

# Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association

## Minutes of SLRA Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds on Wednesday 29 January 2014

**Attendees:** John Hobbs, Tony Bartlett, Joanna Clarkson, Norma Devereese, John Faulkner, Bryan Hall, Doug Harman, Desmond Henley, Andy Peddle and David Porter.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Don Murrell, Howard Preston and Evan Thomas.

### Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2013

#### i. Approval

The minutes were agreed and signed.

#### ii. Matters Arising

All the actions had been completed. There were no other matters arising which were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

### Item 2: Planning Issues

#### i. Planning applications and outcomes

It was noted that planning permission had been granted for the erection extensions and a covered porch and a new chimney at Fieldfares, 356 Sandyhurst Lane. A new application had been made for the erection of extensions and conversion of garage to living accommodation at Corona, Westwell Lane. Another new application had been made for a further two storey rear extension and detached garage at Carpenters, Sandyhurst Lane.

#### ii. Site Submissions for Ashford Local Plan to 2030

A discussion was held on the sites submitted by land owners and developers to Ashford Borough Council for consideration for inclusion in the Ashford Local Plan to 2030. Three separate but similar surveys of all residents (both members and non-members) had been undertaken: one in the Boughton Aluph and Eastwell part of the SLRA area, one in Westwell Lane and one for the remainder of the Downs West and Bockhanger ward parts of the SLRA area.

It was agreed that, whilst the Boughton Aluph & Eastwell PC and Westwell PC would be making their own representations, the SLRA, which had a substantial cross-boundary constituency, would make its own representations, based on the cumulative results of all three surveys. It was noted that over 20 residents had offered to assist with an SLRA working group and this was welcomed. However, before convening such a group, it was necessary to bring together the results of the surveys and to prepare a draft position paper. **TB** agreed to take the lead on this and would try to prepare an initial document in the coming week. **ACTION TB**

Meanwhile, **JF** asked members to review the document which he and **ND** had prepared for the BA&E part of the SLRA area and advise any disagreements or comments. **ACTION ALL**

**TB** advised that Westwell PC were preparing a letter on the issue to be sent to Ashford Borough Council in the coming week.

In a further discussion, views were expressed on the possible development of the Golf Club. It was agreed that, should development of this site eventually be adopted into the Local Plan, the SLRA should lobby hard for no vehicular access from Sandyhurst Lane and for noise barriers to be erected along the M20.

### Item 3: Traffic issues

#### i. A20/Sandyhurst Lane junction

It was noted that one of the 'SLOW DOWN' interactive signs was still not working, four months after its installation. SLRA had written again to KCC Traffic Schemes and also asked KCC Councillor Charlie Simkins to raise the matter at the Joint Transportation Board, which he had done. Westwell PC had also expressed their concern and had both written to KCC Traffic Schemes and asked ABC Councillor

David Robey to raise the matter with KCC. He had now received a reply saying that the responsible KCC engineer had been instructed to resolve the electrical connection issue as soon as possible.

#### **ii. M20 Noise Action Group**

**AP** reported that there had been no activity of this group. In the current economic climate there was little or no chance of their objectives being achieved and the group was effectively dormant.

#### **Item 4: Membership**

**DP** said that, since the last meeting a further 12 new members had joined, bringing the total to 110, a 51% increase on the level at the beginning of September. 32.5% of all properties in the SLRA area were now in membership. 63 members pay by standing order and, of the remainder, 39 were due for renewal by cash or cheque. These would be invited at the AGM.

**JF** proposed that residents over 75 years of age and those living alone should be offered free membership. After debate and a vote it was agreed that this should be done 'where appropriate'.

**JF** also proposed the introduction of 'Welcome Packs' for new residents, to include useful information and a membership form to join SLRA. He agreed to put this together. **ACTION JF**

#### **Item 5: Neighbourhood Watch**

The local schemes were reported to be working well with two way communication with residents about crime issues. It was agreed to emphasise this two way element at the forthcoming AGM and in any newsletters. Further stickers and associated NW material were required and **DP** would contact the police for supplies. **BH** asked for improved signage in Lenacre Street and **JH** agreed to look at the situation and, if possible, erect a further road sign. **ACTION DP, JH**

#### **Item 6: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Residents' Association**

**ND** said that the main item of interest related to the Ashford Local Plan, which had been discussed under item 2 ii. The AGM of the BA&ERA was to be held on 11 February 2014 at the Iron Room.

#### **Item 7: Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer was not present, but **DP** reported that the Treasurer's office had advised him that the bank balance following the payment of membership standing orders at the beginning of January was over £900.

#### **Item 8: Planning for the AGM on 12 March 2014**

The draft AGM agenda was agreed, subject to the addition of a further speaker. **DHa** agreed to contact again the speaker he had found last year. **ACTION DHa**

**DP** reported that Daniel Carter, Principal Policy Planner at ABC, had agreed to speak. All five local KCC and ABC councillors had been invited to attend. **AP** and **DHa** volunteered to man the reception desk. It was agreed that, subject to the costs being reasonable, tea and coffee should be provided for residents at the end of the meeting. **ACTION AP, DHa, DP**

All committee members confirmed that they were prepared to be nominated for a further term. **JH** said that he was willing to continue as Chairman for a maximum of one year. On a proposal from **JF**, **Norma Devereese** was elected by the committee as Vice Chairperson.

[Not discussed, but **DP** will draft a flyer, agree it with the committee, arrange printing and seek volunteers for distribution **ACTION DP**]

#### **Item 9: Social events**

**DHe** and **JF** had circulated a proposal that we should explore holding social events at Sandyacres to improve the community social aspects of our increased membership. This was welcomed and, as a first step, would be discussed with residents at the AGM. **ACTION ALL**

#### **Item 10: Dirty road signs**

**JF** had circulated a proposal that members of the committee might clean the road signs in the SLRA area, many of which were very dirty. **JH** reminded members of the health and safety implications (eg of using access equipment when uninsured). Subject to these considerations, it was agreed that committee members would, if they wished, carry out cleaning of low level signs.

#### **Item 11: Other business**

A proposal to purchase refreshments for committee meetings using the Association's funds was discussed. However, some members were uncomfortable with using members' funds for that purpose.

#### **Item 12: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 March 2014. The venue is to be confirmed. **ACTION DP**