

**Annual General Meeting held at
Sandyacres Sports & Social Centre on Wednesday, 6 March 2019**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.35 pm.

Open Forum

After opening the meeting the Chair welcomed members and invited elected representatives

The Chair invited members to raise issues of general interest

Fred Garner thanked the SLRA for opposing the planning applications for the land at Lenacre Farm and asked if there were any updates. There were none at present; one application (for 21 dwellings) was under appeal and the other was yet to come before the Planning Committee. This was now unlikely to happen before the local elections in May, but if it did so would be opposed by Cllr Krause. Cllr Michael said that the original application for a total of 89 dwellings had been revised down to 79 dwellings because the applicant knew that the higher number would not succeed. They would also have up to 3 years to lodge an appeal if the application was refused. The Borough Council would look to the Parish Council for a decision as the proposed development is not part of the Local Plan.

Sue Ketley asked if the same considerations applied to the SandPit application. Cllr Phillips said that this application had been re-submitted in October 2018 and was not "going away". It had so far attracted only 26 objection comments.

Simon Edwards asked if the SLRA was against the SandPit application in principle or only objected to the traffic aspects. The Chair assured him that the SLRA was against it for a wide variety of reasons, as were set out in the comprehensive objection comments submitted by the Association to Ashford Borough Council. These included extensive comments on environmental and boundary issues, as well as transport issues including opposing vehicular access on to Sandyhurst Lane.

When further questioned the Chair reiterated that any written submissions by the SLRA represented the majority views of the members based on the results of a comprehensive survey of residents carried out by the SLRA and did not represent the personal or collective views of just the Committee.

All draft submissions were always circulated to members prior to submission and further members' comments invited and adopted where relevant. The Chair also stressed that members were always encouraged to make personal submissions on items they felt of importance. This freedom extended to members of the Committee to submit personal views in their own names.

Paul Harris raised environmental concerns associated with the poor maintenance of farm hedgerows bordering Sandyhurst Lane and had recently written to the SLRA on this subject, seeking action. The Chair assured him that this would be considered at the next SLRA Committee meeting.

Cllr Christine Drury gave an update on the 18 month trial overnight lorry parking ban which had been in place since 30 October 2017 on a stretch of the A20 which included Potters Corner. There were now far fewer lorries parking overnight in the old A20 side road at Potters Corner. Westwell Parish Council was supporting moves to make the ban permanent after its planned completion on 30 April 2019. This was to be considered by the Joint Transportation Board on 12 March 2019.

The current Operation Brock work on the M20 meant that traffic was being diverted on to the A20 when the motorway was closed for this work. Some upgrading had been carried out on the A20 and many potholes repaired. The lorry park at Waterbrook was due to be increased by 200 spaces from April.

Cllr Spencer Phillips gave an update on the Boughton Aluph & Eastwell (BA&E) Neighbourhood Plan. The draft Plan had been prepared and would be going out for consultation before May. It was expected to have the Plan ready for adoption by the end of 2019.

The Open Forum concluded at 8.00 pm.

The Chair called the meeting to order and formally opened the AGM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association, 6th March 2019

Present: SLRA Committee: Tony Bartlett (Chair)
Bryan Biggs
Fred Dunkerley
John Hobbs
Desmond Henley
Andy Peddle

50 members
1 non-member

County Councillor: Charlie Simkins
Borough Councillors: Larry Krause
Winston Michael

Parish Councillors: Christine Drury, Westwell Parish Council
Spencer Phillips, Boughton Aluph & Eastwell PC
Adrian Coles, Boughton Aluph & Eastwell PC

Item 1: Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from:

Guests: Cllr Simon Howard-Smith
Members: David Porter
Don Murrell
Susan Wood
Christine & Roland Benstead
Bryan & Jane Hall
Marc Westbrook
Joan Richards
Chris Taylor & Amanda Townley
Evan Thomas
Doug Harman

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 20 March 2018

The draft minutes having been published on the SLRA website, the Chair called for any errors or omissions. There were none.

Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Les Chandler and seconded by Andy Peddle. The Minutes were unanimously approved as a true record.

Item 3: Chairman's Report

Tony Bartlett, the Chairman, presented his report:

"Once again it's my privilege to present the Chairman's Report providing an overview of what we, your Committee, has done this last year. And what a busy year.

In May the Inspectors' examination of the draft local plan took place and gave us an opportunity to again present our arguments about vehicle access from Site S20 Eureka Park onto Sandyhurst Lane, the need for the substantial landscape buffer between properties on the S20 site and their boundary with Sandyhurst Lane and of course to contribute to the arguments against the whole proposed A20 Corridor development towards Charing, in particular the development of the land east of Hothfield Mill which would impact directly on our residents. Our written and verbal presentations bore fruit as the Inspector rejected as unnecessary the whole of the A20 development in a manner which we hope will set precedents against other windfall sites

outside the urban boundary that we can use in the future. The Local Plan is now adopted by ABC but is already subject to challenges by developers.

On your behalf we took every opportunity to oppose the various planning applications for the development of Lenacre Hall Farm with both written and verbal representations to ABC and Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council. We also opposed any vehicle access on to Sandyhurst Lane from ant Former Sandpit development

Protecting the rural character of the area against insidious housing development will continue to be an issue for the ensuing year.

With the benefit of the so generously freely provided traffic speed and flow data provided by the would-be developers of Lenacre Hall Farm the Old Sandpit for the Boughton Aluph end of the Lane, the Committee decided to invest in a similar survey covering the 30mph section of the Lane towards the Golf Club. The resulting data, which has been circulated and is available on our website, more than substantiates the long held residents' perceptions that speeding is a very real issue. Over 66 % of traffic in both directions exceeds the 30mph speed limit and 31% by more than 5 mph. It will be your new Committee's intention to sit down with the new Westwell and BA&E Parish Councils to consider mitigation options.

With the highly successful over-night lorry parking ban trial coming to an end this year we will continue to support efforts to make it permanent.

The SLRA supported the Woodland Trust's campaign for better protection for ancient or veteran trees. The Government accepted this point.

The SLRA took advantage of an offer of a redundant defibrillator from Kent Fire and Rescue. We purchased a new cabinet to house it and the Hare & Hounds has kindly agreed to its installation on the outside wall beneath the new pub sign. A member of your committee has agreed to undertake the installation. The SLRA will be offering free training on its use.

With the boundary changes at the elections in May the SLRA campaign to unite the community will come to fruition.

With our neighbouring stretches of M20 motorway seeming to be a main focus of attention for Highways England with J10a and Operation Brock and some national funding apparently available for motorway noise abatement, I again wrote to Damian Green seeking his assistance with getting a quieter motorway as one of the outcomes of the chaos we are suffering. He sympathised and promised his support. Noise measurements in residents' gardens are underway but we know not their purpose. An ongoing issue and one we will keep active.

Neighbourhood Watch continues to report crimes in the local area but also alerts our community to "odd" or "suspicious" activity that can be crimes in the making. We only get this intelligence from you, our members, so please keep vigilant. Nothing is too trivial!

I am sure next year will be no less busy with continuing issues to resolve and new ones to address. But we can only succeed with your continuing support. Thank you."

There were no questions on this report.

Item 4: Secretary's Report

David Porter, the Secretary, was unable to be present. Mrs Wendy Bartlett presented his report:

"As you've heard from the Chairman, we've had another very busy year. The committee has physically met five times and the meetings have been well attended by an average of six members.

We still have room for a few more committee members and would very much welcome nominations.

My duties as Secretary include keeping the website up to date and sending out over 120 members' emails during the year. Whilst most of these relate to the main issues which Tony has mentioned, I'd just like to touch on a few more which have kept me busy during the year.

We've had the usual problems with blocked drains and potholes which I report to KCC and then keep an eye on their efforts to carry out repairs. And this year we've certainly had more than our fair share of water leaks, particularly around the 140s and 150s in Sandyhurst Lane; one begins to wonder whether South East Water will ever get this solved.

This inevitably leads to closures of the road and we've had a fair few of those, not only for water leaks but also for fallen trees, cable repairs, road repairs and 10k road runs. We are in touch with the organisers of these runs and we are trying to ensure that the inconvenience and disruption is kept to a minimum and that problems such as access to the church in Westwell village are not repeated in the future.

We've also had M20 and A20 closures, flooded roads and various other incidents and one of the functions of the SLRA is to get this sort of information to members by email, the website and Twitter and I know that some Facebook members also pass on information. For these sorts of incidents, we are largely dependent on members getting in touch to tell us what is going on and we greatly appreciate them doing so, because it makes the job of sharing information so much easier. It's very much a two way process, so do please let us know whenever there are issues worth sharing with other members.

Other activities this year included an approach to the General Manager at Eastwell Manor, who kindly took action to amend the directions given on their website and sent to guests, to reduce the number of people who were previously getting lost in Lenacre Street due to SatNav problems.

So, a great variety of issues keeps the committee and the secretariat very busy throughout the year. Our membership has stayed pretty stable over the past year and now stands at about 42% of the 345 homes in our area.

Finally, may I add my own thanks to the Chairman's for the support we receive from all our county, borough and parish councillors; we greatly value our close working relationships with them and the bodies they represent.

And, of course, thanks to you the members for your support and your friendly emails and calls. We greatly value your membership."

There were no questions on this report.

Item 5: Treasurer's Report

Mr Don Murrell, the Treasurer, was unable to be present. Mrs Bartlett reported that the balance of the Association's bank account was £2359.32. This compared with £2261.84 at last year's AGM. Current liabilities were approximately £830, primarily the recent purchase of a defibrillator cabinet.

There were no questions on this report.

Item 6: Election of Committee

All of the existing committee members offered themselves for re-election. There were no further nominations. It was proposed by Les Chandler and seconded by Helga Howells that all candidates were elected unopposed. Carried unanimously. The new committee comprised:

Tony Bartlett	John Hobbs
Bryan Biggs	Don Murrell
Fred Dunkerley	Andy Peddle
Bryan Hall	David Porter
Doug Harman	Evan Thomas
Desmond Henley	

Item 7: Any Other Business

Mr Harbron referred to comments at the previous AGM about potholes and asked about the funding available for the promised "blitz" on potholes. Cllr Charlie Simkins responded saying that KCC was spending the largest amount ever to rectify potholes; £7.9 million in 2018 and £8.9 million in 2019.

Further subjects raised were the unacceptable encroachment by building on verges in Sandyhurst Lane and the growing noise problem caused by traffic on the M20. These items were noted.

It was suggested that for a meeting this size some audio amplification system was needed. The Chair agreed and said it would be explored for next year

There being no further business, the formal AGM closed at 8.17 pm.

There followed two talks by invited speakers:

“Action with Communities in Rural Kent” by Keith Harrison, Chief Executive

and

“Fire Safety in the Home” by Annamarie Gould, Community Safety Officer, Kent Fire & Rescue Service

After thanking the speakers, the Chair closed the meeting and this was followed by informal networking over tea/coffee.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.