



Banstead Village Residents Association

61st Annual General Meeting on Thursday 23rd May 2008

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 while Cllr Brian Cowle and Cllr Dr Lynne Hack were in attendance, unfortunately Cllr Mrs Angela Fraser and Cllr Sam Walsh were unable to attend.

He carried on by saying that the planning appeal on Courtlands Farm development proposals had been held on the 22nd and 23rd May and that BVRA had been working with the Council planners and the Park Road RA to try and prevent this development going ahead as it would be development on Green Belt land. This led Roger Collins into the introduction of our guest speaker, Mr Tim Harrold from CPRE who was particularly welcome since the pressure on the green belt and in general on our environment from developers and such bodies as the new South East Development Authority is perhaps the major current concern of residents.

2. *Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting:*

Roger Collins proposed that the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting in May 2007 be taken as read. This was seconded and passed with no objections.

3. *Presentation by Tim Harrold, Chairman of the Surrey branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.*

Tim Harrold opened his presentation by explaining the general work done by CPRE and especially in Surrey. He talked about the various projects undertaken, such as the Surrey Hills and echoed Roger Collins' comments about the pressure put on the green belt by developers. He explained the important part played by the green belt in providing areas, very often of outstanding national beauty (AONB), which were buffers between the towns, villages and various building developments in the South East. He went on to say that CPRE took its duties very seriously as protectors of rural England and through its head office in London were able to meet Members of Parliament and other bodies to advise on the protection and retention of the green belt and to speak out on those occasions where it was felt that not enough was being done by those in authority to maintain the green belt.

4. *Chairman's Report*

The Chairman thanked Tim Harrold for his excellent talk and started his report for the year by saying that the year from the last AGM had been dominated as usual by planning and police matters and that there had been some concerns in

the village about extended licensing hours for several establishments. He added that another running concern was the change in NHS facilities, with the diminution of Epsom District Hospital and transfer of some services to St Helier. These issues are all covered in the May Newsheet published just before the AGM.

In regard to planning developments, the Chairman indicated that BVRA should be better placed to resist unwanted development through coordination with the nearby RAs through the Banstead and District Federation of RAs which had agreed at its AGM in January to meet on a quarterly basis. He informed the meeting that the intention was to have an appropriate councillor at each meeting to ensure a regular dialogue with councillors on matters such as health, planning and transport.

The Chairman ended by drawing attention to possible continuing problems over the Christmas Lights, which were installed with some difficulty last year following the resignation of Pam Goldsack. He pointed out that most importantly no one had come forward to manage the process since Pam Goldsack's resignation and unless a volunteer came forward there was a real risk that the lights would be lost for good. He added that Pam Goldsack had always been the prime mover in this regard on behalf of the Town Centre Management Committee and that we were all very grateful for her efforts for the introduction of the lights and her management of the process each year since the Millennium. We hope that a replacement for her can be found in time to ensure no problems this year.

5. *Presentation of audited Accounts:*

The accounts have been audited and are published on the back page of the May Newsheet. Our financial position remains sound. We have made cash contributions to the Parish Council to cover improvements to the frontage by the Church Institute and towards the cost of their PA system. This was part of a decision to reduce our reserves which had built up over time to unnecessarily high levels. We are also able to maintain our subscriptions at £1.50 per member household for another year.

6. *Election of Officers:*

Roger Collins identified the requirement of the meeting to appoint an Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and the Executive for the coming year, which would 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. David Gradidge was proposed, seconded and appointed as treasurer and Catalina Vassallo-Bonner was also proposed and seconded as Hon. Secretary with no objection from the meeting.

Finally members of the current Executive Committee who were present introduced themselves and Mr Collins identified those absent, all of whom have

agreed to stand again in the coming year. The Committee members were proposed and seconded and elected unanimously, being as follows: Drina van den Berg, Shirley Conacher, Lindsay Iorwerth, Marjorie Reeves, Mike Sawyer, Roger Collins, Tony Ford, Richard Heath, Alan Lansdown, Graeme Ward and Ron Phillips as our Business Representative.

We remain four short of our designated number, but no further nominations were received.

7. *Welcome to Local Councillors and Open Forum:*

The meeting was delighted to welcome our Reigate and Banstead Borough councillors, Dr Lynne Hack and Brian Cowle. The meeting was then thrown open to questions from members, which included:

- Flooding:
- Advertisements outside Pegasus and Sunrise:
- Refuse collection and garden refuse collection:
- Bus shelters:
- Libraries:
- Banstead Clinic:
- Christmas Lights:
- Government funding to Local Government:

8. *Any Other Business:*

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.45 pm.