

Amersham & Districts Residents' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st April 2015 at Amersham Free Church Hall

- 1 Chairman's Welcome** The Chairman welcomed approximately 65 members to the 54th Meeting of the Association.
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
Marcia Goffin, Sylvia & Lionel Avery, Mr & Mrs Collins, Tony Glyn-Jones, Janet & David Kircheimer, Chris Mellor, Margaret Kenzie, Chris & Lynn Wilson, Cllr Mimi Harker.
- 3 Minutes of AGM held on 23 April 2013:** Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Joan Shepherd and seconded by Guru Guruswamy.
- 4 Re-election of Committee**
Bron Curley was the only Committee member up for re-election. This was proposed by Guru Guruswamy and seconded by Brian Woods.
- 5 Election of Honorary Auditor**
Ernest Newhouse has agreed to continue as Auditor. His re-election was proposed by Celia Palmer and seconded by Stewart Foster.
- 6 Treasurer's Report (Geoff Platts)**
As attached.
- 7 Planning Officer's Report (Mr L Jayatilaka)**
As attached.
- 8 Highways Report (Geoff Platts)**
As attached.
- 9 Environment Officer's Report (Linda Flett)**
As attached.

Liz Jones of 'The Wasters' updated the meeting on the proposed Waste Transfer Station, London Road, East, Amersham. The most significant development occurred only last week when Bucks County Council issued a Notice in the Bucks Examiner stating this proposed major development is indeed a departure from the Local Development Plan and not allocated therein, when previously it had been stated otherwise. Any such proposal has by law to be notified to residents giving them 21 days to object. The proposal is for a 75,000 ton capacity which would consist of a small amount of household waste and a large amount of commercial waste which is a big money maker. The Wasters believe that what BCC is trying to do is use their contract with FCC Environment to utilise a Council site for super-imposing their business venture. A facility of this size would involve large commercial vehicles with no control over when they arrive.

This would create traffic congestion and possible damage to the aquifer (which sits within 2m under the surface) when drilling into the site which could result in

contamination. Carriers would be capable of 20 ton loads which, if exceeded, could become unstable and cause accidents. The Wasters believe there are alternative sites which are not as sensitive.

The date for the Hearing date is 27th May and members have until 7th May to further object based on the new documents tabled.

10 Membership Records Officer's Report (Carolyn Spencer)

As attached.

11 Chairman's Report (Bron Curley)

As attached.

HS2 Update

Cllr Nigel Shepherd reported the following:

Amersham Action Group continues to strongly object to a proposal which still requires royal assent. The hybrid bill has had its 2nd reading in The House of Commons and is now working its way through parliament. Almost anyone has the right to petition and around 2000 people and local organisations have done so. There are many local petitioners and Amersham Town Council one of them. It should be noted that approximately half of the petitions come from the Chilterns area - for which thanks go to Cllr Martin Tett, the Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council and the 52 M group (which represents Local Authorities along the route).

In the Chilterns area, the key issue is tunnelling. CDC has produced Chiltern Long Tunnel proposals which are actively being promoted to Parliament. Even if this is accepted the area will still be impacted by construction traffic for an extended period of time.

The main factors are:

1 Asking for Tunnelling (Chiltern Long Tunnel - CLT)

2 It is possible it will be rejected (as according to their method of calculating costs it will be £400-500m more expensive, than the current proposals. If this happens, the fall-back position would be to create a shorter tunnel – less benefits, but a stronger financial case (on Government's basis of costing).

3 Petitioning is likely to be happening in the Autumn.

The probability is this proposal will go ahead but may start in the North.

14 Open Forum

Mrs Lynda Wright informed members she had recently joined Street Life. There are councillors on this website and local issues are raised. She has also passed on ADRA membership forms. There are some useful contributors. Their web address is www.streetlife.com.

A member asked what was planned for the corner of Plantation Road with Roundwood Road.

Brian Woods of Amersham Action Group said a proposal has been discussed with Paradigm to start clearing an area of ground between Roundwood Road and Garden End which is heavily overgrown with laurel and reseed with grass. Amersham Action Group is trying to obtain extra finance to fund further improvement by way of some forest basic

seating. ADRA have promised to contribute and Chiltern District Council and Amersham Action Group have funds available. Thames Valley police would be very pleased to see the area cleared.

Mrs Roz Makins understood that Bucks County Council have plans to develop an area of land exiting Old Amersham on the right hand side (a piece of land between the football ground and the river) and enquired whether this was a matter for ADRA or the Amersham Society. Mrs Makins had heard it was to be a home.

Paradigm Housing and Bucks County Council are to submit an application for 32 housing units for people with learning disabilities. This breaks down to 8 units for people requiring full time care and who will not leave premises, 11 for people needing some care and the rest for people who are under supervision but can function on their own. A general presentation to the residents of Old Amersham has already taken place. Mrs Makins asked whether ADRA was going to oppose the application. Les Jayalatilaka said ADRA had consulted with the Amersham Society on the way forward.

George Addison from the Amersham Society said they had considered what, if anything, they should do. They attended the presentation in the Council Offices and it was decided to wait until the planning application was submitted before taking any action and ADRA agreed to follow their lead. There is quite a bit of local objection but the application will be submitted shortly and should then be considered on its merits.

George Addison raised concern regarding the urgent need for new ADRA Committee members and said they had similar situation in Amersham Society 16 months ago when they too were reduced to six members. They have now achieved a committee of 12 by identifying members' strengths and approaching them head-on with an offer of a specific job to do.

Mr Vic Faulkner, an Ex U3A Chairman, said they regularly get requests to serve on committees. The U3A produce a fortnightly newsletter for members, and he felt sure they could run some kind of advertisement for new ADRA members. The Chairman said he would produce a piece to put in a newsletter.

Mr James Worthington from the Amersham Society said ADRA needed younger members. He felt that whilst Amersham Society primarily restricted themselves to Old Town interests, Cllr Martin Pounce was very keen to interact with other community groups.

It was noted that Hill Avenue was to be resurfaced in May. There was general agreement that the resurfacing of Woodside Road was handled most efficiently and the contractors did a marvellous job.

Mr James Worthington mentioned that the Chestnut Lane footpaths were still in a very poor condition and queried whether ADRA had raised the issue.

Linda Wright proposed a vote of thanks to the hardworking ADRA committee.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.