



Banstead Village Residents Association

68th Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 12th May 2015 Held in the Church Institute, Banstead

1. Welcome by chairman

Roger Collins introduced himself and welcomed all those present to the 68th 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 Dr Lynne Hack. Unfortunately Cllr Sam Walsh and Eddy Humphreys could not attend

2. Minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting:

The Minutes of the May 2014 Annual General Meeting were presented in summary form, their acceptance was proposed by Ron Phillips, seconded by Bernadette Oxley and duly accepted as a true record.

3. Police Report

As the police team covering Banstead were unable to attend the AGM the following report was left.

- Please make sure doors and windows are not left open while you are away from home.
- Please do not leave animals alone in your vehicle. Dogs can die in as little as 20 minutes and police do have powers to break into vehicles and seize animals if they feel they are in distress.
- Please mark your valuables with a forensic property marking product or utilise the Immobilise website (<https://www.immobilise.com>).
- Banstead officers are holding a special talk about crime prevention at the Horse shoe Plus 55 group on 1.30pm on Wednesday 27th May, so please come and join us.
- A gang targeting older and vulnerable people and stealing thousands of pounds of cash direct from their own accounts was recently arrested. Operating across the south of England they pretended to be the police or a member of a banking company.
- Other criminals have attempted to take money for fictitious work on the homes of elderly residents. A suspect has been arrested.
- Please continue to remain aware of unusual cars and persons in the area. Please check that all your doors and windows remain locked even if just "popping out" and if required please seek crime prevention advice from Surrey Police.
- Break-ins have occurred as shed padlocks have been cut and items such as motorbikes have been stolen.
- Criminals continue to break into cars and steal items either from the cars, or number plates, or catalytic converters.
- Thefts continue from High street shops
- Machinery was stolen from road works in the Horseshoe

4. *Presentation by Commander Eddie Roberts of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service*

The Chairman then introduced Commander Roberts who was accompanied by Fire Officer Martin Garrard, Officer in charge of Banstead and Epsom Fire Stations.

Changes to the local Fire Service began in 2013 when Surrey Fire and Rescue looked to improve services across Surrey in order to keep to the urgent response time of 10 minutes. Horley Fire Station was to be returned to West Sussex and a replacement one opened at Salfords. Purley Fire Station was also to be closed for rebuilding and as this would impact heavily on the urgent response time for residents of Banstead, Woodmansterne and Chipstead it was decided to bring an engine from Epsom, hopefully to Burgh Heath. Unfortunately this was not possible so the engine was relocated to Banstead Police Station and quarters were made habitable for the fire crews and for the storage of equipment,

The chief mission of the Fire Service is to save lives and it works closely with community services. The incident rate has gone down by 6-7% per annum as people live and work in better conditions. In the six months that the Fire Engine has been in Banstead there have been 295 incidents for which the fire engine has been called out, 49% of these were for burglar alarms.

Commander Roberts was at great pains to point out that the move of the fire engine to Banstead was temporary. The Service is working with the South East Coast Ambulance Service and there are plans for the Banstead engine to move into the SECAM site in the Horseshoe in 2017/18 when the ambulance service moves to its new headquarters near Crawley.

There is much investment in new equipment in order to remain an up to date service, fire service personnel are being trained to cope with medical emergencies using many of the techniques learnt from medical personnel in the Afghan War and public access is being allowed to defibrillators housed outside fire stations.

Commander Roberts finished by talking about the Clandon House fire, how the fire department had coped with the situation and how they were still helping the National Trust.

Thanks were then paid by the Chairman to Commander Roberts and station Officer Garrard.

5. *Chairman's Report*

Roger Collins then moved on to the domestic matters relating to the accounts and Committee elections saying it had been a good year and there are more members of the Executive Committee than for some time. After gaining Richard and Faith Moody last year the committee has been joined this year by Marion and John Hayns who have already made an invaluable contribution to our activities. Attendance at meetings has been excellent.

Planning as ever is a key matter. There has been no increase in planning applications and the good news is that the Core Strategy, approved by the Planning Inspector by last year's AGM, is now approved by the Council and in place. This provides the framework for dealing sensibly with future development proposals. This may not sound exciting but it is very important for the future well-being of our village. There remains a lot of work to do in preparing the Development Management Procedures which will take some time and we shall assist the Council to the best of our ability. Meanwhile we can congratulate them on the success finally after many years of hard work..

We have begun a process of persuading the County Council to stop the rat runs down the service roads on Winkworth Road which carry a dangerous amount of traffic skipping round the traffic queues during the rush hours. We have commissioned a professional traffic engineer to prepare a report to Surrey on ways of preventing this behaviour.

Various improvements have been made to the appearance of the High Street. Thanks to a grant from our county councillor Ken Gulati we have been able to replace two dead trees with new silver birches near the two flowering cherries that Waitrose paid for the year before. This grant also paid for the removal of a dozen redundant posts – you may not notice this change now they are not there! We are in the process of refurbishing the benches up and down the High Street and have further plans for similar improvements. Banstead is a lovely place to live and we want to keep it that way.

Finally, my thanks go to all my Executive Committee for their support over the year. I shall be standing down as Chairman after this AGM although remaining on the committee. I'm very glad to say that Richard Moody has agreed to put his name forward and he has the unanimous support of the committee. He will make an excellent Chairman. It has been an enjoyable ten years which I could not have achieved without a good deal of help from all.

6. *Presentation of audited Accounts:*

David Gradidge presented the 2014-15 accounts and assured those present that Chris Stevens, our Auditor, has signed off the accounts. He also told the meeting that Mr Stevens has now retired and that BVRA is looking for a new auditor.

- Income is pretty close to last and previous years.
- Expenditure changes included printing costs which were down following the move to a new printer.
- The Waitrose token scheme produced a smaller amount for the Christmas Lights. Money was also spent on supporting the traders with the costs of the Christmas banners.

The Chairman continued by saying that 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 the 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.

There being no questions on these accounts the Chairman asked for them to be proposed and accepted the accounts were duly proposed by Graeme Ward and seconded by Ron Phillips. The meeting approved the accounts and the Chairman thanked Chris Jenkins, the Auditor, for his work.

7. *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 Sally Hull and Seconded by Mike Sawyer

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. As the full list of committee members had been printed in the latest NewsSheet he felt it was not necessary to repeat their names. We were very pleased to welcome John and Marion Hayns onto the committee during the year together with Ron Phillips of Woodmansterne as our link to the traders. Since all the members of the committee had agreed to serve for another year they were duly elected unanimously having been proposed by Sue Collins and seconded by Graeme Ward.

8. *Open Forum*

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

- The cemetery application.
- Congestion in residential roads
- Hand car wash in the car park and car park recycling
General recycling which helps reduce the use of landfill
- Winkworth Road problems
- Local elections – no changes to portfolio holders
- The hedge in Court Road still needs attention as it blocks the pavement
- Christmas Lights

The Chairman thanked both residents and Councillors for attending and

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.45