

# NOTES OF MEETING – TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Present:** Jenny Cottee (Chair), Carol McLellan (Treasurer), Pat Ager and Pam Webb (Notes), John Venning, Judy Cullen, Kate Jones, Lesley West, Ricky Duveen, David Morton, Julia Kidd, Liz Ellis, Chris Lally, Joe Lally, Jean Rainey. Apols Julie Alexander, Julia Waters, Janet McFall, Jean Rainey (Ray Clayton and Lynda Chater working on West Reading's Tilehurst Local Plan)

The meeting was primarily to hold **our annual AGM and yearly report**.

While we were settling down we mentioned that the Police Hut by the library has a planning application in (191220) to convert it to A1 (a shop). We wondered whether there was sufficient access to the site for deliveries etc. such that it would not disturb the verge and trees outside.

It was also reported that the travellers are still in the area and are using Blundells Copse as a toilet area. They had been given leave to stay until 19<sup>th</sup> September but apparently they have been given further leave to stay.

At last we settled and Jenny handed out copies of our report together with the statement of our accounts. She pointed out that our finances are in good shape, thanks to our sponsors. The accounts were agreed and Ricky proposed a vote of thanks to Carol for preparing them and generally looking after them

The main thing that was discussed as a result of this, is that we have money for projects. We would love people to put forward ideas for making Tilehurst nicer and to also put forward ideas about who can run these projects. The money and our support is there.

People attending the meeting who live in Calcot and West Berkshire were keen to point out that they consider themselves as part of Tilehurst, especially when they live in the Parish of Tilehurst. We have no boundaries and have active supporters in West Berkshire and Reading.

Janet McFall had sent in news about a possible project, with the broad title **Bee Roadzz**. The idea of this is to have highways of bee friendly plants, such as cowslips and daisies, on verges so that bees can thrive. This idea has been started in other parts of Reading and it might be possible for Tilehurst to link in with these others.

At our June meeting we mapped places that we **would like to plant trees**. Money and volunteers are available. We sent to map to the Reading Tree Wardens to see what they thought. We received very encouraging views from them. Reading Tree Wardens now need to take this forward, including contact RBC. We need to find out (i) how we can include parts of West Berkshire and (ii) about grants that are given to schools to encourage gardening and also to find out what the next steps are to get the planting done.

The **Reading Tree Wardens** also came up with the following idea: *"just heard that RBC have won £800,000 to improve High Streets in Reading (Cllrs, Karen Rowland and Tony Page did the bid). I am just wondering if there might be some of it able to come the way of School Road, Tilehurst. I can envisage properly tiled pavements from the Nepalese restaurant to the COOP and one end and likewise at the Tilehurst Triangle end. But you might have other thoughts too! Just thought I'd mention it."* We discussed the possibility of going ahead with this idea and on the whole find it attractive but are concerned about the width of the pavement etc. It was thought that suitable trees could be planted in pots with would keep the trees more contained. We agreed that it is an idea that is certainly worth looking into.

We discussed our thoughts about the **Reading Transport Strategy Consultation 2036**. The consultation ends on Friday, ie any comments need to be in straight away. Jenny had brought leaflets produced by Friends of the Earth with their thoughts on the strategy. Primarily our concerns were about how transport will be affected by the new building in West Berkshire. As far as we know West Berkshire has not provided the proper infrastructure to support the amount of new build. This will certainly affect the traffic and transport in existing areas of Tilehurst. We have already lost our transport hub at Calcot. Liz wants to have a Reading wide **ban on parking on pavements and verges**. It should be part of the Transport Strategy.

One of the jobs that we wanted someone to do for us was to look after the leaflets that we have had printed and if possible to ensure that the library is well stocked with them. Julie Alexander kindly offered to look after the boxes of files but cannot undertake to do replenish them at the library. So we are still looking for someone to help out. It also raised a discussion about where we could usefully stock our leaflets. So before we go ahead with any more printing we need to think carefully about where there are sites that will display the leaflets on a regular basis. We want people to come up with ideas by the October meeting.

Jenny is planning to hold her **Autumn planting session on the 12<sup>th</sup> October between 10 and 12**. The Guides and Brownies will be able to join her along with any other volunteers at Walnut Way. The idea is to get suitable bulbs to plant in and around the bund. It was suggested that if we need to plant other sites we might do it on an ad hoc basis. We suggested alliums, aconites and marigolds as being suitable to plant in the bund. It was also suggested that possibly we could plant some bulbs in the bund at Links Drive.

It was suggested that we might want to undertake the **Rescue event twice a year**. We normally do one session in March but there may be the possibility of clearing rubbish in October as well. We will ask RBC and/or Thames Water whether this would be a possibility.

John Venning showed us an article from the Tilehurst Directory about **Gateway, which collects items for recycling** that can't be recycled elsewhere. He will investigate exactly what Gateway does and report back. We reported that the Co-op no longer collects plastic bags. John will amend the chart.

We have been approached by St Michaels Church about putting a **Christmas tree** in the Triangle. We will respond in due course.

The meeting finished at 9 ish.

The next meeting is on **Wed 16 October 7.30-9.15pm**

NOTES OF MEETING – TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 15th May 2019

Present: Steve McMallow, , Paul Gaines, Anita ILewis, Cllr Dana Pal Singh, Cllr Helen Mangghani, John Venning, C. Raj Singh, Pam Webb (notes), Pat Ager (notes) Hazel Townsend , Carol McLellan , Kate Jones (chair), Apologies Jenny Cottee, Liz Ellis,

The meeting had been advertised with the emphasis on an Update from Simon Beasley ( RBC) about the Red Route along with other items .

Annual Show- Sat 8 June at Victoria Recreation Ground : Kate reminded people about the event- helpers welcome- we have some already, Liz will welcome more offers .

RED ROUTE ( designed to ensure smooth functioning of the 17 bus by restricting parking) : Simon Beasley (RBC officer I/c) gave an update on the current position regarding Red Routes in general. The one in Reading has been in force for 6 months . Most improvement in reducing obstacles to running the 17 bus has been noted in the Oxford Rd area. The technical arrangements for Red Routes are governed by the government policy to de-criminalise enforcement ( so not a police matter) but pass enforcement responsibility to councils. The Traffic Management Act requires Local Authorities to manage traffic. Most councils use cctv and mobile cameras on detector vehicles for enforcement.

Discussion and questions revealed that the most contentious issue locally relate to problems for residents and traders. Simon explained that no resident will be penalised for entering their driveway, or traders for working at their property. People requiring dispensation should email the council giving their dates of working and the registration number . The next meeting of the Reading Council Traffic Management Committee will be held on 12/06/2019 -it is open to the public.

To contact RBC about issues regarding the red route email : [network.management@reading.gov.uk](mailto:network.management@reading.gov.uk)

The meeting finished at 9.00

The next meeting is on Wed 19 June 7.30-9.00pm – suggestions for agenda include : a) business not tackled at May meeting including work at developing the wish list for planting trees, flowers wild etc, and benches – (bring any notes etc) b) consider how the show went , key messages etc

# NOTES OF MEETING – TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Present:** Liz Ellis (Chair), Maurice Freming, John Venning, Pat Ager and Pam Webb (Notes), Judy Cullen, Kate Jones, Lesley West, Julie Alexander, Ray Clayton, , David Glanville, Lisa Moon, Jenny Cottee, Ricky Duveen, Tom Steele, Alison Foster, Apols Helen Manghnani, Steve Goodman, Eloise Jones, Carol McLellan

The meeting was to review the state of projects relating to our green space and to talk about matters in Tilehurst that we would like to put to candidates in the coming elections.

We did also talk about the Rescue Event and a few other matters as well..

**Rescue** This year we met at the entrance into Mcllroys Park by the mini roundabout in Thirlmere Avenue on Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon. As with last year, Saturday does not seem a popular day for clearing rubbish. Nevertheless we had enough people to clear quite a large number of bags of rubbish from the park. Liz had cleared rubbish from Gypsy Lane. And in the afternoon we cleared Bates Hill. Linda had managed to unearth a camp at the top of Mcllroys in the woods. The usual tires and beds were also found. We kept a record of these large items and the list will be sent to the authorities. We decided that we would not offer to help with the clearance of these items. On Sunday morning at Blundells Copse and we had more volunteers for this session. Again there were many items that we would not clear but will report to the authorities, nevertheless we found and collected a considerable amount. Even so Jenny commented on the fact that in general these woods and parks are looking better than in other years and we tended to agree.

**Trough at Scours Lane** Clinton Payne has said it is fine to go ahead with planting the trough in Scours Lane. Thanks to the lady who has volunteered eagerly to plant it out.

**Kew Gardens Seed Pack** We were sent a pack of Kew Gardens Wild Flower Seeds by Grow Wild. Thanks to them for this. Judy offered to take them home and grow them on. We were invited to think about where we will put them when they are viable.

**Bunds in Walnut Way** The Guides will undertake some planting at extreme end nearest the Triangle. Ray asked what to do with the plants that he has. We thought that he should plant them when he was ready to do it, keeping plants together so area planted is clear and to avoid the top ( bikes etc usage) but use sides selecting best areas for the specific plants ( eg shade etc).

**A Short History of Tilehurst** We need more copies of the leaflet by Mike Keep. Leslie thought that her husband might be able to make some copies for us.

**Experimental planting of weeds in verges** This project is currently under way. The object is to plant short weeds in grass verges to encourage wild life and insects in an urban environment. This would also reduce any maintenance on the part of RBC since the verge could be given a high cut and so leave the plants untouched. It was thought that we ought to look out for short weeds to use in such a project.

**Reporting Crime and Nuisance Leaflets** Jenny handed round copies of the RBC leaflets which we have emails out to our members, but may think about doing it again since they are packed with useful information.

## Questions to be raised with candidates

**Pincents Lane Development** A question was raised about the development under consideration at Pincents.Hill. This new project is thought to be for an unacceptable number of houses: There is no consideration for the infrastructure or any of the support require of such a large project. Once this subject was raised members were full of objections to the scheme – especially the loading it will put on Tilehurst. Lisa was especially incensed that the roads are already overloaded and that access to the M4 is difficult and can take up to ¾ hour on a normal day, even after 9am. The roads will be even more loaded if the houses are built at Pincents Hill since this will be added to the increase from other building sites in West Berkshire that border on Tilehurst without any provision of their own infrastructure.

**This application for 265 dwellings on East side of Pincents Hill with a small 7 Ha area designated as public park development is still open for comment (Ref. No: 19/00113/OUTMAJ )**

Not only is this development proposed but also the Golf Club that was on the other side of the road has been bought by developers for housing. This will further increase the loading on Tilehurst.

**Trees in Tilehurst** We have lost three major trees in Tilehurst in the last few years. We have been offered trees to plant but we need to provide a list of sites that are suitable for trees; including whether there is any chance of getting trees planted in Park Lane. Please contact TG to work with others on this issue

**Drug dealing** What is happening about the drug dealing in Tilehurst? Apparently the PCSOs at the Feel Good Friday events collect information about such things. Maybe we ought to invite them to one of our meetings?

**Threatening Behaviour in the Triangle** The lack of CCTV in the Triangle is an ongoing Saga. Ricky said that all threats should be reported on phone number 101.

Or use this email; to get directly to our local police team [westreadingNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:westreadingNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

The meeting finished at 9 ish.

The next meeting is on **Wed 17 April 7.30-9.15pm**