



Banstead Village Residents Association

63rd Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19th May 2010

1. *Welcome by Chairman:*

Roger Collins introduced himself and welcomed all those present. He thanked those who were in attendance, outlined the evening's agenda and drew the attention of those present at the meeting to the fact that Cllr Mrs Angela Fraser, Cllr Dr Lynne Hack and Cllr Sam Walsh were in attendance, but unfortunately Cllr Brian Cowle was unable to attend.

2. *Minutes of the 62nd Annual General Meeting:*

Roger Collins proposed that the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting in May 2009 be taken as read. This was seconded by Ron Phillips and passed with no objections.

3. *Police Liaison*

Unfortunately Sgt Dave Charlesworth was prevented from attending at the last minute. His annual statement was read in his absence by PCSO Jackie Phillips. Among the points covered were thefts from vehicles which were left unlocked on private drives at night and thefts of motor vehicles from property. This was made simpler by the car owners leaving their car keys in easy sight of the front door so that offenders could use a pole or fishing rod to hook the keys and make off with the car.

The report reminded those present that they should remember to keep their back doors locked and windows closed when working in the garden. Criminal damage is also a problem though the new legislation is helping to make an improvement.

We were also reminded of the two telephone numbers to call to speak to the police: 999 to report an emergency and 0845125222 to report something that we feel is not right

4. *Presentation by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Recycling Department*

The chairman then introduced our guest speakers, Nick Marklew and Lizzie Jones both council officers from the Recycling Department. They briefly reminded us that Reigate & Banstead Borough council are responsible for collecting our household rubbish which is passed on to Surrey County Council who manage the disposal of rubbish. The general aim is to recycle 80% of the contents of the rubbish households create. The government limits the amount of waste sent to landfill and taxes it at £72 per tonne. Currently RBBC is recycling 40% of its rubbish. The reorganisation of the refuse rounds last October created

greater efficiency by concentrating on one area of the borough at a time. The council has a need to balance environmental issues and cost. A survey has been sent out to homes for consultation. Residents of the borough would like to recycle more at the doorstep. RBBC are looking at continuing weekly food waste collections to including a lockable box for food waste and a small food waste box to keep in the kitchen. Other refuse would be collected on a fortnightly basis. A Surrey County Council eco-park for rubbish disposal is being built at Sunbury, the blueprint of which is to be approved by RBBC councillors in September 2010. There is a time-scale of a year to eighteen months before the new treatment facilities are available.

5. *Chairman's Report*

Roger Collins, BVRA Chairman, then delivered his Annual report. A large part of the committee's activity during the past year had been concerned with the Council's Core Strategy. He explained that since it is a complicated issue he would not rehearse all the issues associated with it but update the members on the current situation. The Inspector who held the exhaustive hearings on the Core Strategy Plan in January determined that the Plan is unsound. It was felt that he was more influenced by the views of the developers and their planning consultants, who attended the hearings in force, than by the few residents' associations that attended. The council's team, led by Kathy O'Leary, performed very well but the Inspector's decision was final. Currently everyone is awaiting the Council's decision on how to proceed from here, but fear that the main effect will be to delay implementation of the Local Action Plans, which is what really matters to our residents.

He continued by saying that our vice chairman Mike Sawyer would be able to answer any questions that might involve planning. It has been a quiet year for planning applications and it is felt that developers are holding their fire until they see what changes the new government may bring. There are fears that the Banstead Estate, the old Legal & General land, may become a battleground this year and the BVRA committee is holding some cash reserves back for the moment in case we need to spend money on fighting unreasonable planning applications.

At last year's AGM there was an interesting presentation from the GPs of our local practice, and residents were clearly concerned about the limitations of the Longcroft Clinic, imposed by its relatively small and elderly building. The BVRA committee was asked to take action and mounted a petition which was delivered to the Surrey NHS Chief Executive in September. As yet there has been no positive response. We know that our Surrey County Councillor, Mrs Angela Fraser, has been working with the County and the PCT to resolve this issue, but as ever there are significant funding problems. The resignations of the Chairman and the Chief Executive of Surrey NHS have further complicated the process. At this moment it is only possible to report that a solution to this problem remains some distance in the future.

Roger Collins finished by saying that everyone is very pleased to have Waitrose back with us, but not quite so pleased at some of the changes. The

appearance of the new store, particularly from Avenue Road, leaves a lot to be desired. However, there is no doubt that Waitrose is an asset to the village, and their generosity in contributing significant funds for the village lights is appreciated – we can afford to run them again this Christmas even without the Council’s annual funding, which has been withdrawn. That also depends on the replacement of the High Street lampposts by Skanska, which is scheduled for late summer, but assurance has been given by councillors that the transfer of our electrics and lights to the new lampposts is contained in their contract. The thanks of the Association go to Justin Heraty-Plant and to our contractor for organising and maintaining the lights.

6) *Presentation of audited Accounts:*

David Gradidge, the BVRA honorary treasurer then presented the accounts which had been audited and are published on the back page of the May Newsheet. It was suggested from the floor that the committee should consider making use of the subscriptions for projects for the village. It was also suggested that the committee looking into depositing funds with the Charity Bank.

7) *Proposal by the Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary to adjust the ending of the financial year*

David Gradidge proposed that the year end be changed to the end of March as from 2011 which would help the collection of subscriptions. This change was seconded by Ron Phillips and accepted.

8) *Election of Officers:*

The chairman moved on to the requirement of the meeting to appoint an Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and the Executive for the coming year, which would then appoint a new Chairman at its next meeting. He thanked David Gradidge and Catalina Vassallo-Bonner for their considerable efforts over the past year and was glad to say they were both standing again as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Both David Gradidge and Catalina Vassallo-Bonner were proposed by Sally Hull, seconded by Ron Phillips and appointed as Treasurer and Hon. Secretary with no objection from the meeting.

The chairman expressed his thanks for the work done by the Executive Committee members during the year and announced that the Association had had lost yet another Committee member in Lindsay Iorwerth; he thanked her for her support in recent years and hopes to see her join the committee again in due course. The remaining Committee members, being as follows, Drina van den Berg, Shirley Conacher, Marjorie Reeves, Mike Sawyer, Roger Collins, Tony Ford, Richard Heath, Alan Lansdown, Graeme Ward and Ron Phillips as our Business Representative, were proposed by Sam Walsh, seconded by Audrey Carty and elected unanimously. Roger Collins carried on to say that the Executive Committee remains four short of its designated number, but that no further nominations had been received.

The continuing services of the auditor Christopher Jenkins to whom we extend our thanks were proposed by David Gradidge and seconded by Catalina Vassallo-Bonner.

9) *Welcome to Local Councillors and Open Forum:*

The meeting was delighted to welcome our Surrey County Councillor, Mrs Angela Fraser DL and Reigate and Banstead Borough councillors, Dr Lynne Hack and Sam Walsh. Regretfully, Cllr Brian Cowle was unable to attend this year's AGM. The councillors introduced themselves and their areas of responsibility: Cllr Mrs Angela Fraser is on the committee for Safer and Stronger Communities and Chair of the Local Committee, Cllr Dr Lynne Hack is on the Licensing Committee and Cllr Sam Walsh is Chairman of the Planning Committee. The meeting was then thrown open to questions from members, which included:

- Updates on the Lady Neville
- Maintenance of the footpath between the Tracery and Avenue Road
- The Banstead Estate (the Legal & General land)
- Regional Plans.
- Local development Framework
- Back garden development
- The Horseshoe; Cllr Mrs Angela Fraser was thanked for her help with the resurfacing..
- Parking restrictions
- Stretched Infrastructure
- Developments in the Horseshoe
- Junior school extension
- parking near T junctions
- New Street Lights
- Buy with Confidence scheme

10) *Any Other Business:*

There being no other business the meeting closed at 22.00