

## **Minutes of Riverside Avenue residents association Held at Broxbourne Rowing Club 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

Present: Dave Hughes, Phil Summerlin, Linda Payne, Elka Bhatt, Sandra Callear, Mina West, Kay Mingay, Rob Irwin, Darren Payne, Residents as per register taken on the night.

Apologies: Steve Foreman, Nikki Ellis, Rada Juric

### **Minutes from previous meeting :**

No matters outstanding

### **Introductions :**

The committee was introduced and the agenda was revised to accommodate the visit by Rob Mason from Thames Water to allow him to speak first and then be released.

### **Drains**

The committee organised a visit from Rob Mason the regional manager for Thames water to try and explain what the problems were with the constant drain blockage issues and the pumping station problems. Rob was able to give the residents a lot of information regarding the drains and stated that Thames Water receive a much higher than average calls for drain blockages in our road. They are called on average once a month which is clearly not usual. He stated that the reports on the problems found keep mentioning 'silt, rag and fat' as a cause, But silt was recurring factor in the reports which is unusual. The drains have been inspected with cameras and no real issues have been discovered. Rob stated that the pumps are automatically monitored and that generally they behave well, apart from an incident last year when replacement was necessary. There are 2 pumps which alternate to spread the workload and because they are not running flat out we can discount any leakage or similar external ingress from say, the river. The reasons why there is a lot of silt is not clear, but because the committee has already made a complaint to the consumer council for water we were promised regular updates.

Residents were also reminded not to flush anything other than human waste and toilet paper. Fat, 'flushable' wipes, cotton buds and cooking oil are all major contributors to drain blockages.

Moving forward, Rob has committed to keeping us Informed via Phil who will post information on the RaRa website and/or email it out to residents.

### **Funds**

Linda gave the current status of the accounts. It seems that there is just over £5,000.00 in the Bank, with approximately only 16% who have not paid yet. Two estimates have been received for the repairs to the road and both were around the £12,000 mark, therefore there is a way to go yet for us to be able to repair all the areas. It was mentioned that some residents were concerned that the repairs could cause damage to the sewer or create more problems but Phil explained that a full survey would be needed before repairs were carried out to identify any danger to the drains and in any case the contractors would have insurance in place for such an eventuality. An area of sunken

repaired concrete outside 'Linden Lea' was cited as a reason not to repair by one resident, but this was discussed with the concrete repair specialist Andy Dellar when the road was surveyed and he was of the opinion that the repair was not undertaken correctly. Repairs need to be tied to surrounding concrete with metal pins, clearly this repair was not undertaken in this way.

Works would inevitably cause disruption, but it was felt that if they were undertaken in the summer either the gravel lane to great meadow could be opened or residents from the bottom of the road could be allowed to park on the driveways of those at the top. The concrete used nowadays would be able to be driven over by cars in a matter of hours.

A vote was taken to see if we could get a revised price for the urgent repairs and if we had the budget, to proceed with them. The vote was carried. Action Phil

### **Elections**

The residents re-elected the committee to stand again for another year. The committee has changed slightly because of residents moving and resigning, but now is as follows:

Dave Hughes – Chairman  
Phil Summerlin – Deputy Chairman  
Sandra Callear- Secretary  
Linda Payne – Treasurer  
Rada Juric – Committee  
Elka Bhatt – Committee  
Mina West – Committee  
Nikki Ellis – Committee  
Kay Mingay - Committee  
Rob Irwin - Committee  
Darren Payne- Committee

### **AOB**

The floor was thrown open for discussion and a number of points were raised:

1. It was discussed that speeding should be the responsibility of the individual resident and that it should not be needed to enforce a speed limit. Opinion was divided on what to do about it other than to keep residents awareness going via the newsletter, which has been done. A suggestion of 'Name and Shame' was made, but it was felt that monitoring the situation in the short term would be enough for now.
2. The tree outside 'Bermuda' was again cited as a danger because of the reduced visibility it causes. The owner has been approached about pruning but it is clear that she feels strongly about leaving it alone. It seems that there could be some dispute over ownership and this would need to be investigated first.
3. Access to the river between Lilybank as Salcombe was discussed again as the last known trustee died a short time ago. It was generally felt that RaRa as an organisation could not take on trusteeship of the land because of the legal implications should someone become injured whilst using it. Paying for insurance for it out of RaRa funds was thought to be a non-

starter. There is some enthusiasm to open it up with just a path maybe but because of the massive amount of work involved, not to mention waste product to remove, feelings were mixed. It was decided to examine any documents relating to the land and make a decision based on the findings.

4. The Chimes housing development was discussed and although there are concerns over traffic, drainage and type of housing, residents were pleased to hear that the development has been downsized to 40 houses. We will have to wait until either the development becomes the subject of a planning application or we are invited to a meeting by the developers. Residents were dismayed to hear that the B1 light industrial application may be restarted, although this was thought to be a reaction to Epping Forest District Councils enforcement notices served on the businesses there.

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed