



Banstead Village Residents Association

67th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 28th May 2014 Held in the Church Institute, Banstead

1. *Welcome by chairman*

Roger Collins introduced himself and welcomed all those present to the 67th Annual General Meeting of the Banstead Village Residents' Association. He thanked those who were in attendance, and was pleased to welcome our County Councillor, Ken Gulati, and our Borough Councillors Her Worship the Mayor, Dr Lynne Hack and Eddy Humphreys. Unfortunately Cllr Sam Walsh could not attend.

2. *Minutes of the 66th Annual General Meeting:*

The Minutes of the May 2013 Annual General Meeting were presented in summary form, their acceptance was proposed by Ron Phillips, seconded by Roger Stamp and duly accepted as a true record.

3. *Police Report*

PC Carmen Lambert-Singer gave a brief report. She confirmed that Banstead Safer Neighbourhood Team is to remain at Banstead Police Station in the High Street and this is expected to be for the next few years. The team has been joined by Police Sergeant James Green from the Tandridge area: he brings a considerable experience and success as a Neighbourhood officer and Sergeant. The team has also been joined by PC Christine Turton as a Neighbourhood Specialist Officer working with PC Lambert-Singer and PCSO Laura Green patrolling Banstead, Nork and Woodmansterne areas. As needed the team is also joined by our two other PCSO's James Bromfield and Chris Wright as and when required.

PC Lambert Singer listed the priorities that are in place (which were reaffirmed in Deputy Commissioner Harris' presentation) which can be summarised as: anti-social behaviour, theft of and from motor vehicles, burglaries, speeding and other vehicle misuses. These priorities have been established from discussions with residents at beat panels and are targeted daily.

Crime has been falling with the exception of vehicle and related burglaries. The neighbourhood team has had success with tackling these and Shopwatch is expected to reduce the incidence of shop-lifting, which accounts for the majority of theft.

Two dogs were left in separate vehicles in the recent hot weather. Dogs can die from overheating in less than 20 minutes. Police may remove the dog by smashing the window and arrest the owner for neglect / cruelty. Leaving a bowl of water in the car can increase the humidity in the car.

Currently surgeries and meetings are held at Mrs Smith's Tea Room in Nork and Woodmansterne Primary School. A further surgery will soon be held in

Waitrose, in Banstead High Street. The dates of these surgeries can found on the police website <http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/reigate-banstead/rbno>

A police Mobile Front Counter visits every Thursday 1400-1600hrs in All Saints Church Car-Park, Banstead High Street.

The meeting was reminded to report a crime or incident or to contact your Safer Neighbourhood Team call 101. Only call 999 in a genuine emergency requiring urgent police attendance. Surrey Police is on Twitter, Facebook and other social media channels? Find out more at <http://www.surrey.police.uk/contact-us/social-media>

There were no questions to the police from those present, and the chairman thanked PC Lambert-Singer and PCSO Laura Green for attending.

4. *Presentation by Mr Jeff Harris, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner*
The Chairman introduced Mr Jeff Harris who was standing in for Commissioner Kevin Hurley who had been unable to attend.

Mr Harris explained that the most common areas that his department was asked to deal with by the residents of Surrey involved: anti-social driving and parking, litter, dog fouling, hedges and burglaries. This is a mix of issues for the county council and local council. He tabled a single short summary of the Commissioner's policies and initiatives since taking office. He spoke briefly to each which can be summarised as;

- A basic zero tolerance policy.
- A joint enforcement team between the police and council.
- Action against louts, bullies or anyone who makes life difficult for others.
- Victims and witnesses of crime should be consulted
- Surrey has the lowest police grant in the country.
- Joint initiatives with Sussex police, in particular for murders, traffic, firearms and dogs with joint training initiatives.
- Surrey has the highest proportion of over 60s and the lowest crime rate in the country which we should strive to maintain, but there is a large reduction in future budgets to contend with. Banstead Police Station will be kept in use as a centre of operations, as now, for at least two years: a fire engine will also be based there until a permanent new site is negotiated. (The implication is that thereafter the building and site might be sold off.

A number of questions were asked by residents and dealt with by Deputy Commissioner Harris before the chairman then thanked him for his helpful and interesting talk.

5. *Chairman's Report*

The Chairman hoped that all members had received their May NewsSheet in time for the meeting; he went on to thank the Road Stewards, many of whom were present tonight, for the work they do in taking round the Newsheets and collecting subscriptions – BVRA would simply not be able to function without them. Mr Collins said he would not rehearse the issues that have been covered in

the NewsSheet over the past year as these seem to remain the same. In particular BVRA tries to keep watch on planning applications and other things that are happening in the village, such as the fate of Banstead Police Station which Deputy Commissioner Harris has just told us about.

Planning applications have been rather fewer over the last twelve months and any requests for information on this issue should be addressed to Mike Sawyer, the very able Association planning expert. The major current issue is the Core Strategy, which has now been approved by the Planning Inspector after many months of work by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. It is due to be adopted by the Council in July and we await the Local Plan to follow which will permit planning development to be controlled properly

With regard to the impending location of the Fire Engine at Banstead Police Station, a lot of work was done by committee members to try and stop this decision. The Fire and Rescue service is looking for a better solution, but as Purley fire station closes for rebuilding in September it has become imperative for a fire engine to be based in Banstead and this short term solution has to be adopted.

One other issue is the Village Council: at last year's AGM, our guest speaker was Trevor Leggo who gave us a run down on the pros and cons of setting up a Village Council for Banstead Village, and we were asked by residents at the AGM to continue our research into this issue. Progress has been made and Richard Heath is contacting those who were interested to update them on the situation. What is needed is someone who will take this issue forward and they should contact Richard.

The chairman recorded his thanks to all the Executive Committee and in particular to Shirley Conacher and Tony Ford who have served on the committee for the last 25 years saying it is no small matter to serve BVRA for so long and we are all most grateful for their sterling services.

6. *The Constitution*

The Chairman then raised the matter of the Constitution which has been revised recently and has been available for review on the BVRA website. There are few material differences and the meeting was asked to confirm acceptance of the revised Constitution. Proposed by Ron Phillips and seconded by Graeme Ward the members passed the new constitution unanimously.

Roger Collins then moved on to the domestic matters relating to the accounts and Committee elections..

7. *Presentation of audited Accounts:*

In the absence of David Gradidge Mike Sawyer presented the Accounts which were printed on the back page of the May NewsSheet, and have been audited. He summarised the financial position of the Association as:

- Income is pretty close to last and previous years.
- Expenditure changes included: Printing costs which were up, but sundry expenses were down - increased costs of producing the NewsSheet were due

to the printing and insertion of an additional sheet for the 2013 AGM edition. Marshall's, who helped us for so many years retired and we now go direct to the printers in Carshalton;

- The Waitrose token scheme produced a generous amount that defrayed the deficit in the "Let there be light" fund. As you will see, this fund is now empty.
- Overall our finances are in good shape and this year's income shows signs of being in keeping with recent years. This is thanks to our 70 or so road stewards, and to David Gradidge's success in recruiting new ones where gaps arise. Consequently the committee sees no reason to increase the annual subs from the present £2 per household.
- Finally, and as rather more than a footnote, courtesy of Ken Gulati – our SCC councillor – we have a share of SCC's funds for local enhancement works, some of which are in hand and others still to be undertaken.

There being no questions on these accounts Mr Sawyer asked for them to be proposed and accepted: proposed by Roger Stamp and seconded by Tony Ford. The meeting approved the accounts and Mr Sawyer thanked Chris Jenkins, the Auditor, for his work and for being prepared to stand again for another year.

8. *Election of Officers*

The chairman then moved on to the election of the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary and the Executive Committee. As usual the Executive Committee appoints the Chairman and Vice-chairman at the next meeting of those elected by the AGM. He was very glad to say that both David Gradidge and Catalina Vassallo-Bonner are standing again for Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively, and would like to thank them both for all their work which for David includes managing the Road Stewards. The Treasurer and Secretary were duly re-elected unanimously, proposed by Sue Collins and Seconded by Richard Heath

Mr Collins said that it was the custom to elect the rest of the Executive Committee en bloc if the meeting was agreed to continue the practice. Members of the Committee were currently: Mike Sawyer and Sally Hull, as our Vice-Chairmen, with Shirley Conacher, John Conacher, Tony Ford, Richard Heath, Richard Moody, Faith Moody, Graeme Ward and himself, together with Ron Phillips of Woodmansterne as our link to the traders. We were very pleased to welcome Faith and Richard Moody onto the committee during the year and Richard has done a great job in setting up our website – members should let Richard know if they think that there are improvements that might be made. Since all the members of the committee have agreed to serve for another year they were duly elected unanimously having been proposed by Jackie Phillips and seconded by Nina Sawyer.

The Chairman added his usual pleas for more committee members, saying anyone was welcome to come to a meeting to see for themselves, these are always held on the last Tuesday of the month here in the Gable Room of the Institute, Members will have noted from the NewsSheet that it is necessary for the Chairman to stand

down by the end of the coming year and we are therefore looking for a new chairman to take over during the year.

9. *Open Forum*

The meeting was then handed over to our County Councillor, Ken Gulati and local councillors Dr Lynne Hack and Eddy Humphreys. Matters covered included:

- The cemetery application. Though the original application was withdrawn there was a new pre-application and residents were urged by councillors to keep objecting
- Pavement repairs are urgently needed
- Environmental issues
The Fire Engine – could BVRA monitor the situation that it is a temporary solution
- The status of the Help Shop now that the police are not going to use that facility.
- Could foxes be treated as vermin and dealt with by the council
- The hedge in Court Road still needs attention as it blocks the pavement
- The current state of Holly Lane.

The Chairman thanked both residents and Councillors for attending and

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.45