers, P O'Sullivan.
	<u>Apologies:</u>	Apologies from Diane & John Phillips, and from a number of residents including from Church Walk, Darnley Park, Portmore Park Road, Thames Street.
<u>No.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Minute</u>
1.	Preamble and Welcome	Residents and Councillors met and talked about local matters and perused wall displays of concerns and activities, for around half an hour. The meeting was called to order and an introduction was made to the activities and issues that would be discussed in the meeting, which included parking, town centre improvements, Churchfields allotments, Broadwater conservation, and other topics invited.
2.	Parking and Traffic	MM introduced the subject of parking and traffic and current proposals. Over the years PP&DRA has supported the majority views of residents in individual roads on CPZ status, while recognising the need for strategic coordination between EBC and SCC on parking. He outlined a background of SCC's 2009 proposal for a CPZ covering north Weybridge, and its rejection by residents because of negative impact of reduced parking capacity, as a result of the required new double yellow lines around and beyond corners, together with strong concerns about restricted daytime parking on Portmore Park Road increasing rat run traffic flow and speed. A Radnor Rd resident expressed serious concern about limited parking capacity in their road, where there is simply not enough space in the road for residents, so parking capacity must not be reduced by new yellow lines. Andrew Davies commented that in some roads shorter double yellow lines may be possible, where there is a 20mph limit and no through traffic Vicki Macleod and two residents, from Radnor Rd, commented that in some roads residents feel there is not an issue for parking in the day time, just in the evening. The implementation of no parking during the day would not improve the parking situation for residents there, as the main problems are from around 4pm onwards. Tim Oliver was asked about any land that might be available for extra parking, and was invited to give an update on work going on around parking and other matters.

<p>3.</p>	<p>Update by Cllr Tim Oliver (Surrey County Councillor for Weybridge, and Leader of Elmbridge Borough Council)</p>	<p>Tim Oliver first updated the meeting about the Weybridge Hospital site.</p> <p>The NHS NW Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group is looking at the options for services being provided in the future. CCG will replace the GP surgeries but are not yet clear what other services will be reinstated (following loss of the Walk In Centre). Discussion in progress with CCG and NHS Property Services has included potential to incorporate a community hub on the site, as proposed by the Weybridge Society, to house the library and other community facilities, in a bigger building where there is currently parking. This would free up the current library site to enhance the high street offering.</p> <p>With community as well as medical facilities on the hospital site, but reduced parking, a suggestion was being considered that the Churchfields Centre for the Community could be knocked down, and replaced by a surface car park which would extend over the Churchfields Recreation Ground former bowling green. This potential new car park would be much the size of the existing Churchfields car park, doubling Churchfields parking.</p> <p>There is also land near the Mercedes Benz World, where current covenants could be lifted to provide a park and ride service, a cycle path to the station and town centre. These in total, might provide enough parking for the town centre. Discussions are also taking place with Morrisons to extend parking time in their car-park and provide an Elmbridge parking scheme in the Waitrose car park. Once these are in place, it will then be possible to determine whether parking restrictions would still be needed in residential roads.</p> <p>These ideas are dependent on the NHS CCG decisions and assessment of traffic in the Brooklands area.</p> <p>A resident from Wey Rd commented that even if there are very low priced car-parks in town centre, as well as free of charge parking spaces on the residential roads, people will park on the roads instead.</p> <p>MM asked whether Surrey would continue to consider parking issues in specific roads where there were particular issues, such as Grenside Road with school traffic, and Dorchester Rd where there are significant problems. TO answered, yes, individual roads can be considered by SCC at any time.</p> <p>A resident asked if plans for a Churchfields car park barrier had been scrapped. TO said yes, it is not going ahead.</p> <p>MM asked about speeding and rat-run traffic along Portmore Park Rd and St Albans and how can it be assured that a CPZ won't increase the speed of the traffic along PPR. TO said SCC are aware that some residents feel that parking along these roads slows rat-run traffic and this would be taken into consideration in parking discussions.</p> <p>Craig MacKenzie said he feels an holistic approach such as that spoken about by TO is the way to go and not annual reviews.</p> <p>TO said there will be an answer to car parking from SCC, after a bid for funding for the re-development of the library site is submitted.</p> <p>VM was saddened that the Churchfields Recreation Ground former bowling green, now used for touchtennis, part of our town's central green space, is being considered as a potential new car park, when car drivers currently</p>
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		<p>coming into the town do at present actually find spaces to park.</p> <p>A resident of Dorchester Road asked what opportunity will be given to residents to be more involved in consultation about car-parking, and what weight would be given to the view of the residents on those roads affected. TO answered that there are community meetings and workshops being planned for the near term.</p> <p>MF was impressed at how SCC is trying to take the NHS site forward. NHS properties as opposed to the CCG own the site, however, the CCG will ask us for our views on what should be done with the site. He is confident that SCC will be making its position clear on what should be done with the site. Weybridge CPZ parking had been discussed in 2009 and those designs were completely turned around. Concerns discussed at the time should not be revisited but updated for how the town is now: Holstein Ave and Elmgrove Rd are examples of what happens with CPZ parking. In essence, if residents in individual roads have parking problems, they should be given a solution.</p> <p>AD said that cascading displacement of parking should not stop us from having a short term, temporary solution until the holistic approach finds an umbrella solution for the whole town.</p> <p>MM asked whether residents will be consulted about any proposed scheme which affects their road. TO said he was not aware as yet of any proposed schemes, but if there is one, or if the association would like to propose one, it should please be submitted and the views and experience of local residents will be invited and listened to.</p> <p>A resident from Dorchester Road asked what weighting will be given to residents' views where a particular road votes 100% for a proposed scheme, such as that on Dorchester and Gascoigne Roads. TO said that current CPZs would be reviewed this year and residents' views will be given sufficient weight in these reviews.</p> <p>MM thanked TO for sharing his vision, and the willingness to consult residents in all these matters.</p>
4.	Town centre improvement	<p>It was generally agreed that the NHS site would be suitable, in the absence of a walk-in centre, to house a community hub, but there was concern about separating the parking from the hub.</p> <p>Several residents expressed concerns around replacing the current Centre for the Community with a car-park and paving over part of the Recreation Ground; also about separating the Community Hub from the town's green space and current car-park, causing people to have to cross a busy main road to get from the health centre/hub to the car park and the Recreation Ground.</p> <p>MF said we need to take account that the site is not owned by the Local Authority, What we need to do as a Community is to have a clear site of what we would like to have in place for us, and communicate it with the local and county authority so that the forthcoming funds to improve the town centre can be spent in harmony with any desired development on the NHS site.</p>
5.	Broadwater path and lake	<p>MM reported that the Broadwater Conservation Society has invited PPDR to become affiliated. Broadwater Lake is an historic artificial lake, hundreds of years old, that requires maintenance and dredging to stop it silting up. Funding has previously come from various local sources, and more is needed. The dedication of Broadwater Path</p>

		<p>as Public Footpath 40 means the lake is now accessible to the public. This opens up the possibility of obtaining national funding, and the Broadwater Conservation Society is actively seeking such funding.</p> <p>MM asked, would the attendees support the affiliation proposal? The motion was carried on a show of hands.</p> <p>A question was asked what costs and application of grants and funding would be needed to pay for ongoing costs in the lake area. MF emphasized the aim of national funding, and the role of local residents in working towards that, including all PPDRA's efforts to help overcome obstacles to the dedication of Broadwater Path, Footpath 40. A resident commented that Footpath 36 linking Broadwater Path to the Thames Path needs a proper surface, and something done about the gates/styles which currently make it inaccessible for some people.</p> <p>Discussion about trouble-makers and the state of the area took place, including concerns that some do not perceive it as a safe place. SJG, a resident of Grenside Rd, pointed out that residents were actively seeking improvements, and all residents and the adjacent school can support each other to improve this part of Weybridge.</p>
7.	St Catherines (Beales Lane)	<p>VM gave information that the previous St Catherine's sheltered housing buildings on Beales Lane have now been vacated, with a view to development. There is not yet any formal planning application. MM noted that there is concern among Beales Lane residents about the impact of potential plans to develop the site, particularly if there is limited onsite parking. A Beales Lane resident commented that there is a tree preservation order on the site.</p>
8.	Churchfields Allotments	<p>MM declared an interest of being a trustee of Weybridge Charity, as were some other people in attendance. He gave a summary of the rationale behind the proposal to develop 5.4% of Churchfields Allotments, subject to planning permission, to generate more income to support the charity's objective of relieving need, hardship and distress in Weybridge. He invited views.</p> <p>A resident from Oakdale Road commented that when the Charity sold the Pine Grove Allotments, they said that was a one-off and the rest of the land would be kept as allotments. In response to concerns expressed by residents, MM said that as an association PPDRA would discuss the progress of any proposals as more information became public, at future PPDRA meetings and in the next newsletter and on the website.</p>
Any Other Business		
9.	Questions	<p>Are there any plans to make the roundabout at Balfour Rd a solid one? TO answered no.</p>
	Cinema	<p>A question was asked about what is happening with the cinema. VM said the council has approved additional funding, the contract is about to be completed and work should start before Christmas.</p>
10	Election of Committee	<p>MM gave invitation for those present to nominate new members of the committee.</p> <p>All officers and Committee were voted in en bloc on a show of hands. New members to be coopted subsequently.</p>