
NOTE of a meeting of the Committee of Iffley Fields Residents' Association, held on Monday 9th November 2020 by Zoom

Present: Ben Pinches, in the Chair
Simon Fisher, Jon Rees, Christine Hogg, Samantha Robertson, Janet Hall, Barbara Ashcroft, Thelma Martin, Luke Bolton.
Gabrielle Lees, Cllr Richard Tarver, Cllr Steve Curran, Cllr Damian Haywood,

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September were accepted as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising:

The Fields – Mari is producing this, though it is now overdue. Ben agreed to follow this up with an offer to help.

Bins outside the Kidneys- Richard had asked council officers for a cost estimate and was awaiting a reply.

Bench for Meadow Lane Rec. Jon had looked into this and obtained an estimate of £1500 from the City Council and had produced a crowd funding page for the bench. The suggested location was under the willow by the playground facing the open Rec field. (Bench proposed below - Streetmaster Hereford)



It was agreed: that £300 from Open Gardens would provide the basis and the remainder through crowd funding. Richard agreed to follow up with council officer to make sure they were happy for the bench if it was of no cost to the Council.

Traffic management in East Oxford – nothing had been heard from central government about the proposals.

3 Signs for Kidneys and Astons Eyot entrances-

Jon proposed that a respectful notice reminding people to social distance be placed at the entrance to the Kidneys and Aston's Eyot, in response to concerns from residents that distancing was.

It was agreed to ask the Council if they had any notices that might be used. If not, any costs might be shared between IFRA and Friends of Aston's Eyot. Subsequently to the meeting Jon heard from David Fowles at Parchment who has offered to produce this for about £100, which is an option if Cllr Tarver cannot obtain one FOC.

4 **IFRA Access to Waterways subgroup**

Ben reported that there was a Whats App group and there were links to what Ned Wells was doing. It was felt that a spokesperson for the group would help coordinate the work and help the group to take things forward. He agreed to discuss this again with the group.

5 **Planning subgroup**

Thelma and Christine were dealing with planning issues for IFRA.

Electricity Substation in the Convent. This had now been installed. The residents had asked the convent for a screen of shrubs to block off the view of the station. It was agreed that the lack of consultation about the location by the Convent was very unfortunate but whether or not planning permission may have been required, enforcement would have been futile as the substation is viewed by Council as permitted development". IFRA offered to write a letter in support of the screen to the Convent, if necessary.

HMO and antisocial behaviour – There had been problems with anti-social behaviour in an HMO (Housing in Multiple Occupancy) in Argyle Street. Police had been involved and a complaint had been made to Brookes. As a result, the students had been fined and had sent an apology. Some issues were outstanding:

- The HMO license is up for renewal in November, but there are no realistic grounds for neighbours to object to renewal.
- The house was licensed for 6 people occupying 5 rooms, but 6 people may be occupying 6 rooms, with no communal room, which is under investigation by the City Council.
- There was no planning permission for use as an HMO, though this was likely to be granted if the owner applied. The Council had a policy that an area should have not more than 20% of housing as HMOs. It was thought that Iffley Fields had not reached this level, though there were a number of houses in multiple occupancy that were not licensed.

Iffley Village Fields Development

The two fields are up for sale by Donnington Hospital Trust. One of the fields abutting Meadow Lane had been allocated for housing in the 2036 plan. It was likely that a planning application would be put forward in January.

The Friends of Iffley Woods were opposing the plan and hoping to persuade the Trust to gift it or sell it to the village. The Friends of Iffley Village were supportive but there was no agreed position between the two organisations. Any residents who objected could get involved in the campaign or sign the petition (www.iffleywoods.org).

It was agreed to look at this again once a planning application had been received.

6 Street connectors – reports

Thefts from Cars - Residents were warned to be aware of thefts from cars and not to leave anything valuable in their cars.

Flooding and drains

- **Chester Street** – There was flooding once again outside the Chester Arms in the road and in basements. This is the lowest point and water tends to accumulate when storm drains back up. It was noted that this was a perennial problem and Thames water had never dealt with it successfully. It was noted that waste from the building works in the convent might be contributing to the problem. It was noted that Thames Water were in the process of dealing with it. Damian agree to take up the issue with Highways as the flooding was hazardous.
- **Meadow Lane** - There was also clean water flowing in Meadow Lane, suggesting a possible burst water main.
- **Shire Ditch** – effluent was still coming into the ditch from rainwater drains in Bullingdon Road apparently from misconnected domestic sewers, in spite of the reports from Thames Water (TW) that the problem had been rectified. The Council had taken this up with TW, to no effect. It was agreed to take up these issues with the MP and the Oxford mail. Samantha had observed dye tracing works and other investigations ongoing in recent days.

Stratford Street Xmas event- a safe event was planned for Christmas and further details will follow.

Advent Calendar – An advent calendar was planned and anyone able to offer a window should contact the organiser Abigail Fisher (abif54321@gmail.com)

Falcon Club house- The new clubhouse was being built. A certain number of spaces in the carpark would be allocated to the club.

Bedford Street turning area. It was noted that vans parking on the green verge outside the school had destroyed the grass and some shrubs. Damian agreed to take this up with the contractors.

River Field owned by Oxford Preservation Trust – This has always been used by local people to access the river. During the first lockdown there was a problem with litter and notices restricting access were placed. However, now the Sea Scouts are refusing any public access. It was agreed to write a letter to OPT to ask what were their arrangements with the Sea Scouts and ask for access to be reinstated. It was felt that there was a potential for conflict.

The meeting finished at 20.30.