



## ***Banstead Village Residents Association***

### ***65<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 Held in the Church Institute, Banstead***

1. *Welcome by chairman*

Roger Collins introduced himself and welcomed all those present. He thanked those who were in attendance, and was pleased that all three of our Village ward councillors could be present: Sam Walsh, Dr Lynne Hack, and Eddie Humphries, our newly elected councillor for the seat held until his retirement by Brian Cowle. Unfortunately, Cllr Mrs Angela Fraser DL could not attend.
2. *Minutes of the 64th Annual General Meeting:*

The minutes of the May 2011 Annual General Meeting were presented in summary form and duly accepted as a true record.
3. *Police Liaison*

PO Leah Mort and PCSO Jackie Phillips were in attendance and informed the meeting on the current policing issues, including:

  - Traffic congestion in the Horseshoe; the police are tackling this, together with the illegal use of service roads in, for example, Winkworth Road. A 'speedwatch' operation is in place.
  - Continuing vehicle thefts, of and from cars that have largely been left unsecured by their owners.
  - Cold calling on householders by people looking to buy gold and jewellery is a new problem in the area and householders should avoid selling such items at the door
  - Occasional burglaries have occurred and shoplifting continues, but is under control with the Shopwatch system.
4. *Presentation by Dr Claire Fuller of the Longcroft clinic*

The Chairman introduced Dr Claire Fuller who is Chair of the Medlin Commissioning Locality, which will be taking over the functions of the Surrey Primary Care Trust. The Longcroft Clinic is one of the GP practices in this group. Dr Fuller showed the meeting a number of slides illustrating the new structure of the commissioning process arising from the government's recent bill and explained how the GPs will now control the commissioning of clinical services from the secondary (hospital) sector on behalf of their patients. This is a complex and radical restructuring which we will describe in more detail, with Dr Fuller's assistance, in our next NewsSheet.

The chairman thanked Dr Fuller for her interesting talk and for giving us her time. A lively question and answer session followed.
5. *Chairman's Report*

Roger Collins presented his report for the year. As indicated in our NewsSheets

several old issues kept rolling along. First, a brief report on the High Street parking fiasco: we had helped to stop Surrey County Council introducing charges and meters and he would like to thank all those who contributed to our campaign.

The local council's Core Strategy has been revised over the last two years in the light of new government policies and the revised Strategy has been issued. The council has been out to consultation on it. Not a great deal has changed, but the volume of new development has been reduced; nevertheless the Council is undertaking a review of the Green Belt boundaries since in the period beyond 2022 it may not be possible to deliver the programme of new development without releasing some of what is currently green belt land. The recent government legislation on Localism is also an issue; we may be vulnerable, while we have no Core Strategy in place and no Neighbourhood Plan, to development getting proposals going ahead on the basis of the 'presumption in favour of planning' which is incorporated into the new Act. Richard Heath has agreed to take the lead for us and I propose to open the Open Forum later (agenda item 9) with a short presentation by Richard on how we might address the Localism opportunity, as a basis for our discussions tonight.

The High Street lamp posts are finally being replaced with elegant new posts. This should enable the traders, who are now in the lead on this matter, to install new festive lights on the posts in time for the Jubilee. The timing is tight and I hope they succeed. Meanwhile, BVRA will use some of the funds available to us to refurbish the lights in the various trees in the High Street. We are grateful for donations from several parties: the Banstead Baptist Church, several traders, Waitrose and in particular all our village ward and county councillors who have donated significant sums out of their allocations for local support.

I cannot let this opportunity pass to thank Brian Cowle for all his past services as a councillor for the Village Ward. He has retired after many years excellent service and has earned the heartfelt thanks of BVRA and myself for his help in keeping us informed and unfailingly putting our views to the Council. I think we should all, as residents, show him how grateful we are

6. *Presentation of audited Accounts:*

The Chairman asked David Gradidge as Hon Treasurer to present the audited annual accounts; these covered the period up to the end of March 2012 and a copy is attached to these minutes. Acceptance of these accounts was proposed by Nina Sawyer and seconded by Don Payne; the meeting gave its unanimous agreement.

7. *Election of Officers and Committee:*

The Chairman confirmed that we are required to conform the election of an Hon. Secretary and an Hon. Treasurer. We are lucky to have such good people in post as Catalina Vassallo-Bonner and David Gradidge respectively and both are prepared to stand again this year. They were proposed by Sue Collins and seconded by Sally Hull and agreed by the meeting.

It is our normal practice to elect the Executive Committee en bloc and if the meeting agrees the Chairman proposed to do so again. We have had two resignations during the year, Alan Lansdowne and Drina van den Berg, while Midge Reeves will not be standing again for the coming year. They have given the Association sterling support as members of the Executive Committee and I thank them for their time and efforts. It has been good to work with them.

The remaining members of the Committee are: Shirley Conacher, John Conacher, Tony Ford, Richard Heath, Graeme Ward and Ron Phillips; in addition Mike Sawyer and Roger Collins are currently Chairman and Vice Chairman. The election of these committee members was proposed by Sally Hull, seconded by Sue Collins and agreed by the meeting. The Chairman thanked them all for their past and future efforts on behalf of BVRA and its residents. The next meeting of this Committee on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May will elect the Chairman and the vice-Chairman for the coming year, in accordance with our constitution..

The committee wished to thank Christopher Jenkins for auditing this year's accounts and for agreeing to act as Auditor in the coming year. His appointment was proposed by Mike Sawyer, seconded by Tony Ford and agreed by the meeting.

8. *Open Forum:*

The chairman asked Richard Heath to speak on the issue of localism and the Neighbourhood Plan. Richard described the main provisions of the new legislation and Cllr Sam Walsh added some further information on Neighbourhood Plans.

The Chairman then welcomed our Reigate and Banstead Borough councillors Dr Lynne Hack, Sam Walsh and Eddie Humphries. Surrey CC Councillor Mrs Angela Fraser sent her apologies. The Councillors introduced themselves and a debate followed, on such issues as:

- Localism
- The Olympics, especially the torch relay and the road cycling and they would affect the borough and county
- Garratts Lane: there is no dropped kerb for crossing Holly Lane; -
- There is a need for a pedestrian crossing junction of Colcokes Road and Garratts Lane
- Flooding in Holly Lane and Sutton Lane and problems with the soakaways.  
The rights of house owners to extend up to their boundary
- The number of potholes, including edge crumbling in Holly Lane
- The state of the footpaths

9. *AOB*

There being no other business the meeting closed at 22.05 hours.