



## **THORPE WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ONLINE ON 12TH JULY 2021**

**Open Forum:** There were no questions or requests from the membership.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the June meeting were approved and signed-off by the Chairman.

**Dr Ben Spencer MP:** Dr Ben Spencer MP had requested to attend and address the TWRA Committee. He reported that outline approval for the River Thames Scheme had been achieved and £60m had been released by the Treasury. As well as being involved in the RTS he also takes an active interest in flooding and flood prevention, minor and permitted development, making sure that Flood Rea (Insurance) is working. He is also supportive of Flood Community Groups. He then turned his remarks to the NHS and Covid. Here Cllr EG commented that several people had approached her to complain that they were unable to contact their doctor via telephone and were not computer literate to allow them to make bookings online. This had made matters very difficult for the residents affected. Dr Spencer agreed that we had a perfect storm in the NHS at present, with high rate of mental illness, lots of people delaying reporting problems to their doctor, a higher than one would expect number of young men trying to see the doctor, which is normally not the case, and finally Doctors and medical staff in general are exhausted. Cllr EG agreed with the comments, but also thought it would help if the NHS had one computer system instead of hundreds. Dr Spencer agreed and would bring this upon the second reading of the Health & Care Bill.

The Treasurer reported that RBC had still not amended their Flood Risk Assessment form to take into account minor and permitted development in Flood Zone 3B. It was also mentioned by a committee member that any sale of homes at Penton Park resulted in 10% of the sale price going to the site owner. Dr Spencer agreed to visit Penton Park to discuss this and any other issues with residents. Cllr RK raised the issue of cleaning and clearing the drainage channels around housing developments which apparently has not been done for many years. Dr Spencer agreed to raise this with the EA. It was also suggested by a Committee member that Dr Spencer talk to the Flood Action Group for the Meadlake Ditch before he approaches the EA.

### **Councillors Reports:**

#### **Local Councillors**

Reports received before the meeting had been distributed.

Cllr MH reported on the events she had attended including the Civil Service for the Mayor, Magna Carta Day, Flag Raising for the Armed Forces, Surrey Museum Partnership, and a Full Governors Meeting at William Perkins school.

The length of the grass on verges and green areas were also raised. It was reported that the grass in The Gower and Fleetway was so long, that when it was finally cut, 6-8 residents collected over 20-25 bags of cuttings. These cuttings were taken by residents to the local recycling centre.

#### **County Councillors**

Cllr JH congratulated Cllr LG on getting a senior RBC Planning Officer to come to the next Planning Meeting to discuss his response to the Whitehall Farm Planning Application.

He also wished to advise the Committee that various speed surveys were planned for the Thorpe Ward to identify issues. He also confirmed he had got approval for yellow lines at the junction of Western Avenue and Midway Avenue. He also advised that Miss Carolyn MacKenzie Corporate Head of the Environment for Surrey would visit Thorpe Ward to see for herself the issues experienced in this area with traffic etc.

Cllr RK advised the Committee that he had been working on traffic issues in the Ward with the Traffic Management Officer for SCC. The impact of traffic diverting either along Chertsey Lane or Thorpe Lea Road would be reviewed.

**Association Officers Reports:** They were all available in advance of the meeting and distributed according to the Committee.

**Town Planning & Allied news:** The current list of submitted applications had already been sent to the Committee prior to the meeting. The applications were discussed and where objections were agreed, appropriate letters would be sent to Runnymede Borough Council.

**Whitehall Farm Gravel Raising Application** Cllr LG reported that she had convinced the Chief Exc of RBC to request the RBC Planning Officer who responded to SCC about this application to explain his reasons to the full Planning Committee with a view to ensure RBC respond more strongly than the current one that had been sent.

#### **Other Matters**

TWRA have been invited to send a representative to RBC to sit on the Community Planning Panel in its new reconstituted form. This was discussed and any willing volunteer please advise the Temp. Acting Secretary. On that matter the lady who had been approached to fill the TWRA Secretary role had in the end declined.

#### **Any Other Business**

The issue of works undertaken on the field next to Penton Park still has to be resolved either by reinstatement to its condition as before or by submitting a planning application relating to some of the works already undertaken.

It was agreed that we need to hold an AGM asap. Dates were discussed and agreed that the 6<sup>th</sup> September would be reserved for the AGM followed by the normal monthly committee meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> September.

It was also agreed that the TWRA Chairman, Cllr MH, Chairman of Penton Park Residents Association would meet Miss MacKenzie from SCC on her visit to Thorpe Ward.

The issue of the Flood Evacuation scheme for Eden Homes (former CEMEX House) were thought to be inadequate. TWRA had raised an objection on this matter. It was agreed a letter of objection would be submitted.

The question of discounted tickets for residents of Thorpe Ward for Thorpe Park was raised and Cllr MH agreed to investigate to see if similar previous schemes promoted by Thorpe Park would be introduced in the future.